

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 07 October 2024

Question from: Sara Scanlon

Question to: Cllr Patient

North Halifax is a densely populated area combining thousands of homes for families large and small, offering educational institutes for thousands of pupils primary and secondary and job opportunities again for thousands of employees across the working spectrum and is already suffering air pollution, smell and noise pollution.

The above project is proposed to be sited on part existing industrial site/previous green belt designated for employment (a notion which will fail to be preserved if this project succeeds).

It will be based next to numerous residential properties, farm land, wild life habitat and will require relocation of Calderdale Way. The project would be very close to 2 to 3 school base corridors.

I am concerned about the significant safety risks that this project brings with it. The batteries are reported to give no warning signs of explosion or fire. The thermal runaway/dangerous chain reaction over the 17.5 acre would devastate the north Halifax area in every shape and form, no more so than the immediately adjoining residential community.

The environmental impact of such a project manifests in many ways. It would become a toxic hotspot with loss/movement of green space, wildlife habitat, water pollution from substances used in a disaster, soil degradation, strain on emergency services, impact on grazing/farmland/agriculture and air pollution.

As a result of these battery sites, out of control fire hazard and explosions have already been reported all over the world including UK causing not only short term but also long term damage to property and injuries, fatalities, toxic gasses in the environment lethal to residents, homes and gardens, local schools which by their very nature are precious environments, employees on site, local business and staff.

How quickly would a fire/explosion be detected. It is understood that the project would not be staffed save for occasional security visits. The batteries have in some instances exploded/caused fire whilst in process of a plant being erected. As I understand it, these fires and explosions not only occur because of uncontrolled temperature and moisture (atmosphere) but battery damage, improper installation and manufacturing defects

It is not clear - that emergency services can deal with this particular explosive disaster to safeguard the immediate residential community adjoining the project or surrounding areas, or that a project of this size may be contained, (in some incidents the locality for safety reasons has been put into special measures for many days dealing with initial fall out)

How can local residents/schools, employees and wildlife, land be safeguarded with a project so near to the residential community.

This massive project's danger hazard would mean that North Halifax residents were sat in a toxic hotspot impacting on health, well being and general quality of life

There are so many concerns about such a project but I wish to advocate for protection of the residential community within the immediate vicinity of the project (and the wider area)

Request:

I ask the council if considering such a project to ensure a fair balance between the project and the existing immediate residential community and wider community to include schools, homes, businesses, walkways and nature.

Response

At the current time a planning application has not yet been submitted for this development. The Council must not make public comments that pre-judge the assessment of an application; however, we can assure you that if an application is submitted, full public consultation will be carried out, and all the relevant considerations, including public safety, will be carefully considered before a decision is taken.