

Cambridgeshire County Councillor Henry Batchelor's comments on planning application SCC/0045/23SE

Dear Mr Rutter,

I am writing in objection to this planning application in my capacity of Cambridgeshire County Councillor for the Linton division. This division is compromised of all of the villages along the Cambridgeshire/Suffolk border, which include, but not limited to - Horseheath, West Wickham, West Wrating, Weston Colville and Shudy Camps.

I am writing to support their objections to this application and would recommend that the application is refused.

I would say that I am not against the principle of biodigesters, or green energy, but this scheme seems to be proposed in quite an unsuitable location for its purpose.

I have two main areas of concern, which are:

Impact on local amenity

Specifically, the potential for an increase in noise, odour as well as the facility's visual impact on the surrounding area which would be directly deteriorated by this development. This opinion is strongly backed up by the many comments already received by Suffolk County Council from those living close to the site, in both Haverhill and Cambridgeshire.

Traffic impact

The traffic harm that could be caused by this development would also be significant, to the point of making the proposal unsustainable. The main road that the HGV vehicle movements will use is the A1307, the majority of which runs through my division in Cambridgeshire. The road is very dangerous and my view is that a proper assessment of the impact has been undertaken. In fact this view is backed up by both the Transport Assessment team and the Highways Development Management team at Cambridgeshire County Council. Until this data has been provided an approval, even with conditions, should not be considered.

There is also an objection from South Cambridgeshire District Council's planning department, predominantly on landscaping ground and environmental health grounds, which can't be ignored.

On top of this, there are also a raft of other objections from statutory consultees, specifically - the Local Flood and Water department, Suffolk's Transport department, Natural England, Suffolk's Landscape Officer, Environment Agency and SCC's Ecology officer.

With all of the above being taken into account, I would recommend that this application is refused.

I would also like to request that I speak at the Planning Committee meeting that this application is discussed, if it makes it that far.

Kind regards

Cllr Henry Batchelor