Wiltshire Council

Council

26 February 2019

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From Harriet James

To Councillor Jerry Wickham, Cabinet Member for Adult Social care, Public Health and Public Protection

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Question (19-3)

Ref: Motions 12 on the agenda – Environment and Global Warming

Wiltshire Council approved the Westbury Waste Gasification Plant in 2015 (application 14/12003/WCM). The Sustainable Energy Strategy submitted by the applicant reveals figures for the amount of carbon dioxide the plant would release. The gross carbon dioxide per hour is given as 31.79 tonnes of direct carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per hour for 7500 hours per year over the 25 year life of the plant. This amounts to nearly 6 million tonnes. Without showing any evidence or any related traffic emission calculations, the document then concludes that the plant would enable significant carbon reductions compared with landfill.

The National Planning Policy Framework (2018) now defines low carbon technologies as those that can help reduce emissions compared to conventional use of fossil fuels, not compared to landfill. Chapter 14, para 148 of the NPPF says the planning system should help to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Will Wiltshire Council examine the calculation methods and data used to promote the supposedly 'green' credentials of the Westbury plant?

Para 1f of the proposed motion from Councillors Whitehead and Wickham aspires to monitor and report on the local impact of any major development and technology used for the management of waste.

How will merely reporting rather than acting on the local impact of the Westbury plant help to combat global climate change?

Does the Westbury plant comply with Wiltshire Core Policy 41 (sustainable construction and low carbon energy) which asks developers to set out how proposed developments will meet national carbon reduction targets and identify how maximum targets can be achieved, particularly where lower cost solutions are viable (such as combined heat and power)?

Response

To be provided