

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,

As a resident of Haverhill, I wish to OBJECT to the proposed development of an anaerobic digester at Spring Grove Farm, Haverhill.

In principle, I object to this proposal on the grounds that the site proposed for this significant industrial, not agricultural, development is wholly inappropriate for many reasons. Without question, this development is not only one of the biggest proposed in the UK, but it is far closer to a high-density population than any other.

- Hundreds of lorry movements through Withersfield Village EVERY week
- Too close to residential areas and businesses
- Increased air pollution and traffic on the A1307
- Industrial sized unit built on a flood plain
- Delivery of lorry loads of chicken manure to the edge of town
- Significant smell across the entire town
- Possible limitation of future development plans

In addition, local residents are exposed to real risks to their health and safety. Without doubt, and regardless of what the developers care to claim, **evidence exists** that there will be bad odours, vermin, chemical release, an increased risk to road users travelling on the A1307 caused by slow moving and HGV traffic (including those travelling to and from schools outside of Haverhill), and the risk of flooding and discharge into the Stour Brook and flood park area.

The site is situated alongside the A1307 which is considered a **high-risk busy route**, and the location of several fatalities over the years. It's some 250 metres from the Spirit of Enterprise roundabout; the site will need to be serviced throughout the year by farm vehicles and HGVs transporting waste, and gas tankers collecting and removing methane from the site. At the height of the summer, this traffic will increase. There will also be short-term and long-term traffic disruption and inconvenience as a result of this development. In the first instance, the construction period will be lengthy. Construction will involve dozens, if not hundreds, of HGV movements in and out of the site.

It is **undeniable** that this type of facility generates unpleasant smells. There are approximately 1000 homes within a 1km radius of the site; there are more than 6000 homes within a 2km radius.

Acorn, the company wanting to develop the site in cooperation with the landowner, The Thurlow Estate, claim bad smells will be 'mitigated' and 'limited'. Anaerobic digester plants do and will create bad smells that will travel in the prevailing westerly wind direction towards Haverhill. The cause of the bad odours is rotting vegetation and poultry waste. These materials, by their nature, attract vermin and flies. Flies especially are attracted to this type of organic waste, but, unlike vermin, are

also likely to travel away from the source. There is a high probability of infestations from both species within a 1km radius.

The impact on local wildlife will be catastrophic. If anyone is in any doubt about this they should look at the many pictures published of flooding around the area of Spring Grove Farm. **The risk of flooding should not be allowed to be easily dismissed.**

Regards,

Miss Jasmine Barnes