

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 14 April 2025

Question from: Clive Wilkinson

Question to: Councillor Durrans, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Services and Communities

QUESTION

Thank you for the more detailed response I received at the last Cabinet Meeting on 17th March.

However I'm afraid the answer given was again not accurate.

For example, regarding materials to be burned at the Mearclough site - you stated it was for wood waste - but in fact, upon checking, the application was for wood and RDF.

Regarding NOx levels you stated that this was primarily caused by road traffic contributions, which is true, but an incinerator will only add to it. When Mearclough was refused by the council it was stated that there was no safe level of NOx.

Regarding the issues with the sites having 2 regulators, it is strange that the council thought that it was an issue for Mearclough, but it isn't at Belmont.

I'm assuming that when cabinet members give answers at cabinet meetings that they are being briefed by council officers. Given the number of times that I and other neighbours of Sowerby Bridge have had inadequate answers to questions regarding the proposed incinerator at Belmont, I think it is now time for relevant cabinet members to meet with a small group of local residents to hear from them why council officers have got this so wrong and why the council should not be fighting a judicial review against one of their own residents.

At the February cabinet meeting that I attended, the Leader of the Council, in a response to George Pickles, said it was important for the council to get this right.

Will Councillor Durrans and Councillor Patient agree to meet with us to discuss this further, so that we do get it right?

Response

Neither Councillor Patient or I are technically qualified to be able to meet with you to explain the suggested discrepancies between the previous response and your belief around the site. However, I am happy to arrange a meeting for us to meet with the appropriate officers so they can respond to any questions you have.