

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 13 January 2025

Question from: George Pickles

Question to:

Residents are grateful to the MPs and the majority of councillors who have supported their efforts to protect the health and environment of Sowerby Bridge. They also welcome the Government announcement to require more control over incineration and to increase the scrutiny of incinerator plants. Residents trust that CMBC will fully adopt those procedures.

This does not appear to be the case so far.

As an example, Cabinet might be interested in the officers' statement that they are satisfied with the storage capacity of 20 tonnes of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) in the incinerator shed for the overnight burn, when the doors have to remain closed for 13 hours.

RDF has an average density of 120 to 250kg per tonne, say average of 185kg.

20 tonnes would require a storage volume of 108 cubic metres. The area shown on plans submitted for storage is 23 square metres. The shed is 3.2 metres high at eaves and 5.4 metres at the ridge. Access for loading machinery would be required. RDF does not appear to stack vertically - more conical in profile.

Using those dimensions gives a storage capacity of circa 25 cubic metres - less than 25% of what has been approved.

Officers have declined an elected Councillor's request to be present at their site meetings and the company has not responded to two requests for a resident visit, despite their invitation as advertised on 'Calendar'.

Residents would be grateful for a clear explanation regarding the capacity of the shed for overnight RDF storage and confirmation that such storage is fully compliant with H&SE advice regarding fire risk, dust and vapour and working conditions.

Relevant information is not available on the council Permitting or Planning websites. The answer to this question could be published on the relevant site

Response

The capacity of the waste storage is stated as 20 tonnes on the application, and this has been accepted by Calderdale Council. If the storage area cannot hold 20 tonnes, then they will simply not be operating 24 hours a day as there are strict planning conditions on both the operating conditions and times of operation of the SWIP and the adjacent waste transfer station.

Health and safety considerations are not directly regulated by the environmental permitting regime. Any enquiries regarding health and safety considerations should be directed to the Health and Safety Executive (the HSE).