

From: Frank Eve [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2025 18:49
To: Andy Rutter [REDACTED]
Cc: Sheila Horton [REDACTED]; David Huckstep [REDACTED]; Bobby Bennett (SCC Councillor) [REDACTED]; Terry Rich [REDACTED]; Withersfield Parish Council [REDACTED]; Philip Stiles [REDACTED]; Patricia [REDACTED]; Indunil Wijenayaka [REDACTED]; Jaclyn Lake [REDACTED]
Subject: Acorn Bioenergy Planning Application No: SCC/0045/23SE.

Dear Andy,

Withersfield Parish Council would like to draw your attention to the proposed EIA Scoping Application for Kingsway Solar Farm - EN010165 in South Cambridgeshire in particular its position and implications for the Spring Grove Farm Aerobic Digester Planning Application. We have attached our response to the Solar Farm for your attention and would hope that Suffolk County Council would be a consultee, due to the close proximity to the Suffolk Cambridgeshire boarder. The Kingsway Solar Farm if approved, will cover approximately 4324 acres of prime agricultural land in the local area and the Streetly End AD facility, which has already been agreed by South Cambridgeshire Council, will also deprive the Acorn facility of adequate access to local land for silage. Withersfield Parish Council have noted that Acorn have now submitted their answers to your questions contained in your letter of the 21st November 2023 and we will respond to these in due course when we have had a chance to review them in detail. However, we would like to make the following points in respect of the proximity of these two industrial facilities so close to Acorn's AD proposal :-

1 The proposed Acorn facility including Digestate Lagoons would be surrounded by the Streetly End Anaerobic Digester 2 miles to the west, the proposed Kingsway Solar facility 2 miles to the north and on the town boundary of Haverhill to the west where the town stretches for 3 miles of residential housing. This set up is vastly different to when the initial application was made and as a result there is not enough available local farm land to supply silage to potentially 2 digesters within 2 miles of each other. Acorn will have to transport silage up to 10 miles from the facility. This is confirmed in Acorns Appendix S Feedstock Analysis in their new submission, they state :-“Within a 10-mile initial feedstock catchment radius, assuming total farming land use is given over to a single crop”, They will also have to revert to a single crop rather than a 3-crop rotation to find available land even within 10 miles, which would also be very detrimental to local soil health. There is also little available farm land to the south. Silage would have to be transported primarily by tractor trailer or HGV from areas to the

North and North East of Haverhill by road. The manure is not available locally and would need to be transported by road from around a wider area.

2. The Acorn proposal only has one entrance to the site on the A1307 and there is no entrance from farm tracks this has not changed in their recent submission, therefore all agricultural traffic will have to intersect at either the Spirit of Enterprise roundabout or via the intersection of Silver Street and A1307 regardless of any use of established farm tracks. Silver Street is unsuitable for tractor trailers or HGV's to pass each other and would be highly dangerous. If the majority of agricultural traffic accessed via the Spirit of Enterprise roundabout they would have to turn across the oncoming traffic from the west to enter the site, which would also be very hazardous. The proposal would also need to take into account the increased traffic movements as a result of the Streetly End Farm Anaerobic Digester. The Acorn site should therefore be situated closer to available silage and manure production rather than on the boarder of Haverhill.

3 If these three facilities were approved at the same time the volume of construction traffic would be unsustainable for the local area and dangerous to local residents.

4 The Solar Farm if approved and the Streetly End facility would supply enough electricity for 190,000 homes and take up approximately 22,000 acres of local land. Therefore, there is no local or national requirement to use more prime local agricultural land to produce even more silage locally for energy purposes, particularly if they were doing this on a one crop basis.

The Parish Council therefore believe that the Acorn facility is unsustainable, unnecessary and clearly in the wrong place and would ask on behalf of our residents that this application is rejected.

Best wishes,

Frank Eve
Vice Chairman
Withersfield Parish Council