

Whittlesey Town Council votes to support Saxongate - Important update.

Due to lobbying and evidence obtained from Saxongate Residents group from various agencies and councils at the full Whittlesey Town Council meeting last night (18/04/24), a proposal (put forward by councillors Elisabeth Sennitt Clough and Haq Nawaz) was approved to write to Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council and the Environment Agency requesting that a viable duty of care chain is put in place. Also, common definitions should be agreed for the use of Industrial Bottom Ash Aggregate (IBAA) in construction projects to avoid contamination risks from failing to follow regulations.

An example was given where it appeared that IBAA material, which is a derivative of ash from waste incinerators such as the one planned for Wisbech, had been used locally without a permit or following Government guidelines such as regulatory position statement 247 /RPS247.

There were 11 members of the council present and ten voted in favour with one abstention for personal reasons.

Councillor Roy Gerstner stated that the matter needed to be unequivocally solved, not in years but in months, and should there need to be enforcement then the planning department would push for that.

Councillor Chris Boden stated that IBAA needed to be managed in a proper way and it was abundantly clear to him that, in a local example referred to during the debate, this had not happened. He went on to give an assurance that the matter would be raised for debate at Fenland District Council's next full meeting, stating that the situation could be the thin end of the wedge as a lot more IBAA was going to be available, potentially to be used locally in the future. In addition, he said it was really important that any current issues were resolved and that it was stopped from happening again and again in the future. He said this was a really important issue for Whittlesey and for areas elsewhere.

This was a key vote for our group. We have attached the Environment Agencies FAQ for IBAA for your information. The site in question was the new trailer park (Churchfield Farm Kings Dyke) near the Ralph Butcher Causeway. The EA continues to investigate. Fenland District Council approved a retrospective planning application (with conditions) which we understand have not been met in November.

Thanks for your support. We are pushing ahead with further detailed points and meeting to ensure companies follow the rules and avoid needless pollution risks in our area.

Please do visit us on Facebook and give us a like, and encourage others to join our mailing list so we can keep people informed and garner support on major issues.

<https://www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7>

Our small print:-

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<https://www.facebook.com/SaxonGatePE7>.

Please do keep reporting any issues and we will endeavour to keep pushing forward. If you suffer any noise, smells or dust please do still report it to the Environment Agency 24/7 on 0800 80 70 60