

Planning application comment was submitted on the **08 October 2023 08:37 AM**

The following is a comment on application **P222728/N** by **A Gwynne**

Nature of feedback: Objecting to the application

Comment:

I strongly object to the application for an anaerobic digestion plant and associated facilities at Whitwick Manor.

This is NOT THE APPROPRIATE SITE FOR AN INDUSTRIAL WASTE DISPOSAL PLANT.

Noise - a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week operation like this will generate constant noise not only from the constant stream of lorries in and out but just running the plant itself. There will be constant noise.

Light pollution - the area will never witness dark skies again. An industrial site on this proposed scale will cause significant light pollution.

Traffic - the A417 and surrounding road network is already congested. Which direction are all these lorries entering and exiting the site? HGVs travelling from Hereford on the A4103 then turning left at Newtown crossroads onto the A417 often struggle with the tight turn, with vehicles waiting at the traffic lights having to move out of the way. The proposed level of constant HGVs entering and exiting the site is totally unacceptable.

Already owners locally of anaerobic digesters are growing crops such as wheat not to feed people but to feed digesters. How can that be a good idea? The other favourite crop to feed digesters is maize, a crop known to be environmentally detrimental.

I understand chicken manure is an issue but business owners involved in the mass production of chicken must have secured a solution to the manure problem in their initial business plan when they were granted permission for their business. Why is their business waste problem becoming everyone else's problem?

Smell will be a huge problem. Moving waste creates a smell. There will be a constant smell because the site will run 24 hours a day, every day with tonnes and tonnes of waste stored on site and moved around. The smell will be relentless and will have a negative impact for residents in the surrounding area. The smell of chicken waste in particular is known to carry for miles in the air. Ask anyone who lives near a chicken farm.

I understand and support that a solution is needed for the phosphate pollution in the Lugg and Wye catchment. However, this anaerobic digester does not provide the solution. ADs do not remove phosphate which remains in the digestate and liquid waste. The industrial scale technologies proposed, to strip the nitrate and phosphate from the process, are untested, with no evidence they will work, especially at this scale. I understand that the resultant liquid waste from biogisters locally is already a problem and there are mass storage tanks full of the liquid around the county. At Whitwick I have seen this liquid pumped into the ground day and night; for days and days on end. What is this doing to the soil and local water courses?

What is going to happen with the waste from this industrial waste plant? If this material is going to be spread in the Wye catchment, the phosphate and nitrogen will then make their way back into the river, meaning that there is no improvement and could make the already dire situation even worse. I am deeply concerned that this application won't help the pollution problem and may actually make it significantly worse especially if the technologies do not work as claimed.

Residents in the surrounding area will be hugely impacted should this application go ahead. Why should we all have to put up with the smell, noise, pollution, extra traffic and light pollution so someone or a group of shareholders can make a nice profit?

Attachment:

Their contact details are as follows:

First name: A

Last name: Gwynne

Email: 

Postcode: HR1 3QS

Address: The Paddock

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Infrastructure from section 106 to consider: Don't approve this application.

Link ID: https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_application_search/details?id=222728

Form reference: FS-Case-552772934