

## Script for HertsWOW's Petition to CS&WM CP on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2016

John Webb, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016 (in its final state, as presented)

Good morning Chairman and Committee members,

This Petition calls on you to recommend "recycling and composting instead of incineration".

It has 255 valid signatures (from a target of 100) of which 200 were received in 2 days from across the County.

We are asking the Council to act on behalf of the residents and businesses of Hertfordshire and future generations by rejecting this plan and cancelling the Contract now, this month.

The revised proposal would incur a £1.1 billion commitment to build and run a waste incineration plant.

The Officer's Report does a determined job of defending this failing contract on behalf of the Waste Disposal Authority; I emphasise "disposal".

For instance it refers to an "Energy From Waste" facility to divert waste from landfill, whereas in practice landfilling of stabilised waste belongs above incineration; though both are toward the bottom of the Waste Hierarchy.

In terms of the embedded energy of the materials it would destroy, and the energy that it would consume, it would be better described as a net "Energy Wastage Facility"!

Within 10 years or so, it is forecast that investments in fossil fuel related industries will be "stagnant", so the proposed facility would be a "white elephant" from the outset.

Our greatest concern is about the Council causing a facility to be built that would need to run for a 40 year lifetime from 2020 at the earliest, consuming up to 320,00 tpa x 40 years = 12.8 million tonnes destroyed - destabilising the climate - that could largely have been re-used, recycled and composted.

There is no real urgency for making this decision. In the words of our late friend Mick Bee, "Waste is not piling up in the streets!". The Council can get out of this contract for a £1.2m penalty compared to the £12m or so that it wasted over the New Barnfield project.

The planning risks are so many and so high that we are confident that this proposal would be called in by a Secretary of State and rejected. How many more years of opportunity would that squander?

The opportunity now is to invest to save in the Herts. Waste Partnership so as to separate waste arisings locally for re-use, recycling and composting, along with separate collection of food waste. This would take place in industrial and agricultural units, sited close to each of the main towns across the county.

We call upon this Panel to recommend that Cabinet decide to reject the Plan and cancel the Contract forthwith.

Thank you.