

There are good quality developments and then there are bad quality developments for an area such as ours. A good quality development that springs to mind is for instance a hotel resort or private clinic or hospital even. Both would attract other wholesome, small and medium sized enterprises. The latter for instance will attract all manner of medical professions. Private consultants, physio therapists, and so on. Both will certainly inspire spin off small businesses like floral shops, book shops, coffee shops, gyms even, to pop up around it. The point is that a good quality development amplifies its own economic and social benefit by stimulating the growth of more wholesome economic activity. In turn this creates wealth and promotes social and economic benefit to the surrounding community.

The proposed incinerator is not such a development. It creates nothing. It is an industrial process plant in the solid waste management industry. An industry that is operated and paid for by the national and local governments - through a combination of direct government functions and outsourced expertise and services. The industry is therefore largely funded by taxpayer money. The proposed incinerator represents an expenditure that society needs to incur in order to deal with its waste management challenges. As such it represents a net consumption of wealth. Not the creation of wealth and prosperity.

It is a heavy industrial plant that holds no social and economic benefits of the sort I described earlier. It will not stimulate other smaller and wholesome enterprises into existence around it. On the contrary it will kill off any hope Portland still has left, to attract the sort of quality development that we need.

Mr Chair, when you ask people about what they consider to be a good quality of life. Some may describe a life of riches and luxury. Of expensive possessions and holidays. Others, like me, find that a good life is to be found in simpler things. I enjoy being part of a close-knit community. Where I meet with my friends and neighbours on a Friday for a pint in the pub. And my elderly neighbour sends around cake she bought at the local market. A community where values such as neighbourliness, friendliness and decency are still important. I enjoy this in a physical place that is naturally beautiful, almost unspoiled and which provides much food for the soul when you move around in it. I can walk for hours with the sun on my face and the wind in my hair taking in the views of the Jurassic Coast in its all its beautiful splendour. Such are the things that provides me with physical and mental health. And like so many of my fellow Portlanders, I am free to pursue what I consider the things that makes for a good quality of living.

The proposed incinerator threatens those things I consider as essential to a quality existence. It presents a very real pollution and public health risk. Now I know there are much made of the modelling, and how that is supposed to reassure us that there is no pollution and public health risk. But modelling is just the scientific version of a crystal ball. Models are not infallible, divine instruments, handed down to us from heavens. Models are created by people and is as fallible as we are. Models are like people in at least one aspect. And that is, that if you torture it long and hard enough will tell you exactly what you want to hear.

The fact of the matter is that we will not know what the pollution and public health fall outs are, until the incinerator is built and in operation and we can observe the consequences in real time. And then it will be too late. Mr Chair, the people that proposes this development project does not live here. They are not of this community. It is not them and their loved ones that will be forced to live with the lasting impact of an incinerator.

There is a reason that we confine industrial activities to industrial areas. The proposed incinerator is a heavy industrial plant that processes hazardous material. It should be erected in an industrial area, that is purposefully planned and created to house industrial activity of this kind. A small island on the Jurassic coast is not such an area.

It will diminish our community's health and rob us of the kind of lifestyle we cherish and value. And it will do so without giving us anything back in return. It is proposed by the kind of thinking that knows the price of everything, but the value of nothing.

Portlanders are often perceived as being insular and unaccepting of strangers. Nothing can be further from the truth. I am living testimony of that. I am an immigrant from another country, and I have

been accepted and made most welcome as a part of the community. What some perceive as aloofness in Portlanders is in actual fact an air of resignation. The people of Portland have become resigned to the fact that in matters of this magnitude their wishes and opinions are irrelevant. That they are at the mercy of the will of ~~the government and~~ powerful people. That ~~people and government officials~~ ^{other} with money and power will decide what does and doesn't happen on this island. Mr Chair, hope springs eternal, that in this instance they will be proved wrong in their resignation.

I ask you to please reject the application on the grounds of the economic and social wellbeing of our community