

PRESS RELEASE: for immediate release.

**Innovation NOT Incineration: Public Opinion Wins
– NO Amey Cespa Giant Cambridge Incinerator**

After a nail biting 6 weeks, Amey Cespa have NOT challenged the Secretary of State decision to refuse planning for the giant Cambridge (Waterbeach) incinerator) to the High Court- **the fight is over FINALLY!**

CBWIN, Cambridge Without Incineration was delighted at the SOS decision issued on 15th June 2020, which upholds the decision of Cambridgeshire County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to reject the Amey-Cespa Incinerator at the Waterbeach Waste Park. We totally agreed with the inspector's reasons for refusal:

".....The appeal scheme was not in accordance with local plan policies in relation to protecting local character, built and natural heritage, and conflicted with landscape and historic environment policies and design policies covering renewable and low carbon."

Para. 36. Secretary of State Decision Letter.

"The Secretary of State therefore concludes that the appeal should be dismissed, and planning permission refused."

Para. 43. Secretary of State Decision Letter.

The victory is testament to the passion, hard-work and commitment of residents not only in Waterbeach, but from across the Fen edge and Cambridge communities, who were united in their opposition to the incinerator.

Thousands signed a petition against the incinerator and raised thousands of pounds to pay for independent reports from one of the country's leading landscape and climate impact experts. The incinerator would have blighted the Fenland landscape for decades to come and caused irreparable harm to the ancient setting of Denny Abbey, a listed monument, which stands only 500m away from the Amey Cespa boundary.

Residents from Waterbeach and the surrounding area can breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that the incinerator will not go ahead. Declining air quality is a pressing issue and linked to climate damage and the rise of asthma and other respiratory and chronic diseases. Fine particulate matter, a by-product of incineration, is thought to bind to viruses, such as Covid-19, recent research indicates.

From the outset, CBWIN argued that the incinerator was the wrong solution to Cambridgeshire County Council's waste and in line with the emerging minerals and waste Local Plan, argued there was no need for the outdated facility. We fully understand the need to move away from landfill but incineration is classified as the worst option. Incineration is at the bottom of the energy from waste hierarchy and is a disincentive to recycling. The Waterbeach incinerator would have seen waste from >11 counties being transported to the Waterbeach A10 site, requiring a continuous stream of rubbish as the site would be burning 24/7, every day of the year for 35+ years.

CBWIN would like to thank everyone who helped in this campaign including those who signed our petitions and gave so generously to our fund raising. A special thanks must go to the following whose support has been so important to us during our campaign - our local MP Lucy Frazer and Heidi Allen and Daniel Zeichner for their support of the campaign. Many local residents, parish councils, district councillors, Cambridge Friends of the Earth, MEP Lucy Nethsinga, and local labour and green party groups also supported the campaign and spoke out against the incinerator. Significant evidence was presented to the appeal against the incinerator by CPRE, Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Historic England, Michelle Bolger Landscape Consultancy and Only Solutions (on behalf of CBWIN) and UKWIN. We would like to thank them all.

This is a WIN for local people, the county council, our unique landscape and heritage, the environment and wider climate protection, also a win for recommended and greener waste management solutions which now can come forward for Cambridgeshire, and most importantly a WIN for democracy and the younger generations that come after us and for whom this outcome has the greatest positive significance.

Full report from the planning inspectorate:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-at-levitts-field-waterbeach-waste-management-park-ely-road-cambridgeshire-ref-3225123-15-june-2020>

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CBWIN is a community group of residents and objects to the proposed incinerator at the Waterbeach Waste Management site.

ENDS