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Andrew Rutter, Suffolk Planning Officer
Suffolk County Council Planning Section
Growth, Highways & Infrastructure
Fifth floor, Endeavour House
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25/10/2023

Application Number: SCC/0045/23SE
Spring Grove Farm, Withersfield, Suffolk, CB9 7SW
Construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility, associated infrastructure and new access road, connecting pipeline and covered digestate lagoons.

Applicant: Acorn Bioenergy Limited/Thurlow estate

Dear Mr Rutter,

I am objecting to the development of an anaerobic digester at Spring Grove Farm, Haverhill for the following reasons.

I'd like to share my perspective on the potential consequences of the proposed development in Haverhill. Our town has been undergoing a significant transformation, shifting from its industrial roots, to position itself as a growing technology and biotechnology hub. Initiatives like the EpiCentre highlight our aspirations to establish Haverhill as a significant player in the dynamic tech landscape.

However, the proposed development could hinder the creation of a modern gateway that's crucial for solidifying Haverhill's identity as a technology and biotechnology hub. With Cambridge becoming increasingly expensive to run businesses. Haverhill could be the future for start-up companies. I believe that the job opportunities this development offers aren't well-suited for the region. Only having five fixed onsite jobs won't effectively boost the local economy. On the other hand, investing in technology and biotechnology sectors could provide a much more promising asset for our area, generating a wide range of employment opportunities without predetermined constraints.

Another reason Haverhill is not the right location for this development is because the safety of the A1307 road is a major concern, given the numerous accidents that have occurred along this route. I've been using this road for a number of years and can verify its congestion issues, even before considering the additional traffic from the new developments. While Acorn claims that the development won't significantly increase road traffic, this claim is based on the road's current congestion. Additional traffic, as expected, could worsen these existing problems.

The location of the development's main entrance raises safety concerns, especially for slow-moving traffic trying to enter or exit the road. This placement brings into question the practicality and safety of manoeuvres on this section of the road.

The potential environmental impact on the watercourse due to the industrial operation is a significant concern. The introduction of pollutants could lead to eutrophication, enriching the water with nutrients and promoting the growth of algae and aquatic plants. Additionally, the site's flood-prone area compounds these worries. Despite measures like bunding, the risk of runoff escaping containment during floods remains due to the increased frequency of extreme weather events, triggered by climate change.

The possibility of unpleasant odours from the site is especially concerning because of its proximity to residential areas, pubs, and nurseries.

Regards,

Sophia Heard