



**Sharon
Hodgson**

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5 December 2019

Dear Development Management Committee,

I write in relation to the planning application at Hillthorn Farm, Washington (17/02085/MW4).

On Friday 19th July, Councillors voted to reject the planning application to the relief of local residents and campaigners.

Now that the decision is being appealed by the applicant, Rolton Kilbride Limited, I wish to reiterate my opposition to this application.

The threat of a gasification plant being built in Washington has caused great concern amongst local residents. In my time as an MP over 14 years, I have never known an issue that has galvanised so many residents to take a stand and campaign against.

My concerns about this application remain:

- The applicant has failed to decide or confirm what form of gasification technology will be used at the plant. We therefore do not know what the short and long-term health and environmental impacts will be to the local and wider population.
- The forms of gasification technology proposed have not been used in Europe before. Residents in Washington and Sunderland West should not be tested on.
- Waste will be coming from across the North East region, which could have significant adverse impacts on both transport and recycling rates in the region. The pollution that would be emitted from the stack and from the transport to and from the facility would also have serious adverse impacts well beyond the immediate locality.
- Residents are concerned about several matters including: how close the proposed site will be to schools and houses, effects on public health, impact on house prices and about the lack of research on the type of technology that will be used.

Regardless of the outcome at the General Election on Thursday 12th December, I will continue to oppose this application as I firmly believe, if the planning application is accepted, it will be to the detriment of local residents and the environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hodgson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sharon Hodgson

Labour Party Candidate for Washington & Sunderland West

Read Sharon Hodgson's privacy notice at: www.sharonhodgson.org/privacy_policy

Printed and promoted by Sean Laws on behalf of Sharon Hodgson, both at: Unit 1, Vermont House, Washington NE37 2SQ