

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

14 July 2020

Statement and Question from Marie Hillcoat (Westbury Gasification Action Group) about the Westbury Gasification Plant

Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation

To Councillor Toby Sturgis Cabinet Member for Spatial Planning, Development Management and Property

Statement

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited have revealed to the general public that they will be putting in yet another application to build an incinerator in Westbury. Considerable opposition from many hundreds of people, town and parish councils met the company's previous applications for a gasification plant.

The company wants to increase waste tonnage coming into the town by over 50% to 243,000 tonnes a year. The waste will be mainly commercial and industrial and brought by road from up to two hours' drive away alongside a smaller amount of Wiltshire's household waste.

People in the Westbury area and all over Wiltshire do not accept the need for this incinerator and will not accept the many implications at a time when they expect leadership from Wiltshire Council for a sustainable Covid recovery. They demand full, objective scrutiny both of these proposals and alternative waste management strategies.

Question

Will Wiltshire Council in its scoping exercise commit to a verifiable transport assessment, an air quality assessment that uses data from the locality, an application of the waste hierarchy in terms of the proximity principle and an assurance that it will fully apply its commitment to carbon neutrality through its decision making processes on this matter?

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 expect it to be supported by technical reports addressing all relevant considerations, including highway safety, air quality and the Waste Hierarchy.