

**Dear Andrew Rutter**

**Acorn Bio- digester Planning Application SCC/0045/23SE**

The Planning Application by Acorn for a huge Bio digester Plant at the Gateway to Haverhill Suffolk, has caused a huge amount of concern to the residents of Haverhill whose town image has already been damaged in the past by the Government choosing it as an overspill town for London in the 1960's. Haverhill is now establishing itself as a developing residential and light industrial and commercial centre and the proposed development of a Bio digester Plant will be a huge negative proposal that will be a blot on the landscape and potentially be a source of noise, visual, air and ground pollution and, in the event of flooding a possible environmental disaster

The location itself is poorly chosen. Acorn say they choose rural sites away from residential areas and although they say that the Bio digester is 3km from the centre of Haverhill they fail to mention the 300 homes on the Arboretum, the Epi Centre and the cafe, which is apparently doing well but businesses will leave if the bio digester is built. There is also the Flying Shuttle public house and the Montessori nursery all within about 300m of the proposed site. Hanchett End and Sainsbury's are also close. It will, therefore, have a huge impact on residents and businesses, and undermine the ethos of the 'Spirit of Enterprise' roundabout supposed to be the Gateway to Haverhill. The community of the village of Withersfield is also extremely close to the proposed development whose Parish Council and citizens will also be stating the case for the poor choice of this Plant.

**Traffic** - Lorries and tractors bringing in the waste material and slow vehicles on busy roads will make drivers impatient and this may cause accidents. Lorries and tractors taking the solid digestate away from the site. How far will these vehicles be travelling - not very green as they will be mostly diesel? Village roads, the A1307, A1017, and perhaps the A143 could all be affected. Bio gas fuelled lorries taking methane 67 miles to Milton Keynes. All lorries leaving the site will have to turn left out of the site and go around the roundabout so the Epi centre and Arboretum will be getting diesel fumes and particulates which could cause health problems.

The A1307 is already highlighted as a road which is already **"Known as the 'road of death', the A1307 which runs between Cambridge and Haverhill is peppered with memorials to people who have died on the route."** Paul Donno, chair of Haverhill Chamber of Commerce, has stated in the past that; **"We can all say there are a lot of accidents at certain points, the chamber of commerce is looking at the business transport point of view and the road is not fit for purpose."** Therefore, it can be concluded that the type and volume of traffic from this proposed development arriving on this, already accident prone, road is not wise.

**Smells and noise:** Endless complaints from other areas close to Bio digesters about the smell. Lagoons holding digestate on site and also lagoons planned at the other end of the pipeline near Cadge's Wood which is an ancient woodland. No assurance that material such as chicken manure will be kept covered on site.

**Environmental Impact:** Source of noise, lighting, visual, air and ground pollution and danger of flooding.

- Tree screening with deciduous trees exposes the plant during the winter months and conifers would not be a natural barrier in such a location.
- Haverhill has a history of flooding which is why a flood defence scheme has been installed including a balancing reservoir, which is fed by the Stour Brook and which is right in the path of any overflow contamination from this plant. The reservoir is home to many different species of fish, birds and vegetation and is a local recreational amenity for walkers, runners, families, dog walkers and fishermen. Wild flowers attract butterflies and other insects.
- Large amounts of CO2 emissions during construction.

To conclude this proposal is an outrage for Haverhill and the surrounding area and provides no gains for Suffolk. Only 5 jobs will be provided on the site once built; Bio gas transported to Milton Keynes so gain for local area and increased transport and air pollution.

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