

Mr S J Taylor
Drivers Barn
Silver Street
Withersfield
Suffolk
CB9 7SN

23-10-2023

Ref – Objection to the proposed Anaerobic Bio Digester (SCC/0045/23SE)

Dear Mr Rutter,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed construction and operation of an Anaerobic Bio Digester on the land north of Spring Grove Farm. This proposed site is in very close proximity (approx 600m) from my house and back garden.

I would like to draw your attention to the following key points and documents which I believe are fundamental to this proposal being refused.

Haverhill Vision 2023

- The proposed Spring Grove Farm site is **not** designated in the local plan for Industrial development.
- Flooding, the applicant is promoting this as a zone 1 flood area which is clearly not the case. This is a zone 3 flood zone.
- The Stour flood plain and Meldham Wash lands were constructed to specifically protect Haverhill from flooding as experienced during the disastrous floods of 1956 and 1968 (the latter which I remember only too well)
- **Policy HV18: Green Infrastructure in Haverhill – (c) “Conserve & enhance the Meldham Washlands green space”.** This clearly does neither
 - o (e) “connect multifunctional green infrastructure routes/corridors in the town to future and existing green spaces” This does not
 - o (f) “make urban river corridor improvements to the Stour Brook Valley Green Corridor and
 - o (g) Promote access to and appreciation of the local history and heritage assets within the landscape as part of a multifunctional approach” This will have a detrimental impact on this being the old railway line and the local woods in this area.
- Slide 55 within the Haverhill Vision 2023 document and specifically the comment **“Opportunity to improve the Gateway into Haverhill at the Spirit of Enterprise roundabout.”** This will in no way improve this as it will be an eyesore for anybody visiting our rapidly expanding town. This Gateway is also a visually pleasing countryside entry into the town; it will be significantly spoilt by this industrial eyesore.

- Flooding – The current proposed area is within a Zone 3 flood area and this will cause major issues. Hard concrete area will only accentuate an already flood prone area. The recent photos taken below show how problematic this currently is. There have been three floods in this area during 2023 alone. I am extremely concerned about the use of silo clamps which are simply contained by a cover. This allows ground water to run through and out to contaminate the local surroundings such as the Stour Brook.



Silo Clamp open to the elements when loading and unloading and covered by a simple tarpaulin when not in use.

National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 113)

- “All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed”. This only describes the routes for Lorries using the A1307; it does not describe the routes for farm vehicles which could be Lorries in its own description.
- There is also a reference to “vehicles movements being made “during peak harvest periods, delivery hours would be in line with standard agricultural harvest-time activity” This could be all night as I personally witness every year when the farm vehicles pass my house in Silver Street. It also does not specifically mention which products they will be harvesting , which means that it could be during the months outside of what is considered to be the standard agricultural period of between May – Sept and this could be for most of the year.

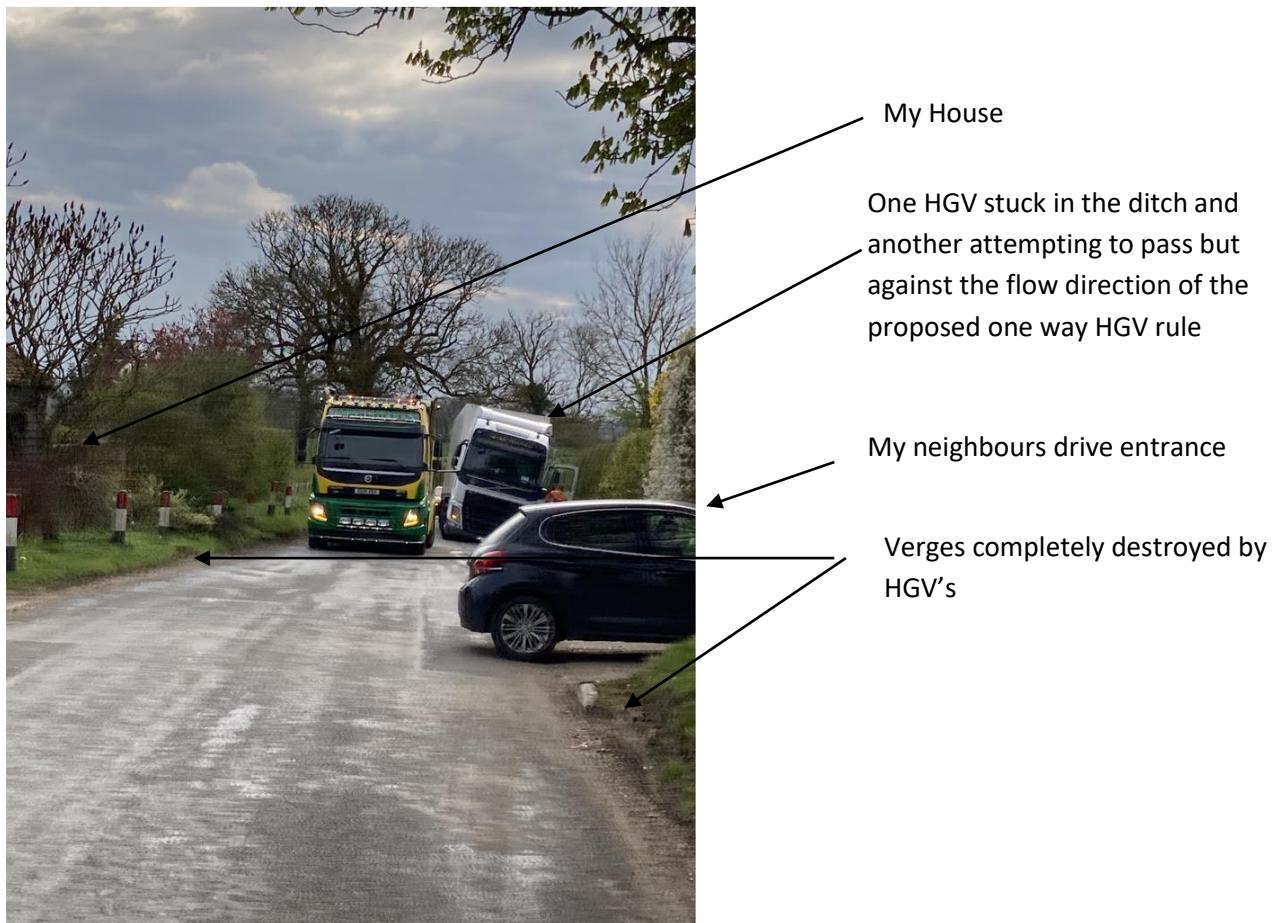
National Planning Policy for Waste

- Appendix B (c) Landscape & visual Impacts – Considerations will include
 - o (i) the potential for design-led solutions to produce acceptable development which **respects landscape character** This will have a significant detrimental visual impact on the approach (Gateway) to Haverhill and from my back garden
 - o (ii) the need to **protect landscapes** or designated areas of national importance (National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coasts) This will be located on the edge of conservation land & a conservation village

- (iii) **localised height restrictions.** This will have a significant visual impact from my back garden (600m away), the A1307, the Epicentre (600m away), the new Arboretum housing estate being built on the Research Park and the Flying Shuttle Pub and 650m away from Sainsbury's superstore. I fail to see how this will attract any new businesses into this area.

Traffic

- As a general comment, Silver Street cannot currently cope with the amount of HGV's, lorries, vans, cars and farm machinery using it. There is supposed to be a one way scheme in place for HGV's both to and from the Jelly Warehouses (old Aircraft hangers) on Wratting Common, but this is consistently ignored leading to HGV's trying to negotiate each other in the very narrow Silver Street. One only has to see the amount of destroyed verges and the bank on my house and my neighbours to appreciate this. HGV's have on numerous occasions got stuck in the ditches as they attempt to avoid each other. This road cannot simply accommodate this proposed increase in HGV's.



Odour

- Despite reassurances from the proposer, you only have to Google anaerobic Digesters to see that the locals surrounding these plants all complain of the smell. When the clamps (storage of the rotting product) are uncovered to load or unload the products, they will emit bad smelling odours, this has been backed up by the independent survey (Michael Bull &

Associates) that Jaynic (the owners of the nearby Epicentre) commissioned (see separate objection). Their diagram indicates the distance and directions of these odours and this will be over my house and garden, thus when sitting outside to enjoy the countryside and quietness, myself and my family and neighbours will be faced with this horrendous stench and the noise from the plant and moving vehicles. This will also have a major impact and loss on local amenities.



Relative odour levels around proposed development

Explosive Danger

- The explosion of an Anaerobic Digester plant in Avonmouth where four people lost their lives and the most recent explosion in Oxford (Oct 23) causes me great concern. The close proximity of this proposed plant (600m away from mine and my neighbours houses, the Epicentre, the new Arboretum estate & pub) has to be a major concern for the local people.



Health & Wellbeing

- Haverhill and Suffolk councils have consistently promoted the health and wellbeing of its residents and only recently have stated that it is looking to implement a cycle route from Haverhill to Cambridge. The Cambridgeshire council has already implemented a great deal of this route through their county. How can this possibly happen if such a proposed development is erected? The old railway line, onto which this plant will be built, is the obvious route for this cycle track and the entrance to and from the site will cross the cycle route, thus proving a significant danger to cyclists when leaving Haverhill. As a keen cyclist myself, it is horrendous trying to currently negotiate Silver Street & its A1307 junction and by building this plant it will only increase accidents on an already dangerous road classed as a "High Death Toll" road.

Conclusion

- **In light of all of the above points I would like to register my strongest possible objection against such a plant being built in this proposed location.**

Yours Sincerely

Steven Taylor