

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 July 2020

Statement from Ben Gordon about the Westbury Gasification Plant

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation

**To Councillor Toby Sturgis Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property; and
Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste**

Statement

It has recently come to my attention that there is a Wiltshire Cabinet meeting on the 14th with very senior councillors present. I'm keen to know their thoughts on new proposals from the Bio Energy and Infrastructure Group, that are co-owners of the Westbury gasification plant and Hills Waste are now resubmitting a new planning application based on a larger plant? I fully understand that Hills waste and Wiltshire council are in partnership, but at what point will Wiltshire council live up to their motto "where everybody matters"?

This renewed application is completely unacceptable. It is going to bring increased traffic through an already congested Westbury along with now a fully fledged conventional incinerator on our doorstep.

I am becoming increasingly concerned as the increase in capacity proposal if approved will bring along with it more emissions, more heavy traffic through Westbury and the burning of waste rather than reducing and recycling it which surely should be the main aim in a 2020 society "greener and cleaner" this proposal is completely not in line with the current health situation or the government's future green policies, can you please listen to the people of Westbury and surrounding areas and not just shrug them off as last time.

Response:

The Council has at this point in time received no planning application for a revised 'energy from waste' development at Westbury. Assuming a planning application is submitted, the Council will then take into account all representations received in relation to it before making a decision. This process cannot be pre-judged.

The Council exercises its planning functions by delegation of powers to planning committees and/or the Director of Economic Development & Planning. Accordingly, the Council's Cabinet is not involved in the process of determining planning applications.