

22nd October 2023

From : Mrs Lesley McKeane, 20 Orchard Close, Haverhill, CB9 8JT

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 digestate lagoons

Applicant: Acorn Bioenergy Limited/Thurlow Estate

Dear Sir

I have become aware of this application and I strongly object to the construction and location of this, the key areas of objection I feel are :

- 1) **Traffic** - at peak times in June/July they have advised that there will be an additional 148 lorry/tractor movements **-a day!** Using the roads and farm access routes to the site. This poses a risk to all road users, not to mention the congestion this will cause.
- 2) **Flood risk** - they have stated that there will be no increase to flood risk! This area is designated Flood Zone 3 which means there is a high probability of flooding. I am extremely concerned that there will be extensive flooding as a result of this facility, which would potentially effect the whole town and some villages.
- 3) **Environmental impact** - it's proximity to the Stour brook and on the edge of West Town Park is a threat to both wild habitats and public space. Something which the council should be keen to protect. Our wildlife is suffering already, this would impact them significantly.
- 4) **Visual Impact** - they state that the huge site 'does however appear rural in nature'! And will not be seen from public roads or footpaths! They admit that it will be visible from upstairs windows of local houses, and it will certainly be visible from the roads and EpiCentre.
- 5) **Employment benefits** - the site will employ 5 people. Although more will be employed in construction, this is a specialist waste installation, so will need specialist contractors. This probably means that it will not benefit local people regarding employment opportunities.
- 6) **Output** – As a nation we need to consider alternative energy supplies – Acorn have advised that the plant will produce: 17,400 tonnes biogas, 27,100 tonnes natural gas, 24,000 tonnes liquid petroleum gas – however, none of which will be used locally. The single and only output/benefit for our area will be the spent digestate from the composting process. for the 16000 acres of Vestey owned farms. This is very concerning as the unpleasant odour will be a constant problem for thousands for people.

This facility needs to be located in an area that is very rural, not next to a town or village. There needs to be sensitive consideration regarding all the points above.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lesley McKeane