

Petition objecting to the proposed incinerator or "gasification" waste disposal plant to be sited in Bilsthorpe.

Presented to the full Council meeting of the elected members of Nottinghamshire County Council on Thursday 26th September 2013 by Councillors Roger Jackson, Bruce Laughton and John Peck, on behalf of objectors in the Parishes of Bilsthorpe, Eakring and Rufford.

We, the petitioners respectfully request that the attached petition is given consideration and included with the objections which will be forthcoming at the point when Peel Environmental Ltd are expected to submit a formal planning application in respect of a proposed "gasification" waste disposal plant, to be sited on the former Bilsthorpe Colliery site. The principle objections include:

- This is a purely speculative application. Sources of waste have not yet been established and are currently being sought on behalf of the applicant. The waste will not necessarily be from Nottinghamshire. The County Council Waste Core strategy includes incineration as a means of disposal, but this is currently well provided for within the contract with Veolia. Many objectors recognise there is a case for a certain amount of incineration, to reduce landfill, but that this should be part of a carefully planned strategy managed by the County Council and not through indiscriminately sited speculative ventures.
- The highway infrastructure is inadequate both from and on to the A614 and the other surrounding main and subsidiary roads. There would be over 50 additional HGV journeys to and from the site each day (over 100 in total). There is already a high volume of HGV traffic within the Bilsthorpe area, which engenders regular complaints to elected members from residents, relating to speeding and failure to take the designated HGV routes.
- The proposed site is too close to the residential villages of Bilsthorpe, Eakring and Rufford, being little over one quarter of a mile from the nearest properties in Bilsthorpe. There are concerns about pollution and toxicity. The technology is unique to this country and unproven. Research appears to show that similar plants elsewhere have had temporary shut-downs and in some cases, permanent closures. Objectors feel that any form of incineration plant should be sited at a greater distance from concentrated residential areas.
- There appear to be no benefits, economic or otherwise, to Bilsthorpe or the surrounding Parishes. Peel Environmental state there may be up to 40 jobs (although the scoping document calculates 27). There is no suggestion that many, or any, will be local jobs. The site will take up a considerable area, which could be more productively used to establish businesses which could create greater numbers of much needed local jobs. The adjacent area has recently had 5 wind turbines built and planning permission has been given for a 50 acre solar farm. None of this has benefitted the local economy in terms of job creation and the addition of the gasification plant seems unlikely to add much in the way of further

employment. Bilsthorpe, in particular, is an ex-colliery village desperately in need of employment opportunities.

- There will be a visual and environmental impact. The plant will be 45 metres high and add to the considerable visual impact of the existing wind turbines and the proposed solar farm. These will dominate the village of Bilsthorpe in particular, but will also have an impact on views from the other surrounding villages, in an area within the Sherwood Forest Regional Park which will be an important strategy in developing Nottinghamshire's future tourist economy. Objectors believe there will also be an environmental impact on the area and further evidence will be gathered in this respect.