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I have now fully reviewed this application and I object to this application based on the following:

Environmental and Health Impact

The proposed location of the digestate plant is not designated in the local plan for Industrial development, it is prone to annual flooding, the site is located within Flood Risk Category 3 Zone. The runoff from the plant when there are floods may get into the local water courses which is obviously a health risk considering the type of feedstock that will include poultry litter and farmyard manure. These are waste products as mentioned in section 1.6 of the planning application. The odour and air quality will be so awful that for people like ourselves living local to the proposed site our mental health will be affected. A quick search of anaerobic digestate plants online will pull back several articles where the smells from these plants are referenced, stating “so bad people can’t sell their homes”. Interestingly the safety of these plants is also called into question as there have been numerous reports of explosions at different sites including the deaths of four people at Avonmouth explosion in 2020, explosions reported in the last month (October 2023) at Severn Trent Green Power Plant in Cassington due to lightning. Flames could easily spread to local housing development the Arboretum should such an explosion take place at this plant.

Traffic Considerations

The flow of traffic on the A1307 is already busy and can hit peaks during any time of the day, the reference to vehicle movements being made “during the peak harvest periods delivery hours would be in line with standard agricultural harvest-time activity”, this could mean we have additional traffic and higher than the estimated numbers within the planning application throughout the day and even all night. This will affect sleep quality due to the noise pollution from additional vehicles as well as any remote workers that would work locally to the proposed site during the day (this would include anybody working in the EpiCentre which will see usage drop and also any remote workers that live on the Arboretum). The planning application openly states that full sized articulated lorries for the movement of feedstock and digestate. Let us also consider that the A1307 is a high casualty route as mentioned on several road signs between Cambridge and Haverhill, additional articulated lorries will create more hazards and lead to further accidents on the A1307 approaching Haverhill. In addition, the surface of the road approaching Haverhill on the A1307 is already severely damaged with many potholes, with all the additional traffic from the proposed site this will lead to further damage to the road which in turn could cause accidents or damage the cars of people living in Haverhill.

Location

There is no evidence that Acorn have considered other locations for the development, and the statement within Acorn documents stating the plant will be 3.8km away by road from Haverhill is misleading as the following are all within 600-750m from the proposed location: The Arboretum a major

housing development with many homes already built and new ones being built at this time, this will affect many families who have to travel for work due to increased traffic, as well as health impacts from the digestate plant. There is a nursery upon the housing development for young children whose health will also be affected. Similarly this will effect local businesses, the EpiCentre a premier office complex will likely be impacted by the smell from the site along with traffic concerns and see less use, along with The Flying Shuttle pub which usage will drop if this site is allowed to be built, smells from digestate plant and noise from additional traffic will ruin the atmosphere of this fantastic local pub.

The location also does not align with Haverhill Vision 2031, the proposed location sites within flood zone 3, and is an area of green infrastructure that was to be maintained, protected and enhanced, something the plans for the plant directly contradict. Industrial development in this area is not in line with Haverhill Vision 2031 in any respect.

Conclusion

The plans proposed by Acorn and the Thurlow Estate to build the Anaerobic Digestate plant on the proposed site will heavily impact the local people of Haverhill, additionally it will affect the growth of Haverhill as a town and will force local businesses to move away from Haverhill and relocate.

We ask that the planning authority reject these plans and maintain this location in order to preserve the green infrastructure, local businesses and health of local residents.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Wheeler & Eloise Long