

As the petition submitted by the Stop Portland Waste Incinerator campaign has shown, there is significant local opposition to this application. Given the very high level of community engagement with the issue it absolutely must be determined by Committee rather than delegated to officers.

Although there are some points in favour of this application in respect of jobs these are MASSIVELY outweighed by the points which I summarise below. I therefore object to this application in the strongest terms.

1. The impact in terms of air and noise pollution and road safety primarily but not exclusively in the ward I represent, Rodwell and Wyke

The application postulates around 80 HGV movements a day along Portland Road, straight through the heart of Wyke's shopping area, which will then funnel down (or up, in the reverse direction) Lanehouse or, even worse, given its narrowness and the proximity of dwellings, Boot Hill. The increase in road safety risk, particularly to local schoolchildren, would simply be unacceptable, as would the increase in both air and noise pollution, particularly on Boot Hill, which is already one of the two air pollution hotspots in Weymouth. Whilst the Environmental Statement says there would only be a 2% increase in total traffic movements, the fact that these are HGVs, rather than cars, appears not to have been taken into account. An already relatively high number of accidents along this route (1 fatal, 6 serious and 27 slight collisions reported to the Police in the last five years) would in all likelihood become even worse.

2. Other wellbeing considerations

Many Rodwell and Wyke residents spend much of their leisure time on and around the beaches and in the sea directly opposite where the Incinerator would be located. The psychological and, potentially, health impact would significantly reduce the amenity of this much loved stretch, and also harm local water-sport businesses.

3. Wider public health implications

Whilst the Environmental Statement concludes that emissions will be below regulated limits and will have a negligible effect on public health I find this difficult to accept. The feedstock - what is left over from the waste stream once some recyclables have been removed - will inevitably sometimes contain noxious materials which, when incinerated, may react with other materials plus, of course, accidents happen.

4. Damage to our tourist industry

The tourism industry is critical to our local economy, and being at the heart of the glorious Jurassic Coast is a major selling point. To locate a large industrial plant producing emissions which can be seen for miles here could potentially do untold economic damage to the area.

5. The need to move away from this method of dealing with waste

For the plant to be economically viable, a constant supply of waste will be required. However, Dorset Council's Corporate Plan states that we should "Promote behavioural change to reduce waste and increase reuse and recycling". The very existence of this plant would rely on that being unsuccessful!