Planning Ref:18/01048/FP

Great Offley Biofertiliser Lagoon

OBJECTION

N.H.D.C.
18 JUN 2018

Mrs. Kate Poyser,

NHDC Planning Dept.

Gernon Road,

Letchworth G.C.

Please accept this letter as formal objection to the above planning application, for the following reasons.

The access to and from the site from the A505 slip road to Offley is dangerous and unsafe. Vehicles exit the main A505 onto the slip road at speed. The access to the track leading to the site is just around a "blind" bend. Vehicles will be unaware of any slow moving hazard, and will have no time to adjust to the situation. The "slip" road is still two way to facilitate access to Grange Cottages. The enormous tanker vehicles will need to cross over the entire width of the road, slowly, in order to enter the track leading to the lagoon. Tankers leaving the site will cause the same hazard, along with the additional danger of negotiating a hairpin to access the road back to Hitchin.

Grange Cottage residents will be permanently blighted by the noxious odour. No consideration has been given to the CO2 emissions from the constant flow of large tankers to and from the site.

When the prevailing wind is from the west, Hitchin residents will suffer from the smells emitted.

When the prevailing wind is from the east, Offley residents, businesses, recreation facilities, and the school will be blighted from this obnoxious anti-social, strong odour.

Offley Place, a nationally important listed building has just invested over one million pounds to develop a Wedding Venue. Nobody will wish to have their wedding at a venue which suffers from a constant strong, anti-social odour! Visitors will resist this venue. This is situated at less than 600m from the lagoon.

Offley Recreation Centre, a facility widely attended and enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike, has a thriving social club, a well-established cricket club, football club, and tennis club, along with a recent MUGA, installed for the benefit and enjoyment of local children. All of this will be in peril if the lagoon is permitted. The playing fields are within 350m of this.

The Green Man Public House and restaurant is in similar peril, due to the anti-social noxious odour.

Offley High Street is approximately 700m from the proposed site. All residents will be in a constant airflow of odours.

The applicants have stated that the lagoon, WHICH WILL BE NEARLY THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF HITCHIN OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOL, will be covered, and that the odour will be minimal, unless the digestate is agitated. The application, and volumes noted, mean that there will be many DAILY deliveries, and extractions from the lagoon, therefore causing constant agitation, and consequent noxious odour. The floating cover will, therefore, be irrelevant.

Residents in the countryside expect bad smells at certain times during the agricultural calendar. However, this will, if approved, be a constant blight to the community.

The historic village of Offley is a favourite place for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, etc. The designated footpaths, bridleways, The Chiltern Way, etc., are close to the lagoon, and will be avoided by these welcome visitors.

There will be significant health, quality of life, and social detriment to the residents and business in Offley and its surrounding areas, as well as Hitchin, if this is granted.

Country folk understand and support local agricultural activities, but this is a proposal on an industrial scale, which will bring misery to residents and businesses alike, and can only be considered to be a profiteering exercise at the expense of all.

PLEASE REFUSE THIS APPLICATION

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Date: 15/6/18