

Objection to proposed Energy Recovery Centre off Berrys Lane, Burghfield, RG7 1NQ

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Elise Kinderman  
West Berkshire District Council  
Council Offices  
Market Street  
Newbury  
RG14 5LD

NAME & ADDRESS  
WITHHELD FROM  
GENERAL PUBLICATION

Dear Ms Kinderman,

Regarding 20/02029/COMIND, this is an objection to the proposed Energy Recovery Centre (ERC) and the infrastructure that might be installed nearby.

We at Reading Friends of the Earth are objecting to the application on a number of grounds:

Visual impact of the ERC

Vastly increased number of HGV movements likely as a result of such an Incinerator (the ERC)

Noise from the vehicles

Dust from the vehicles

Congestion as a result of the vehicles

Emissions of greenhouse gases and odour from the incinerator

The application has not demonstrated a need for this type of plant

To expand on the above and introduce some points that "Planning" in West Berks should consider, we state the following:

The height of the proposed infrastructure is totally out of keeping with the surrounding area. It will tower above the M4 and say effectively "welcome to the pollution area of West Berks and nearby Reading" to people travelling on the M4 and also on the Burghfield Road.

Currently, the buses on the Burghfield Road sometimes have to wait at the non-signal controlled bridge to avoid colliding with the odd passing HGV. The increased number of HGVs passing over that bridge due to the need to feed an incinerator would increase the likelihood of collision or at best cause continual delay to West Berkshire residents due both to that pinch point and other locations such as the turn out and turn in of HGVs at the Berry Lane junction with Burghfield Road.

Noise and dust etc from HGVs is self evident and would rise dramatically if this planning application were to be granted approval.

The proposal would significantly increase West Berkshire's CO2 emissions. "Tolvik-UK-EfW-Statistics-2019-Report-June-2020" says for EfW expected CO2 per tonne of input is 1.037 tonnes of which 49.2% is from fossil fuel origin. So expected 150k tonnes input per year would result in about 150k tonnes of CO2 discharged in total every year - which is about 12% of West Berkshire's total 2017 emissions. This dwarfs the 170 tonnes CO2 per annum expected to be 'saved' by solar panels.

We support the detailed objection from UKWIN (shown on your West Berks website) that states energy from waste is not low carbon. We would emphasise their point that the Climate Change Committee has said that EfW plants should "only be constructed in areas confirmed to soon have CO2 infrastructure available, and should be built 'CCS ready' or with CCS"

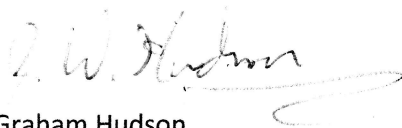
We also support the various notes such as those supplied to West Berks on behalf of Adrian Pulleyn.

This planning application should be refused on a number of grounds but in doing so it would anticipate the issue of a moratorium on new Energy from Waste (EfW) capacity in England which the Government is considering and would fit in with what we believe the Welsh government has already decided.

Local residents attending your West Berks Council (WBC) "Climate Change Conference" in October 2019 were treated to many statements by WBC about how things would change in the area, but there was no mention of permitting an incinerator in West Berks in order to deal with waste.

We conclude therefore that the construction of an incinerator in West Berks was not (and is not ) part of the planning of West Berks Council, but that the current issue is one of dealing with a commercial speculative venture. In order to make such a commercial venture work, the company would need contracts from councils and other bodies. The applicant doesn't state where the waste will come from (maybe Wales?) but we require WBC to confirm that it will not enter into any contract which would use such an incinerator in West Berks. Not to do so would imply a potential conflict of interest.

On a more positive note, the Circular Economy proposals discussed at your Climate Change Conference indicated ways to deal with what is currently called "Residual Waste" without resorting to incineration.



Graham Hudson

A Reading Friends of the Earth spokesperson