

Halt £18m waste giant in our midst - call

Campaigners battling to oppose plans for an £18m round-the-clock waste incinerator at Tockwith, near Wetherby, have sparked a recommendation for objections from Harrogate Borough Council.

A council planning officer Neville Watson is recommending the Borough Council's Planning Committee to support objections when they meet on March 27 at the council offices in Harrogate.

The recommendation has been welcomed by Coun John Savage (Con Marston Moor) who represents the area on Harrogate Borough Council.

Mr Watson says the scheme would have an adverse impact on residential amenity and Marston Business Park at Tockwith as well as residential amenity. Mr Watson expresses concern about noise, operating hours, dust, odour, air quality and traffic generation.

Coun Savage says: "This development would totally transform the village of Tockwith and others in the surrounding area. Its impact would be quite devastating. Already the community and wider area is demanding this giant does not drastically change the area."

The energy from waste facility would be 500m west of the village. The project is designed to process 60,000 tonnes of waste per year. "This is a round-the-clock business, seven days a week with an 18 metre chimney. It has already been dubbed the Blackpool Tower of the Vale of York and would stick out like a very large sore thumb," said Coun Savage. He added: "I am very worried about the amount of heavy traffic generated by this project on often narrow and inappropriate roads.

"Coun Savage said he was not surprised the plan had created tremendous opposition because it would be so alien to the area.

The application has been put forward by BCB Environmental Management Ltd and involves change of use from a warehouse to the waste facility. There would be storage areas, gasification ovens, heat and power plant as well as the tall chimney stack.