

EAKRING PARISH COUNCIL SUBMISSION

INQUIRY: APP/L3055/V/14/3001886

BILSTHORPE BUSINESS PARK

My name is Marisha Curry, I am currently Chairman of Eakring Parish Council, of which I have been an elected councillor for 19 years. I have lived in Eakring since 1982.

Eakring is a conservation village of some 170 households and 419 parishioners, who are proud of our rural setting, local wildlife, heritage agriculture and tourism. Listed buildings in the village include St Andrew's Church, Eakring Windmill, Walnut Tree Cottage, Hall Farm House and Pond Farm House.

Parishioners have raised several concerns regarding the proposed Incinerator, with all but 2 households signing a petition opposing the application.

As Eakring has been working with RAGE many of these concerns may have been raised in more detail in the submission from RAGE, so I apologise for any repetition that may occur.

Eakring residents concerns are: air quality and human health. odour and noise, landscape and visual impact, transport, wildlife, tourism and local employment.

Air quality and Human Health

Eakring is approximately 2 Kms north east of the site, and as the prevailing winds are from the south west and west, would be directly downwind of the incinerator.

This has raised concerns relating to odour, noise and emissions, particularly as when the developers were asked, at a consultation evening, what would be the composition of the waste parishioners were told, by the developers, they didn't know. Which obviously raised the question, 'if you don't know what is going in how do you know what is coming out?'

As shown in Argus Ecology's Clarification of Air Quality Impacts in the EIA, Eakring will be in direct line of emissions.

We have been assured that regulations and conditions will protect us from harm, but Eakring residents are somewhat sceptical about this as we were assured that regulations would protect us from intrusive noise and shadow flicker from the wind turbines - they have not,

Figures received, under the Freedom of Information Act, from Bilsthorpe Surgery (appendix 1), show the local prevalence for respiratory problems and cancer is higher than the national prevalence, do we really need ANY deterioration in air quality?

Landscape and Visual Impact

The concerns here are for the cumulative effect on the landscape, with 6 wind turbines, 2 solar farms (another 1 approved), the Highways Depot, the T-pylons already very visible in the area.

In the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2008) for the Highways Depot, it was suggested that -

'Due to the impacts on rights of way east of the site, and residential receptors west of the site, the overall Visual impact is assessed as being:

Moderate adverse impact: - using the definitions outlined in appendix 1, the proposed scheme would:

'Cause a noticeable deterioration in the existing view.'

As the height of the Highways Depot buildings is considerably lower than the proposed facility buildings, and the two 60 metre exhaust stacks, these would surely have a greater impact.

Transport

The extra HGV movements would have an impact on the local roads, many local people already drive through Eakring and Wellow to access the A614 or Ollerton rather than face long waiting times and the dangerous junctions at Deerdale and Mickledale.

Wildlife

We are lucky to have several important sites of value to wildlife round the village such as Mansey Common, Eakring Meadows, Mill Lane, Lound Wood, Eakring Pastures, Dukes Wood, and residents are concerned about the impact of emissions on these areas.

Tourism and Local Employment

Much has been made of providing local employment, but when questioned at one of the consultation days the developer admitted that they required specific skills and therefore would be few local jobs, and as with the wind farm specialist contractors with their own registered workforce may well be used during construction.

Newark and Sherwood's Core Document, adopted March 2011 seeks to promote tourism and protect wildlife within the Sherwood Area.

With attractions such as Center Parcs, with 450,000 visitors a year and employing 1,500 local people, Rufford Abbey and Park, described as Nottinghamshire's '*jewel in the crown*', Sherwood Forest Country Park, Sherwood Pines, Clumber Park and

Thorsby Hall tourism is a large employer in this area. What impact would this facility have on these visitors as they travel through?