

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2023 3:04 PM
To: Andrew Rutter <Andrew.Rutter@suffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: SCC/0045/23SE - objections

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Dear Mr Rutter

Objection: Planning application Acorn Biogester, Haverhill. App.no SCC/0045/23SE

We object to the above application. Our reasons are listed below...

Firstly, we believe this application should also include application number DC/23/0572/FUL to St Edmundsbury Planning for an access road, to which we have already objected, and we feel this application is part of this planned development and should not form part of two separate planning applications.

This is not the best area for this plant. The plant erected on this site will have an environmental affect in terms of safety for both public health and other road users. Local maps will identify how inappropriate this site is and by a simple view by the planning authority of where the agricultural croplands are and the route to get to where this digester plant is to be built will be essentially evident. The croplands are all in and around small villages such as Thurlow, Withersfield, Weston Green, Carlton and Great Bradley and several more and access to and from all of these villages are via low grade B and C roads. None of these roads give easy access for regular HGV traffic. Whichever local route is chosen and in particular Withersfield, which is a conservation area, this will certainly change the peace, tranquillity and the quality of the residents lifestyle.

It is unknown at this stage what particulates the site will expel into the atmosphere. We assume until people become ill, we will not know what this will mean for us. If we all breathe in these particulates over a number of years this may well have a severe effect on both humans, small mammals and birds within the area. This will certainly be detrimental to the environment and dangerous to health for all.

In addition, some of the waste to be used will be being transported from elsewhere including, we believe, chicken droppings from near Sudbury, this will require the travelling of heavy vehicles of smelly, leaky lorries travelling through a much larger area of Suffolk, including the small historical market town of Clare, which certainly does not have the road network suitable to cope with heavy goods lorries trundling through daily at all hours. This could also exacerbate the risk of spreading bird flu and other bird transmitted diseases.

Haverhill is listed as a deprived town in government social listings and to have this plant here is most definitely unsuitable. It is estimated the plant, when complete, will create only 4-5 local jobs so this will not be beneficial to a deprived area like Haverhill where many more jobs are needed to help it improve its status and we feel this development will likely decrease the deprivation status not improve it.

Why, when the government plan is to stop all gas by 2035 is a 'methane gas digestant plant' being considered when 2035 is not much more than 10 years away. We feel the financial incentive is the 'dangling carrot' being offered by way of a quarterly subsidy being offered for 10 years and certainly not for the improvement of the area.

The site being considered is presently agricultural crop growth, as too, is the other farm areas around Withersfield and Thurlow where the maze will be grown to feed the digester, surely in this case, the application should include 'change of use'. Again, government plans are to increase the self-sufficiency of the UK not decrease it, and we're sure it is not intended to encourage farmers to use food growing croplands for other uses. It is claimed this site will help West Suffolk reduce it's carbon emissions but by expelling excessive gas into the atmosphere and particulates into the air and by losing essential food production we do not accept this claim.

We understand the safety management of the site, e.g. if pressure were to increase to dangerous levels and in an emergency the build-up of gas needs to be released, this safety management is planned to be done remotely, in an overseas country, maybe Eastern Europe, this practice is not ideal and could easily be subject to errors, delay and even on-line hacking.

The finished operational plant will almost certainly have a detrimental effect on wildlife caused by night time lighting and the leaking of offensive, dangerous off-runs into local rivers, streams and ditches.

This site is at the gateway to Haverhill and surrounding areas and whereas present housing developments in the area and the future vision for East Anglia and St Edmundsbury are trying hard to upgrade the area, this plant, if given permission will be like a dark cloud surrounding its entrance on the A1307 and will certainly deter other potential future development and business investors.

We wholeheartedly object to this planning application.

Please put our objections on record.

Yours sincerely

Colin and Janet Brock
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