

From: Paul Avery [<mailto:paulandlizavery>]
Sent: 28 October 2013 12:53
To: Klein, Debby; Phillips, Roger (Cllr)
Subject: {Spam?} Application ID 132589/N Yeld Farm

Dear Ms Klein

I have attached the Lyonshall Parish Council response in e-mail form as the format is easier to read than on the website.

Lyonshall Parish Council
comment

Following a well attended Public Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd October Lyonshall Parish Council unanimously objects to the proposal on the following grounds:-

- Transport / Traffic o The cumulative impact on the local road networks and in particular on traffic through the village of Lyonshall as a result of this proposal is of an unacceptable scale and will cause significant detriment to local amenity. The application does not include an analysis of routing for the anticipated volume of vehicles bringing in harvested products, taking out solid and liquid outputs from the process, nor does it include an analysis of impacts at peak traffic situation but hides behind weekly averages which radically understate the scale of the issue.

- o Significant road safety issues will be caused, particularly at harvest times but not exclusively, on the A44 where it will be impossible to control the entry and exit to the single track road with the variety and volume of traffic using it – including public services, emergency vehicles, private dwelling traffic, farm contractors (delivering harvested energy crops and collecting the compost waste from the AD), as well as existing poultry traffic {which alone might arguably be under the control of a single contractor (Sun Valley Foods)}. As a minimum there should be a requirement for a large passing bay at the junction with the A44 capable of taking a large tractor / trailer to enable pulling off the A44 to allow exiting vehicles access to the road network. In addition there should be large passing places along the single track on its way to the farm.

- Drainage

- o It is unclear from the proposal what liquid (quality and volume) is being put to the soakaway planned for the heavily sloping field above the Curl Brook. The assumption is made within the proposal that the soakaway will work based on porosity testing apparently carried out by the applicant himself. Consequently there is a very serious risk of excessive surface drainage flowing to the Curl Brook together with the additional phosphates attached to the silt that can be anticipated. There is therefore a risk of exacerbating a flood-risk area and of polluting the upper reaches of the River Wye SAC.

- Landscape Impact

- o It is proposed to locate this 12m tall industrial plant on top of a heavily sloping field in an area of great natural beauty. Whilst the site is not overlooked by more than a handful of residences it is very visible from the local road network and from pedestrian rights of way running adjacent to the proposed site. In our judgment this is an unacceptable desecration of our local landscape which itself is a source of economic benefit to the parish through local tourism. The proposal will cause demonstrable harm to the locality in terms of visual intrusion.

- Application deficiencies / Misleading Evidence Offered o We are concerned that no Environmental Statement / Environmental Impact Assessment has been prepared, and we believe that the screening opinion of Herefordshire Council may have been based upon misleading evidence from the applicant. The Location Plan (page 2 of the Design & Access

Statement) omits the newly constructed 4 large additional poultry sheds. The cumulative impact of the proposed development, on top of the very recent substantial extension of the poultry site (doubling in size), is substantial and should require an ES/EIA.

- o The applicant currently has ownership and control over 50 acres of a large scale and intensive poultry site with a small amount of grazing land which is rented out to local farmers. The Yeld Farm is not a mixed arable enterprise as asserted especially within the transport statement. The proposal requires that the applicant acquires control of (or acquires produce from) some 330 acres for growing the energy crops (Maize & Sugar Beet) and this land could be local or it could be many miles away. The impression is given from the application that these crops are already available within the applicant's control, and all within a 7 mile radius of the site.

This is not true.

- o The heavily sloping nature of the field on which the proposed development is to be situated is down-played in the proposal. The gradient is estimated at 1 in 10, sloping down to The Curl Brook, which slope is of great concern to the

drainage plans and the consequent pollution risk and flooding risk. The soil on the field is locally assessed as being clayey in nature, which does not bode well for its capacity to act as a soakaway.

- o No consideration or mitigation has been offered within the application for the seriously negative impacts on immediate neighbours of the industrial development living at Yeld Cottages.
- o The application implies that traffic will be under the control of a single contractor, thus ensuring no requirement for passing places on the single-track road connecting with the A44. This is patently not going to be the case, as traffic will be caused by a variety of sources:- Private Houses, Public services, emergency vehicles, diverse farm contractors, and existing poultry farm traffic.
- o We are concerned that the traffic analysis seems to gloss over the solids and liquids to be removed from site at the end of the AD process. Of the 9,000 tonnes of input there appears to be allowance made for only around 4 - 5,000 tonnes of export from farm (5.7 vehicles / wk) which appears completely inadequate allowance.

With best regards

Paul Avery
Chairman, Lyonshall Parish Council