
From: George Charles [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 11:29 AM
To: Andrew Rutter [REDACTED]
Subject: Planning application number SCC/0045/23SE

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To: Andrew Rutter, Case Officer, Suffolk County Council
Application Number: SCC/0045/23SE
Construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility, associated infrastructure and new access road connecting pipeline and covered digestive lagoons.
Applicant: Acorn Bioenergy Limited/Thurlow Estate.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the development of the proposed anaerobic digestion facility at Spring Grove Farm, Haverhill. I am a resident in the near by village of Withersfield. If this development goes ahead it will have **an adverse impact on the lives of the nearest local communities, i.e., the residents of Withersfield and Haverhill.**

The adverse impact on the local community falls under the following categories:

Impact on Highway Safety:

There will be an increase in large lorries/ HGV traffic travelling through Withersfield and the connecting roads. The roads through and approaching the village are narrow. Silver Street is a particularly dangerous road with blind bends. An average car can just about get past a HGV lorry if they are travelling in opposite directions. In my opinion, two HGV lorries could not pass each other on parts of this road.

There is also a narrow corner in Withersfield where Church Street and Hollow Hill merge. Large HGVs and farm vehicles can take up almost the whole width of the road at this blind corner. There is no footpath here. Residents have to walk in the road. With the increase in larger lorries proposed on these narrow roads this will cause traffic chaos and have **a great negative impact on highway safety.** This will put local residents either driving, walking or cycling in danger of injury.

Acorn claimed in their latest handout to residents regarding "Access Routes: Most traffic movements will not go through Withersfield...". This is vague and would suggest to me that a lot of traffic will go through the village.

Also, the site is next to the A1307, an already congested and high-casualty route to Cambridge, which the tankers will have to travel along on the way to make their deliveries to Milton Keynes.

Air Pollution and Disgusting Smells:

Despite the efforts of Acorn to convince residents otherwise, there is clear primary evidence that anaerobic digestion plants generate disgusting smells. The internet is full of such news stories where this type of anaerobic digestion plant have been built and it is the local residents who suffer the consequences of the terrible stench.

The BBC reported on 17th May 2023 about the Fernbrook Bio Plant in Northamptonshire. Quote "Rothwell Town Council had objected to the expansion and said one resident had written to it last year to complain about the 'absolutely disgusting stench [that] ruined much of our spring and summer'."

The science does not seem to be in place to prevent these smells occurring. I have witnessed the disgusting smell generated from the relatively small anaerobic digestion plant Biogen Bygrave on Royston Road near Baldock whilst driving by on the A505. I feel it would be unfair to impose such smells on our local community by constructing the large facility at Spring Grove Farm. This would have **a negative effect on our quality of life** such as being unable to enjoy time in the garden, local walks, having to keep windows closed, etc. This would be very stressful.

It also goes against the principles outlined in the introduction to the "Haverhill Vision 2031" report produced by St Edmundsbury Borough Council in 2014 regarding development. In the introduction John Griffiths states about the document, "It will also provide positive guidance for residents, investors, developers and infrastructure providers in terms of how and where the town develops and grows and continues to prosper, while **protecting what we value most, including our rich heritage, environment and quality of life.**"

I would appreciate if you would consider the above when making your decision and take into consideration the welfare, health and quality of life of Withersfield and Haverhill residents.

Yours sincerely,
George Charles
4, School Terrace, Withersfield