Questions from community meeting held on 12th March 2025

Please note that all questions have been copied verbatim from emails received; MVV's responses are given in green.

These questions may well have been asked before ? Just in case though, has the current condition of roads in Weasenham and Algores Way been inspected .The potholes are extreme before all the expected lorries turn up ?

Do they expect Fenland Council to constantly carry out repairs ? The cost of which will no doubt be passed on in our council rates

Traffic assessments were undertaken as part of the DCO application; national and local highways departments were statutory consultees to that process and have commented. Dilapidation surveys form part of the preliminary works for our project.

The current condition of the roads is a matter for CCC as the local highways authority.

Finally the radio program which stated considerable benefits for Wisbech. We are all aware of the exact opposite. So what are these so called benefits, none of which were mentioned.

Benefits include:

- **Providing a sustainable alternative to landfill/export of residual waste (current situation)**
- **Jobs for local people (direct and indirect) both during construction and operation**
- **A community fund (to be managed by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation) which is geographically restricted to Wisbech, specifically a 5km radius from the chimneys**
- **Local foot and cycle path improvements, including connectivity between green spaces**
- **Education and training opportunities, including work experience, placements, internships and apprenticeships**

Addition what about fact our properties will be devalued and we will be unable to sell ??

Studies have shown that property values may fall during a construction project (of any sort, not just an industrial site) but recover again afterwards.

Mr Carey assures Wisbech residents that their fears regarding the incinerator are unfounded and that the incinerator in Plymouth has produced no issues with the local residents. Can he then explain why the Plymouth Herald newspaper led with the following headlines when the Plymouth incinerator first came online.

'Plymouths incinerator is causing the highest pollution levels ever recorded in a housing area.' 'Explosion heard as incinerator catches fire in late night drama.' 'Bad smell in Plymouth caused by 10.000 tons of rotting waste at incinerator.' 'Plymouths incinerator was shut down after a steam blast makes it whistle in the night.' 'Warning of noise, smoke and steam jets as Plymouth incinerator comes on line.' 'Plymouth incinerator throws out thick steam as testing continues.' 'Plymouth incinerator is up and running again after 3 a.m. shutdown wakes residents.' 'Incinerator bosses deny that flying object filmed by resident came from its chimney.' 'Plymouth smell unacceptable says the environment agency.' 'Incinerator noise spoiled our kids weekend.' 'Plymouths incinerator shut down by undetected gas cylinder.'

Plymouth's incinerator is causing the highest pollution levels ever recorded in a housing area – this was based on alarmist graphics produced by Plume Plotter. The software used is very similar (if not identical) to that used by professional and independent air quality consultants (such as those who prepared the air quality chapter of the Environmental Statement for our DCO application) but the colours were altered to make it look as though dangerous levels were reached. If the actual figures are taken into account, even the highest levels (which are modelled, not measured) are below national air quality standards.

In reality, we installed ambient air quality monitoring of both oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter. Reports were produced on a quarterly basis and uploaded to our website where they can still be viewed: Links and Downloads - MVV Energie AG.

Explosion heard as incinerator catches fire in late night drama – it is not possible to be certain, as only the headlines were quoted, but we believe this was an occasion when our control room team called the fire brigade due to a small amount of smouldering waste in the storage bunker; there was no explosion on site and the facility did not catch fire. Normally, the shift team are able to locate any smouldering waste with their infrared camera system and lift it from the storage bunker into the furnace with the waste crane. Very occasionally, if they are unable to locate the hot spot, the safest course of action is to call the fire brigade for assistance as they have far more sensitive equipment for identifying the smouldering waste.

We put the fire in the fire.

Warning of noise, smoke and steam jets as Plymouth incinerator comes on line – this does not relate to an actual even but to communications sent out during commissioning explaining what may be seen and/or heard during the process. The alarmist article was based on previous experience of another power station – burning fossil fuel, not waste – that started up without clearing the construction debris from their system. This resulted in dark clouds of smoke/particles billowing into the air.

This was not the case when we started up the Devonport facility.

Plymouth incinerator throws out thick steam as testing continues – steam is indeed blown through the pipes before it can be sent to the turbine, otherwise tiny particles of dirt and dust from construction would punch holes in the turbine blades and destroy it.

Plymouth incinerator is up and running again after 3 a.m. shutdown wakes residents – this relates to an event caused by operator error, forcing the facility into emergency shutdown. At this point, the automated safety systems take over and part of that process involves evacuating all of the steam from the boiler into the atmosphere, i.e. venting the steam through purpose-built vents in the roof. The operator involved no longer works for our company.

Incinerator bosses deny that flying object filmed by resident came from its chimney – because it didn't. This was an image captured by a resident on a very windy day, of a bin bag being blown around and appearing to be near the chimney. There is no way any object of that size could pass through the boiler (furnace at 1000°C) and filter bags (of which there are 2400) to travel up and out of the chimney.

Plymouth smell unacceptable says the environment agency – true, it was. This headline relates to very early teething trouble with air flow and 'leaks' between the cladding and concrete sections of the main building. Louvres were installed over the tipping hall air vents, apertures were reduced, and the outer skin of building sealed. Lessons were learnt and similar issues were avoided at our Baldovie facility.

Incinerator noise spoiled our kids weekend – we do not know what this headline refers to.

Plymouth's incinerator shut down by undetected gas cylinder – occasionally (more so in early days of operation) gas cylinders are placed into bins and end up in our process. Most are identified as the waste is tipped into the bunker and/or by control room staff and removed for safe recycling. Very occasionally they will go through the process and the boiler is able to absorb small explosions due to its design. If the explosion causes unsafe pressure or emission circumstances – such that complete combustion cannot be achieved – the boiler will trip and shut itself down safely.

Regarding information to the local community. I was led to believe no on was using the steam from the incinerator is this still the case.

Heat will be available from the start of operations but we are not able to comment on commercial arrangements or discussions, which are ongoing.

Also what happens when the pollution rises above the legal levels. Also what happens when the government implement high tax levels and make it to costly to run incinerators and plant closes does the incinerator just get abandoned or removed.

We are not allowed to exceed legal limits for chimney emissions and these are monitored continuously. See also previous answers on flue gas cleaning.

At the last meeting it was mentioned that MVV monitor the stack particulates emission continuously.

We have other sites (not incinerators) who estimate their particulate emissions (PM10/PM2.5) based on extrapolation from a yearly sample. They do measure Sulphur in real time.

It would help our group to better understand what sampling technology MVV use in the stack and what its operational temperature range is and who supplies it.

It will also be useful to have a better understanding to help with our contributions to the MVV liaison and community meetings.

We could do with this by the end of March if possible?

We use continuous emissions monitoring systems at all of our facilities, with duty and standby equipment installed. Particulate forms part of the dust figure and this, along with other compounds, is reported weekly on our website for all operational facilities.

Please can you tell me the hazards of such an incinerator?

Are toxins released into the air affecting air quality and respiratory health okay local residents.

What governance will be in place to monitor air quality?

See previous answers on emissions control and EA regulation. These are being incorporated into the FAQs on our project website.

There was one further email received, which didn't involve a specific question but did contain expletives – it has not been included here.

Additional information from the discussions during the meeting:

- The community fund at Devonport (Plymouth) is administered independently and has its own website: North Yard Community Trust | Registered charity (no. 1171099)
- Decommissioning will take place within two years of operations ceasing; the total life cycle is approximately 45 years (3 years to build, 40 years to operate and 2 years to decommission)
- Particulate emissions are measured by scintillation and all systems are provided by accredited suppliers, they are maintained and calibrated in accordance with the supplier's recommendations
- Our work on carbon capture includes exploring options for a pipeline to Bacton, which will run past King's Lynn – this will involve investment from a number of emitters; the alternatives include solidifying CO_2
- We would welcome the Wisbech to March railway, especially if it were heavy goods and could be used for waste deliveries
- Secondary aggregates will be used for construction and these might include Incinerator Bottom Ash Aggregate (IBAA), which can be used under certain conditions but not in structural concrete
- The electricity generated will be sent to Walsoken substation via underground cable (not pylons)
- Vehicle numbers and routes will form part of the Construction Traffic Management Plan, which will be published on our website once approved by Cambridgeshire County Council
- Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) will be transported by road (not barge or sea) to an existing ash processor; we have had no discussions or contractual arrangements with Johnson's Aggregates
- Defra's waste capacity note, issued on 30th December 2024 is attached separately
- An information board will provide contact details for complaints

- The location of the facility is based on where the waste comes from, waste will not be imported from Germany or any other countries