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seek advice from
John Burns.

City Hall
St Peter's Street
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July 2011

Lord Henley
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
DEFRA
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW



Dear Lord Henley,

I am writing to inform you of the widespread opposition within the Norwich area to the plans to build an incinerator at Saddlebow, near Kings Lynn in Norfolk. As the Leader of the Opposition on Norwich City Council, I can testify that there is a large amount of opposition to this incinerator, in the city of Norwich, and throughout the county.

The Green Party has 22 councillors in Norwich and represents several thousand local residents. Since 2005, as our support has grown, local people have voted for a manifesto which has been clear in its opposition to incineration as a means of disposing of waste. During this time, Green county councillors have argued against incineration and have called, repeatedly, for a serious evaluation of all alternative options.

Norwich City Council has also shown its opposition to incineration. In January 2007, the council passed a motion confirming 'its opposition to any form of incineration of Norfolk's waste.' The council's main concerns included 'the effect of emissions on human health and the environment' as well as the fact that 'incineration contracts with private companies create a demand for waste when the primary objective must be to reduce the amount (of waste) that is produced.'

The motion stated "This Council is opposed to any form of waste treatment that involves incineration. This includes a full-blown incinerator or Mechanical Biological Treatment (that produces a by-product, i.e. Refuse Derived Fuel, for incineration) as the concerns expressed above apply in both cases".

Furthermore, the council believed 'that a combination of comprehensive doorstep local facilities and a resource recovery park is the only sustainable way to significantly reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. If further treatment of residual waste is absolutely necessary, a network of small anaerobic digestion plants should be pursued.'

And the council called upon the Government to 'introduce legislation to reduce waste at source by strict regulation and taxes on packaging'.

An incinerator in Norfolk would take most people in the county in the opposite direction to the 2007 Norwich City Council motion that was endorsed by councillors representing thousands of Norfolk people. Recent press coverage and political events have shown that plans for an incinerator are extremely unpopular. I sincerely hope that those plans will be withdrawn and that more sustainable options for dealing with the county's waste will be explored.

Claire Stephenson

Claire Stephenson
Leader of the Green Party Group on Norwich City Council