

## HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL

### PLANNING WORKING PARTY

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby requested to attend the meeting of Haverhill Town Council's Planning Working Party to be held by video conference 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 commencing at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business:



CONSTITUTION:	Chair: Town Councillor:	P Hanlon
	Town Councillors:	T Brown
		B Davidson
		A Luccarini
		D Smith
		L Smith
		A Stinchcombe
		Vacancy

**THIS VIDEO-CONFERENCE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC VIA YOUTUBE. THE LINK TO THE LIVE FEED CAN BE FOUND ON THE DAY HERE:**

<https://youtu.be/vhF5fs0I4U0>

#### **COUNCILLORS AND PARTICIPANTS:**

Join this meeting (ideally 3 mins beforehand) by pasting the following link into your browser:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4283744550?pwd=OVd3MUVDdeHVjbytwNUIMcUtOODM5QT09>

Meeting ID: 428 374 4550

Passcode: 329

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome – To note that this Working Party has no delegated authority and may only make recommendations to Full Council. Urgent actions may be taken under delegated authority given to the Clerk and Chair.**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**  
Please give any apologies to the office by 5.00pm on the day of the meeting.
- 3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and requests for Dispensations**  
Members to declare any interests they may have on the agenda and agree any dispensations to stay.
- 4. Minutes of the Previous Meetings**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**  
To note action taken or outstanding from items in the minutes 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.
6. **Notice of Development Control Committee, DC/22/1447/RM**  
For members to nominate a representative to attend on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022
7. **For Members of the Public to speak on Planning Matters other than applications before the Working Party**  
If you wish to speak, please make yourself known to the Clerk before the meeting commences.
8. **To Consider Planning Applications to West Suffolk Council**  
The Chairman will invite members of the public who wish to address the Working Party in relation to a planning application to speak ahead of the Working Party considering each application in turn.
9. ***List A – approved by Chairman and Clerk under delegated powers***  
***List B – attached with agenda***
10. **Matters to Report**  
To enable members to exchange any urgent planning matters.
11. **Date of next Meeting**  
**20<sup>th</sup> December 2022**
12. **Closure**

*V Phillips*

Vicky Phillips  
Assistant Town Clerk

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

***Copies of this and other Council agendas, and minutes, and supporting reports, are available to download from the Council's website or on request from Haverhill Arts Centre***

**List A – Approved by Chairman and Clerk under delegated powers**

		PLAN NO.	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	TOWN COUNCIL DECISION

**List B – To be considered at the Working Party Meeting**

		PLAN NO.	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	TOWN COUNCIL DECISION
21.11.22 Expires 12.12.22	1	DC/22/1880/FUL	a. new access and permeable surface b. offices, storage buildings, containers and ancillary buildings for landscaping and groundworks business (sui generis)  Mr Mark Newton, The Thermosafe Pension Fund	Land East 13 Spring Rise, Falconer Road	
28.11.22 Expires 12.12.22	2	22/0217/REM	RE-CONSULTATION Application for the approval of Reserved Matters (in respect of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline planning permission 15/01477/OUT granted 04.10.2016 for: Construction of access road and the erection of a freestanding drive-thru restaurant with car parking, goal post height restrictor, customer order displays and associated works.  <i>Additional Plan</i>	Land at Haverhill Business Park, Phoenix Road, Helions Bumpstead	
29.11.22 Expires 13.12.22	3	DC/22/1398/RM	RE-CONSULTATION Submission of details under outline planning permission DC/16/0473/OUT – the means of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the construction of residential development of up to 30 dwellings, associated garages, ancillary development, public open space and landscaping	Development Land, Brickfields Drive	

		PLAN NO.	PROPOSAL	LOCATION	TOWN COUNCIL DECISION
			Trustees of the Vestey 1993 Settlement		

Appendix ii)

From: Steve Whyard

Sent: 08 November 2022 11:55

To: Colin Poole <[colin.poole@haverhill-tc.gov.uk](mailto:colin.poole@haverhill-tc.gov.uk)>

Cc: Sheila Horton

Subject: Acorn Bio Methane Plant proposal

Dear Mr Poole

I watched with interest the video recording of Acorn's presentation to Haverhill Town Council and thought many of the questions from councillors were very insightful, however I was disappointed that nobody asked questions about the following:

1) What toxic and odiferous gases are produced by the anaerobic digestion process and what is done to prevent their release to atmosphere

2) Similarly, the huge digestate lagoons on the proposed site will continue to produce gases due to ongoing microbial activity, what will be done with these gases and what toxic and odoriferous chemicals will the gases being produced contain. The Acorn representative mentioned that these lagoons will be covered using neoprene sheeting, however, no mention was made about how they will deal with these evolved gases, their containment and how their release will be prevented.

3) Will the site flare (burn) waste gases. Flaring of gaseous wastes from anaerobic digestion plants is common. The flaring of waste gases at methane and oil production sites has been linked to increased levels of cancer in populations living near such plants, what will be the risks to people who live and work nearby.

4) The Acorn representative quickly slid over the question regarding their consideration of alternative sites. I would have thought that it would be very important for Acorn to justify their choice of site on environmental as well as financial and business considerations.

5) Traffic volumes and the impact on roads in and around Haverhill and surrounding villages should receive significant focus particularly at times of peak usage of the proposed facility. Acorn focus on average daily lorry movements but at certain times of the year when, for example, feedstocks are arriving from the farms to be loaded into the silage clamps, the numbers of lorry and tractor/trailer movements will be very high.

Environmental considerations (including the impacts on nearby residents) regarding increased tractor and trailer movements over farm tracks should also be carefully evaluated.

6) Anaerobic digestion of organic matter does not produce just methane and Carbon Dioxide. Many other toxic and bad smelling gases are also produced. Acorn will need to remove these toxic and odiferous gases from the methane and carbon dioxide they want to sell. What will the plant do with the contaminants removed during the methane and carbon dioxide gas clean-up.

7) What safety and contingency systems will Acorn have in place to deal with mechanical and process problems at the proposed plant. Methane is a highly flammable gas that forms explosive mixtures with air - how will Acorn deal with a build-up of excess methane from the digesters, process equipment or lagoons to prevent a hazard to those living and working close to the site or driving by the site? The volumes of methane being produced by the 5 digesters was said to be over 2000 metres cubed per hour - that is a great deal of highly flammable and odiferous gas to have to safely contain if there is a leak or the downstream plant ceases to work properly. You can't just ask the microorganisms to stop metabolising the organic waste/turn off gas production while a process problem is sorted out There are many further detailed questions that the council will I am sure wish to pursue once Acorn's Environment Impact Assessment has been published. There will also be many questions that local residents and those who work close to the proposed plant will need to be answered as the possible/probable impacts on the quality of their lives could be significant.

Yours sincerely

Steve Whyard