

**Response to Planning Application :LCC/2022/0003 (Demolition of existing building and erection of purpose built building (and ancillary structures) to house high treatment facility for the management of medical waste at Tower House, Stopgate Lane, Simonswood, Lancashire, L33 4XY from Bickerstaffe Parish Council**

This application causes concern, and therefore a response is being sent from Bickerstaffe Parish Council, on behalf of residents, for the following reasons:

- i. Road safety is an issue because of the current volume of HGVs accessing the area where there is an existing weight restricted zone and where there are already infringements - recorded on a regular basis, thus exacerbating the problem. The access route via Bickerstaffe is unsuitable for HGVs with a primary school, church, residencies close to the road, and playing fields along with slow moving farm vehicles, cyclists and horses. Also the lanes are too narrow for HGVs which puts pedestrians and walkers at risk.
- ii. There is housing in the vicinity also, much of which is downwind of the prevailing wind, therefore the siting of the proposed incinerator is unsuitable with regard to air quality for people living there – those with asthma being at particular risk from both vehicle and incinerator exhaust fumes.
- iii. As West Lancs Borough Council is working towards zero-carbon emissions, another incinerator would increase CO2 emissions in the area. The carbon footprint caused by transportation of medical waste from the source would exacerbate this problem also.
- iv. This proposal is within a rural area, surrounded by the green belt and close to housing, and although there is a small industrial unit there already, it is a predominantly agricultural with some sparse rural housing to one side and estate housing on the other side. This site is in danger of becoming a heavily industrialised site which is out of keeping with the landscape and area in general.

The site in Simonswood has already been developed adversely in the eyes of many residents, and further industrialised development needs to be curbed at this location for all the reasons stated.