

From: Stella Eve [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 October 2023 12:37
To: SCC Planning Mailbox; Andrew Rutter
Subject: Planning Application SCC/0045/23SE

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Dear Andy

I'm writing to express my objections to the above planning proposal in the strongest terms, Spring Grove Farm is situated on quality grade agricultural land and is completely unsuitable for an industrial waste facility.

The proposed site is too close to residential housing, shops and offices. The proposed site is situated within 600 meters of a major housing development, 600 meters from Haverhill's premier office complex – The Epicentre and 650 meters from a Sainsburys super store. Local businesses using the Epicentre have already indicated they would leave the area if the proposal is approved. The site is on the edge of Withersfield - a conservation village and within the Haverhill Town boundary which is one of the worst connected towns in the country whilst being the fastest growing town in Suffolk.

The proposed site is on a Flood Risk Category 3 zone. The 'Wash Lands' which encompass the application area were constructed to protect Haverhill from flooding following the disastrous floods of 1956 which engulfed the town. This area floods on a regular basis and is becoming more frequent as our weather patterns change. Building on this highest risk flood zone would jeopardize the flood defences that have been put in place to protect the local community. The site is on a steep slope that runs down to the Stour Brook. The applicants proposed measures would not mitigate the serious risk a plant of this type would pose to contaminating a water source; which feeds into the rest of Suffolk and Essex.

The proposed site would generate unacceptable levels of noise, light and air pollution from the plant. Pollution would also be created by the increase of traffic created to supply the Digester. All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed. The application doesn't include a full Traffic Plan. However, the application does say "Many vehicles will follow the A1307 and enter the site through the Spring Grove Farm access point coming off the A road. Farmyard vehicles will use farm tracks wherever possible and cross at an upgraded junction on Silver Street to enter from the north of the site." This refers to a recent planning application made by the Vestey Estate for an upgraded farm entrance (Application no: DC/23/0572/FUL) the site is in the heart of the village next to Withersfield's only pub. The application was strongly objected to by local residents on the grounds it was not needed for current farming activities and seemed likely to be used for the proposed Anaerobic Digester. The original application stated the new access point would not be used for commercial or waste purposes and this appears to contradict the Acorn Planning application. The application states in section 1.5.1 "The network of farm tracks to the north may be used by Thurlow Estate related vehicles where practical, these offer **direct access** across private land using established paths" This is not accurate, the tracks would need to intersect either Silver Street, Horseheath Road, Skippers Lane or Hollow Hill. These narrow, rural roads are not suitable for larger vehicles, particularly on a regular basis. Withersfield has approval for a 20MPH zone because of a lack of pavements and high level of walkers and cyclists, additional traffic is a safety concern, and would have a detrimental affect on the village inhabitants and affect the business of the village pub.

This application would have a detrimental effect on the inhabitants of the local area, both in terms of their wellbeing and safety. It would increase pollution levels, increase traffic and have huge risk implications on the Stour Brook.

The proposed site is classified as agricultural land and entirely unsuitable for an industrial waste facility. I would therefore ask that you reject the application.

Kind regards

Stella Eve

Hill Brow

Hollow Hill

Withersfield

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