

Good Morning Andrew

Re Acorn Road show .....Withersfield Village Hall 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2023

I am not quite sure why Acorn felt the need to bring their Promotional Circus back to the Village Hall for a second time, at this stage of the planning process but never the less is was quite enlightening and we met the “team” for a second time.

The “Virtual Pipeline” and the “Green Corridor”, soft euphemisms of their 2022 Road Show have now manifested themselves as a pressurised pumping main some two and a half kilometres in length complete with wet wells and a pumping station terminating at holding lagoons at Cadges Wood, West Wratting Airfield, the central hub of the Estates farming activities. The Green corridor at Horseheath Road now before District Ref DC/23/0572/FUL, is now a kerbed black top field access required to access a meadow of some 1.1 acres and is not linked to Estate road network. The meadow ironically is currently severed by a double standard field access. Acorn vehemently deny this new access, constructed to an unpresented standard for agricultural use has no connection to the proposed AD plant. This has been further endorsed via a video link at a Haverhill Town Council Meeting of the 13 October this year.

It is apparent that no real cognisance was taken of alternative locations, their knowledge of local geography was/is non-existent and is only surpassed by their understanding of the regions trunk road network. It was clearly evident that the Thurlow Estate in reality had offered them the one location only to work with.

I asked the obvious question why not construct the whole undertaking on the air field to mitigate the costs and disruption and inherent risks of a buried pipe line by constructing a private bituminous surfaced roadway across the Estate to link with the A1307, (this is exactly how Lord Iver manages the Elveden Estate) this is the shortest route and not via the A43 or A338 as referred to in their supporting statement. Apparently this location was considered, and subsequently dismissed on the basis of an in house Environmental Report citing the emissions from the plant were considered to be detrimental to the health of the adjacent ancient woodland.

It follows then that the impact to the health of the populous of Withersfield and Haverhill is not a consideration in planning terms to Acorn, the Thurlow Estate or the Vestey family. We are told that the process will be odourless when

located near the A1307 at Spring Grove Farm, what a difference a main road makes.

You could not script this.

Acorn for whatever reason cannot grasp or accept the site they are promoting is part of a flood plain, Zone 3. The site entrance is underwater as I write this and the A1307 is down to one lane. They believe they can control the flood risk, they told me so; they absolutely cannot, they neither have the acumen or authority to do so. The Environment Agency control the spillways and penstocks to the Meldham Washlands which as you know were constructed to alleviate the flood risk to protect Haverhill. The site will be and is subject to controlled flooding over which they will have no jurisdiction. Acorn also advised me that their process requires vast amounts of water and they feel they could utilise the storm water, really.

On a more positive, lighter note, there would be no need to condition any consent to provide a wheel wash during the construction period or operation of the plant, that comes as benefit of the location.

Kind Regards

David