

## Planning

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**Subject:** FW: Objection to planning application: WP/20/00692/DCC

**From:** Hannah Borno [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 November 2020 00:58  
**To:** Planning <planning@dorsetcc.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Objection to planning application: WP/20/00692/DCC

From:  
Hannah Borno representing Coalition Against The Burner



Re: Planning Application: WP/20/00692/DCC

To whom it may concern,

I am writing from the campaign group Coalition Against The Burner to object against planning application WP/20/00692/DCC.

Coalition Against The Burner is a coalition of local businesses and groups who oppose this development due to its potential impact on the economy of the area — in particular, its impact on sectors such as tourism, food production, sailing and and local adventure sports, which rely on clean air and water.

The Coalition is a diverse and growing group — from cafes to campsites, dive centres to art galleries — we already have more than a dozen guest houses signed up, along with some significant local stakeholders such as the Weymouth Civic Society and the arts organisation 'b-side'. Please see below for the list of members at the time of writing, and for a full list please visit our website:

<http://coalitionagainsttheburner.org/>

Many Coalition members are very much dependent on the visitors drawn to Weymouth and Portland's famed fresh breezes, stunning views and sparkling sea waters. Portland is a place of outstanding natural beauty placed right in the middle of the Jurassic Coast — with unique natural habitats, wonderful walks and fantastic local food. Should this development go ahead it would reframe Portland as a centre for waste management and incineration — which would be fundamentally detrimental to the economy and future of the region, as well as permanently destroying the iconic view of the Isle of Portland.

The incineration plant would have a chimney stack twice the height of Portland Bill, and the main incinerator would be a huge building, which (despite the developers' best efforts to "camouflage" it with printed PVC netting) must inevitably impact on the landscape, changing it irrevocably. Sightseeing tours and boat trips coming out of Weymouth would never be the same again. You'll see that many charter skippers have signed up to the coalition already, alongside the Weymouth and Portland Licensed Skippers Association. They have a unique viewpoint of that side of the island, coming out of Weymouth as they do so frequently on angling trips and sightseeing tours, and are convinced the development would impact negatively on their business.

Artists and photographers have historically been drawn to Portland as a source of inspiration. A large waste incinerator dominating the landscape as one approaches the Isle would hardly be in keeping with the history and character of the area.

Another consideration is the noise — the loud hum from the plant's enormous fans — the vibration, and potentially even smell, in the vicinity would impact upon sightseeing tours on the East side of the Isle, particularly those focusing on Chequers Fort and the Hood. And before that, of course, we would be subjected to a noisy two to three year build of this massive structure (the site area is 2.3 hectares), with all the construction traffic associated with it.

As 2020 draws to a close, the tourism and hospitality sectors are reeling from Covid-19 regulations and constraints. From retail to restaurants, hotels to market stalls, it's been tough for everyone. According to a recent Parliamentary report: "Coastal communities in particular will be hard hit by the decline of the tourism industry". And it doesn't look like a swift recovery is on the cards. In its 2020 Tourism forecast, VisitBritain predicts that "by early 2021 we are unlikely to be back to baseline (pre-COVID) levels" in any sector of tourism.

And the National Coastal Tourism Academy recently found that at least 7% of coastal businesses have already permanently closed their doors, with 33.8% unsure about their survival until March 2021. The economic impact for 2020 is forecast to be a cut in tourism spend of £7.96 billion in England alone, with approximately 62.5% of coastal tourism businesses stating it will take more than a year until they can return to profit.

But there is hope! Many businesses on Portland noticed a difference this summer in the type of tourist coming to Portland — the more affluent urban 'staycationer' - and visitor numbers increased hugely, which was a great boon, coming as it did after the first lockdown. Usually people are attracted to the Isle to take part in specific activities such as birdwatching, walking or adventure sports. This year people were just enjoying the landscape, and spending money on food and drink. I recently spoke with Dorset Shellfish (a Coalition member) and they said they noticed spending from this new demographic, a different kind of customer.

In fact, Dorset Tourism and Dorset Food and Drink are currently working on a post-Covid recovery plan for tourism in Dorset that focuses to a large extent on artisan food and drink producers and outlets. So we now have a real opportunity to market Portland as a foodie destination similarly to Weymouth, due to our amazing fresh shellfish —

however, many of these oysters and crustaceans are either farmed or stored in the very body of water that would be adjacent to a large waste incinerator with not only an often visible emission plume pumping out day and night, but also the potential to leach toxic fly ash rich in heavy metals into the nearby harbour, particularly if, as Steve McNab told Weymouth council in a recent planning meeting, the Untreated Incinerator Bottom Ash is planned to be stored in barges on the harbour itself! In April spider crabs have their mating season and swarm in the harbour and come right up to the shoreline in Balaclava Bay — they would be coming right up to the incinerator walls! Sea Bass also have their mating grounds in waters very nearby, and visitors delight in fishing their very own mackerel for dinner on the shore of Chesil Beach.

Much investment has recently been put into Castletown to create a tourist centre - not least the Crabbers Wharf development with its own tourism office, the D-Day museum, local shore dive attraction and the Portland -Weymouth ferry. It would be extremely counter-productive if these initiatives end up being located under the 85 metre stack of a waste incinerator, which is operating day and night with all the increased HGV traffic, light pollution, noise and vibrations that such a plant is associated with during the entire 20-30 year lifetime of the plant. Visitors to, and further investment in Castletown would surely plummet.

As for emissions, this would be a matter of concern for farmers, fishing companies, artisan food producers — landing as they do over both land and sea. The prevailing winds would mean that for much of the time the incinerator plume would be aiming its toxins up towards Weymouth, Lulworth and the Jurassic Coast, pumping out its fumes literally for decades. The rubbish burner would be bad news for local farms & growers, as many of the toxins and heavy metals that will be dumped across the area are bioaccumulative. There are separate concerns about additional nitrogen, ammonia and CO<sub>2</sub> in the fumes affecting nearby seawater and crustaceans (it makes it more acid which in turn can mean the shells of crustaceans become thinner and cannot grow normally). However, the point I would like to make is that the nearby presence of the plant and its emissions would impact on the reputation of the area and the standard of the food produced here, which would inevitably have a knock-on economic effect. [1]  
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One common tourist to the area is the birdwatcher. However, increased nitrogen is also highly likely to impact on the growth of seagrass in the Fleet lagoon (which is fed from Portland harbour), a critically endangered site of European significance, which plays a crucial part in the diet of mute Swans and other marine creatures. This is due to the fact that the nitrogen feeds algal blooms which then grow rapidly, crowding out the seagrass. Currently the Fleet is home to rare birds such as the Schedule 8 protected Little Terns. If the habitat is destroyed due to excess nitrogen from the stack and increased traffic to the plant, then the birds inhabiting it will change. Obviously, this would be an ecological disaster, but ultimately it would also make the area less attractive to birdwatchers and nature lovers.

The reputation of Weymouth, Portland and the surrounding area is at stake — their reputation for pure clean air, water, unique ecological habitats and wonderful views — all of these will be under real threat should this development go ahead which could

result in a further depression of our local tourism and hospitality industry which needs the help, support and understanding of Dorset Council at this critical time.

We now stand at a crossroads. For Weymouth and Portland this could prove an an incredible opportunity to reframe our tourist industry, but should this massive industrial development be passed, we would sadly see the area take an irrevocable retrograde step.

With very best wishes,

Hannah Borno

[www.coalitionagainsttheburner.org](http://www.coalitionagainsttheburner.org)

## COALITION AGAINST THE BURNER — SIGNATORIES

### WEYMOUTH

Weymouth Civic Society  
Rossi's Ice Cream  
Old Harbour Dive Centre  
Weyfish  
Belvedere Inn  
The Chatsworth  
Offshore Rebel Charters  
Stone Pier Cafe  
Cove Gallery  
Weymouth Rubbish Removals  
Amarisa Deep Sea Fishing  
Weymouth Bike Hire  
South West Coast Refills  
The Bay Guest House  
Statue Insurance  
Gladstones Family Jewellers  
Weymouth Vintage  
Skelly Construction  
Weymouth & Portland Scaffolding  
Weymouth Bouncy Castles  
The Library House Cafe  
A Spoonful of Honey  
Aunty Vi's Café  
The Eastney  
Signet Aerials  
Titan Manufacturing,  
S&W Shellfish  
Sally Ann Charters  
Acorns Childminding Service  
Dorset Entertainments

The Harbour Terrace  
Townsend's Amusements  
Seashells Soft Play  
Marden Guest House  
Remarkable Carpets  
Graham's Motor Services  
Supanova Charters  
Bob Summerhayes Fisheries  
Ryan Casey Marine Services  
Weymouth Angling Centre  
Dorset Seaweeds  
Les Enfants Terribles  
Snapper Charters  
Netherfield Cattery  
Garreg Lwyd  
Al's Spirit Charters  
Fins-up Fishing Charters  
Flamer IV Charters  
Olivers Guesthouse  
Helen's Famous Wholefoods Store  
PlayYard  
C Me Care  
The Monarch Guest House  
Whitesands Properties  
The Ocean Guest House  
Wadham Guest House  
Weymouth<sup>[SEP]</sup>Bridge Fairtrade Shop  
Nanna Moon's Café Bar  
Wessex Aerials  
The Cavendale Guest House  
The Warwick Guest House  
Weymouth Sands Guest House  
Beach View Guest House  
The Seacrest Guest House  
Aaron Guest House  
Real World Services  
Good as Gold  
The Window Doctor  
Hand Picked Shellfish Company  
C.A. Aerials  
Bosworth Glass  
Direct Removals of Weymouth  
Mason Gas Services  
South Coast Alarms  
Cavendish House  
The Bedford Guest House  
King of the Castles  
The Dorset Grill

## Attic Designs

### PORTLAND

Dorset Shellfish  
Chesil Chippie  
Dive Beyond  
O'Three  
Dorset Sea Salt Co.  
Portland Joinery  
Scimitar Diving  
Paracademy Extreme  
Quiddles Cafe  
Taylor's Messdeck Cafe  
Portland Alpacas  
ArtSpace82  
LJK Resources  
Mike Young Personal Training  
Portland Magic  
Balti Island  
Perceptive Protection  
Mark White Roofing  
White Stones Art Cafe  
David Nicholls Art  
Adventure4All  
Martyn Davies Decorating  
Fancy's Farm  
Postal Logistics International  
JAIC  
Mocean  
Rob McIlroy Soft Tissue Therapy  
Fish-On! Angling Charters  
Portland Cottage

### WYKE REGIS

Pebble Bank Caravan Park  
The Fat Badger  
Sirius Business Services  
Dorset Phone Repair Service  
Swallows Rest  
Lee Electrical Installations

### BRIDPORT

Little Toller Books  
Soulshine Cafe  
Common Ground

### DORCHESTER

Down to Earth

Bright Button Productions  
Annie's Gardening  
Dorset's Kiwi Butcher

WAREHAM 

Longthorns Farm  
Terra Organics Cafe  
Huff and Puff Construction  
The Salt Pig

AND BEYOND 

Marren B&B, Holworth  
GB Roofing, Ilminster  
The Open Air Dairy, Littlebredy  
Heritage Seeds, Osmington  
Daniel Wretham Photography, Poole  
Donkey Down Camping, Sutton Poyntz