

From: Sue Baxter [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 21, 2023 11:50 AM
To: Andrew Rutter <Andrew.Rutter@suffolk.gov.uk>
Subject: Fwd: Planning application; Spring Grove Farm Withersfield CB9 7SW; Acorn Bioenergy

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Planning application; SCC/0045/23SE. Acorn Bioenergy - Land to the North of Spring Grove Farm Withersfield CB9 7SW

Dear Mr Rutter

Can you please note on the planning register my strong objection, as below, to the proposed anaerobic digestion plant.

Many thanks

Sue Baxter

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sue Baxter [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Oct 16, 2023 at 7:20 PM
Subject: Planning application; Spring Grove Farm Withersfield CB9 7SW; Acorn Bioenergy
To: andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk <andrew.rutter@suffolk.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Rutter

I am a resident of Withersfield (Ecclesbourne Burton Hill CB9 7SD) and wish to add my objections to this planning application.

I would echo the comments of Wayne Baxter (see below)

Regards

Sue Baxter

With reference to the above mentioned, whilst we support attempts to counter climate change, I wish to lodge my strong objection to this application. I am resident in Withersfield at Ecclesbourne Burton Hill CB9 7SD

Other local objectors particularly Frank Eve have raised a number of discrepancies and inaccuracies in the application with which I agree and no doubt you will raise and confirm with Acorn. They affect residents and businesses in Haverhill as a whole and not just Withersfield.

My further objections are as follows with many questions or residents concerns yet to be addressed by the Applicants. Unfortunately they declined to attend the recent Parish Council meeting to alleviate our worries.

Location; This is an unsuitable location for such a facility being the gateway to a Town that is attempting to improve its status and prestige which will not be improved on account of increased traffic both at construction and post construction stage, visual and environmental impact, expected obnoxious smells, increased flood risk, detrimental effect on employment and loss of amenity land.

Location; With the Vestey estate owning a vast amount of land in the area , they have shown inadequate evidence of why this particular site has been selected.

Traffic; With significant increases in heavy vehicle traffic movements, there will be additional traffic using local roads which are unsuitable for such creating concerns for road users and pedestrians particularly at the northern end of the main site. Acorn have not been totally clear or definite as to which access points will be used and the volume of traffic at each point. Whilst Acorn suggest that traffic will be predominately via the A1307, once the site is in production there are no indications that there will be a means of legally enforcing this leaving drivers free to choose their own journey routes namely local roads.

Noise; traffic, light and noise pollution will undoubtedly increase with no controls in place to monitor or control this after production commences.

Flood risk; This is a known flood risk area and discharge from this facility including pollutants will only be increased.

Health and safety; It is understood that particulates will be released as part of the process and Acorn need to demonstrate that they have addressed this. Also whilst no doubt Acorn have systems in place to monitor the chemical activity and process they have not shown how this will be monitored or the emergency procedures that can be immediately implemented if a problem/emergency occurs. This is even more concerning following the recent explosion at a similar establishment in Oxfordshire. What are the penalties or consequences if there are Health and safety issues and are these legally enforceable against Acorn?

Employment; Whilst I note that a very small number of people will be employed once the site is in production, local businesses have indicated that this will be more than outweighed by concerns for their businesses, a potential loss of custom, an inability to retain or employ staff and a reduction in investment in their future growth.

Amenity land;

Despite assurances from Acorn about the screening of the site and "camouflaging" of the buildings, as keen walkers we are concerned about the visual impact of the site on the surroundings and its affect on local wildlife and habitat.

Agriculture; We note that good class agricultural land will be lost and this would seem contrary to the Government's plan to increase home grown food production.

Fossil fuel; with a local and national commitment to convert to renewable energy it would seem illogical to support a gas producing facility which will not be required in the next 12 years or so. Whilst I note that Acorn confirm that methane gas carrying HGV's will be run on renewable energy there are no indications that local farmers vehicles and the initial construction contractors vehicles will do so considerably reducing or possibly outweighing any potential gain.

I hope you will take these matters into account in reaching your decision and please note that I reserve the right to make further comment if additional information or details come to light.