



Fairfields Farm Bio-Digester Planning Application 150391

Q+A

Impact on the environment

Q: Core Principle 11 of the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) states that planning proposals should “enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes”. Core Principle 3.9 of the same Framework also states that planning applications should support and enhance the rural economy. How does this application balance the 2 requirements?

Q: Policy DP1 of the Colchester Borough Council Development Policies Document states that proposed developments must “enhance the character of the site” and “protect existing residential amenity, particularly with regard to noise and pollution”. How does your proposal conform to these requirements?

Q: Why have your agents, Whirlledge & Nott, repeatedly referred to this proposed development being on "Wormingfield Airfield" rather than Fairfields Farm? Are they trying to imply that the proposed site is a disused airfield, in other words, a brown field site?

Odour

Q: As you have not succeeded since 2012 in satisfactorily preventing the escape in to the atmosphere of fried fat smells from your crisp manufacturing business, with loss of amenity of local residents, why should we trust you to be any more successful in controlling the odours from the biogas digester process from which it is accepted there will be some inevitable escape of odour?

Q: It is stated in the application that “the odour from the silage storage area and feeder will be as expected from the usual storage of silage within a farm system”. Why should local residents have any confidence in your “good management and housekeeping” to ensure that odours arising from the silage are minimised and preferably absent?

Methane/Co2

Q: It is stated that the methane produced by this process is used as "fuel to power the biogas unit to generate renewable gas". Would this take place on site and is the gas produced mixed with natural gas in the National Grid pipeline?

Q: How will the gas produced on site be fed into the National Grid? What safety measures will be put in place to prevent a potentially catastrophic accident/leak occurring?

Q: What happens to any excess Methane/CO2 which is produced?

Traffic

Q: The planning application states that the objectives of the applicants are to provide a self-sufficient farming operation. How is it then that statements attached to the on-line application from local farms imply that they will be supplying feed-stock from off-site?

Q: The site will require significant building work if approved. How much work will be required, how long will it take and what will be the effect on the local infrastructure?

Impact on the community: What's in it for us?

Q: The planning statement sets out that 1.2MW of energy will be produced by the plant, enough for 3218 homes.

Sadly none of them will be ours as Wormingford is not on the National Gas Grid. As we will not benefit directly from the production of gas can you please confirm exactly what IS in it for us. Will there be any funds from S106 available for local projects or local jobs?