

Consultation on Planning Application 2022/1108 :

2022/1108 | Construction of an Anaerobic Digestion facility (part retrospective), comprising: 1 no. digester tank and 1 no. secondary digester/digestate storage tank, silage clamps, liquid and dry feed system; digestate separation, handling and pasteurization, biogas upgrading and mains gas-grid connection; carbon capture, CHP, agricultural building; office buildings, weighbridge, 2 no. covered digestate storage lagoons, and associated plant, vehicular accesses, roads and landscaping (including earth bunds). Revised application following withdrawn planning application 2021/2788. | Deal Farm Kenninghall Road Bressingham Norfolk IP22 2HG

To: planning@s-norfolk.gov.uk

In light of application 2021/2788 being withdrawn, and replaced with 2022/11087, Palgrave Parish Council would like to submit an objection to the new Planning Application. Again, although not a statutory consultee for this application, we consider that if approved, there will be serious consequences to the residents and the village of Palgrave. All of our previous comments as submitted to you by email are still valid for this new application and are submitted below again for your reference.

1. The Development is contrary to the Local Plan:

The proposed development is a large-scale industrial gas-production plant that, if allowed, will continue to be detrimental to the rural character of the surroundings that it has already damaged. Its introduction into the rural landscape, without planning consent, has already changed the landscape, destroying views across farmland and open countryside and is already detrimental to its character through the erosion of its open nature. The proposed development does not respect, conserve or enhance the landscape character of the immediate environment. It does not respect the local landscape and does not integrate into the surroundings.

2. Is Damaging to Quality of Life and Environment

There is a clear public interest in enforcing planning law and regulation to refuse this application on the grounds of its significant negative impact on quality of life and our environment. There are already incidents of people suffering with their health, well-being and livelihoods

The proposed AD plant site, including storage lagoons, is within the protected zone of Shelfanger Meadows, an SSSI. English Nature identifies the issues that could put the site at risk as including:

- a. The changing of water levels and tables and water utilisation (including irrigation, storage and abstraction from existing water bodies and through boreholes).
- b. Construction, removal or destruction of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks, or the laying, maintenance or removal of pipelines and cables, above or below ground.
- (c) The risks of odours and leakage from the proposed storage lagoons have not been addressed satisfactorily.

That these risks become realities is evidenced by the experiences of other communities who have suffered the consequences of an AD Plant being built in their midst.

3. Undermines residents' living conditions and safety:

It has not been demonstrated that road safety will be maintained. Local talk is of villagers being intimidated and too afraid to walk on the narrow lanes around Deal Farm, due to farm and transport vehicles and prior to that the construction traffic used to build the AD plant without planning consent.

These roads do not enable the "hierarchy of users" that HM Government's Highway Code mandates 2 ; they are not fit for the volume of traffic using them currently, let alone the additional and significant heavy traffic that would feed the proposed AD plant. The applicants have not provided a plan of site and transport routes mapped onto the roads. This will affect all local roads in the area and we have serious concerns about heavy traffic driving through Palgrave as a result, which incidentally, is restricted to vehicles under 7.5T. This is our number 1 concern in regard to this application.

4. A large-scale industrial gas-production plant:

This will not be a local agricultural waste management initiative as suggested. References to "the Farmer" and "his crops" in the application are irrelevant and must be discounted. Despite the repeated reference to "the Farmer" throughout the Design Statement submitted as part of the application, no farmer plays any part in the applicant's business and the applicant has not committed to purchase feedstocks from any source.