

From: Sharyn Trevillyan [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 October 2023 09:22
To: SCC Planning Mailbox
Subject: Land north of Spring Grove Farm Withersfield

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Ref SCC/0045/23SE

As a resident of 10 Hollow Hill Withersfield I wish to strongly object to the construction of an anaerobic digestion facility at Spring Grove Farm

The application shows access onto the 1307 which is designated as a high accident corridor. Exiting trucks and tractors would turn left on to the road and proceed to the Haverhill bypass roundabout before turning back to travel towards Cambridge. This would clog up this main route into Haverhill. Slow traffic leaving muck on the road would add to the congestion and danger on this road.

Another access is shown on to Silver Street which is a narrow road with poor sight splays which already has passing problems as heavy traffic from Skippers Lane try to drive through Withersfield to access 1307. The application estimates over 5000 vehicles or 10,000 movements which would be totally unacceptable and dangerous on such a minor country lane. As this is the direction of the farmland it is expected that most traffic would use this access. The facility is close to a large reservoir and abuts Stour Brook. The consequence of leaching into these watercourses is unimaginable.

Acorn have submitted an application full of inaccuracies and gives me no confidence that they would be able to safely operate one of the largest anaerobic digestion facilities in the U.K. They could in the future change the material used to household waste which has been proven to smell. There would be no recourse if they did. The smell, particulates in the air, visual impact from a huge facility and flares would have a huge detrimental impact on residents that live less than a mile from the facility.

Acorn states in their letter to residents that the plant will deliver benefits Biomethane for 7,650 homes. These homes would not however be local and methane would need to be trucked to Milton Keynes.

Biogenic CO₂

They cite shortages in bubbles for pints. This is a ridiculously unimportant given the huge impact this would have on the landscapes plus the detrimental impact on the environment to built a huge plant of concrete /metal plus roadway and taking land out of food production.

Digestate to improve soil and water courses The location is next to a reservoir of drinking water and tributary of the Stour where nitrates into this water would have serious environmental impact to water living animals and birds.

Jobs

Only 15 would be created and 10 of these would be off site possibly in a different country. If the plant were to go ahead a large employers on the nearby research park has stated they will leave the area and take the jobs away.

Decarbonisation

The money making scheme for Acorn and the landowner is trying to gain popularity by using the terms reduce carbon emission, but it would take Grade 2 agricultural land out of food production. The facility would have a life of 15 years and then the land would have to be decommissioned. Gas is being phased out. The proposal is a short term money making scheme not a long term benefit to the environment.

The application is riddled with mistakes including using the label Oxford Road in its documentation. Clearly the applicants have not visited the site. If they can not get the written part of the application correct how can they get building the biggest anaerobic digestion facility in the U.K. right?

Sharyn Trevillyan

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