



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7th June 2019

Labour councillors support community concerns at local hearings

Bexley's Labour Group of councillors have expressed major reservations at the proposals for the Cory Energy Park at Belvedere at the open floor hearing held at Belvedere Community Centre on 4th June and the hearing on environmental matters at Slade Green Community Centre on 5th June. Labour councillors Stef Borella and Dave Putson spoke at the hearings, questioning the need for more waste incineration in south east London and the negative impact this and other various industrial operations have on the area in terms of dust, air quality, odour and heavy traffic.

Critics argue that the proposals would not support increasing recycling rates and evidence shows that local authorities that use this facility have seen their recycling rates suppressed.

Councillor Stef Borella (Slade Green and Northend ward) said "There are major concerns at the connection to the national grid and potential traffic disruption and delays along the A2016 corridor that will impact on businesses, residents and the environment, particularly on Northend Road/Thames Road. The increased traffic and congestion as a result of cable laying to the Littlebrook power station in Dartford would impact on air quality as a result of the disruption. If this plant is built, 75% of future waste would enter the plant by river, but 25 % of waste would arrive by road, further impacting on congestions in the area."

In his hearing submission, Cllr Borella also highlighted that the area most affected by these proposals are the riparian wards of Thamesmead East, Belvedere, Erith and Slade Green and Northend which form part of the council's projected 30,000 growth strategy to unlock development on under-utilised industrial land and that consideration should be given to the impact on the homes proposed in these areas under the council's draft local plan.

Speaking following his representations, Councillor Dave Putson (Belvedere ward) said "The proposed plant would detrimentally impact on the immediately adjacent Crossness nature reserve and could have a lasting impact on wildlife and the habitats carefully nurtured over many years. In addition if built, the incinerator would increase fine dust particulate emissions and a detrimental impact on the health and air quality in the local area."

Other elected representatives making submissions include Teresa Pearce MP for Erith & Thamesmead, Sir David Evennett MP for Bexleyheath & Crayford Jon Cruddas MP for Dagenham & Rainham and Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London who has made clear his desire to improve air quality. His draft London plan outlines spatial inequalities, environmental and social barriers that affect people living in opportunity areas, which it is argued this proposal fails to meet given the effect of emissions from the plant on the local area.

-ENDS-

BEXLEY LABOUR GROUP PRESS RELEASE



Notes to editors

A London assembly committee on 30th July 2018, found that EfW incinerators emit over 2000 tonnes of Nitrous Oxide 4% of London's total.

Details regarding the examination can be found at :

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/london/riverside-energy-park/>

For further information, please contact Councillor Stef Borella on Stefano.borella@bexley.gov.uk