

HertsWOW Petition and address to WMCP 7.3.13

Mick Bee, Herts Without Waste. The petition I present states: -

New Barnfield waste incinerator proposal "... the savings that it will generate for the County Council over its 25-year operation have been calculated at a total of £779m or an average of £31m a year" (press release July 2011; and para 7.3 of today's report for Item 3).

These 'savings' are used to justify the proposal but are based on out of date projections and information (some from 2008).

In the light of the significant changes that have occurred since these 'savings' were calculated, we believe that they are no longer valid.

We request that HCC, if they seek to continue with this incinerator proposal, urgently produce, and then publish, up to date calculations.

450 have signed - we present a representative sample.

Put very simply - the New Barnfield proposal was based on what can now be seen as high projections of municipal waste, amounts subsequently amended down by Herts County Council in their Waste Core Strategy - as shown in the Graph I submitted - and in line with Defra 's own projections.

The cost 'savings', quoted in July 2011 and reiterated in your report today, were measured against the cost of landfilling the earlier, higher prediction of residual waste - a cost then estimated to be £2.3 billion over the 25 years. This was the business case 'cost comparator'.

But - not only is the projected amount of waste to be disposed of, now set lower - the future cost of landfill has also changed markedly since the scrapping by Defra of Landfill Allowances, LATS and penalties as of next month.

And - the separate Landfill Tax also is to be frozen when it reaches £80 per tonne in April next year.

So all these key figures have significantly changed except for that business case comparator of £2.3b - against which the savings are measured. It remains stuck at the 2009 figure.

This is what we have sought to illustrate in our alternative projections - the other document I submitted - and address in this petition.

Meanwhile, the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership authorities are progressing with recycling quicker than predicted - Three Rivers has hit 60% - so that the amounts to be disposed each year continue to fall - again in line with national trends.

There are clearly questions to ask about this savings calculation - and figures to explain to us. It is this we put to you today.

I thank you for receiving this petition from Herts Without Waste and for hearing me. Thank you.

MJB, HertsWOW
7 March 2013