

# Castle Eaton Parish Council

## Extraordinary General Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

### Present

Cllr D Naidu (Chairman)

Cllr D Sainsbury (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr A Keate

Cllr R Wilkins

Cllr L Saunders

T. Whyborn (Clerk)

Borough Cllr Mrs M Penny

40+ Other Participants

### 1. Apologies for absence

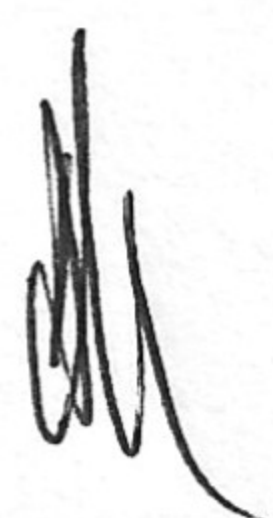
None

### 2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

### 3. Discussion Regarding Planning Application S/20/1685

*Erection of 1no. additional digester; installation of replacement silage clamps, construction of an effluent lagoon and rainwater lagoon, new separation area and digester offtake, relocation of 2no. existing feed hoppers, erection of a welfare/office building and flare stack, installation of a weighbridge and erection of a replacement gas upgrader unit/ network entry facility/ Carbon Dioxide (CO2) sequestration area.*





**a. History**

Dinesh Naidu (DN) opened the meeting highlighting previous Planning Applications from 2012 and 2014 relating to the current AD units.

In 2012 Planning was approved for two AD units at Droveaway. At the time no objections were raised by the Castle Eaton Parish Council. The planning indicated that traffic movements would be predominantly off road, by an internal track between adjacent farms.

In 2014 planning was approved for a 3<sup>rd</sup> AD unit, this was built but never commissioned, the application was objected to by the Parish Council on various grounds. These were traffic movements from the A419 which is a narrow lane that joins the A419 at a potentially dangerous junction, and that the plant had moved away from the original concept of being able to provide the AD with product from adjacent farms.

The envisaged use of manure and substandard crops never came to fruition; the bulk of the maize was being imported from farms that were not in the immediate vicinity of the AD plant. Fortunately, as the third AD unit is still not operational, in fact the entire site has been mothballed in recent years, the village has not seen the full impact of third AD unit on traffic movements.

Which brings us to the latest application which is to build a fourth AD, substantially larger than existing units. The report submitted by RSK (3.1) states:

- Feed stock 10 x 13 tonne HGVs = 6,462 two-way movements
- Digestate 8 x 16 tonne HGVs = 4,725 two-way movements
- Operational 4 vehicles/day = 2,496 two-way movements
- Maintenance 1 vehicle/day = 624 two-way movements

This give rise 14,307 two-way movements of which 11,187 will be HGVs.

This equates to 46 vehicle movements per day, or six an hour, in a six day week

No mention is made in the RSK report of HGV movements in respect of the Propane production nor any indication of where the gas main would be laid and what disruption this may cause. Also, no mention is made as what vehicle movements would be required to deal with emptying the substantial effluent lagoons.

The application has raised very strong feelings amongst the village with many residents doing lots of their own research and analysis of the application. Here are the main points that were raised at the meeting.





**b. Risk Factors**

A concern of many villagers was the increase in lorries carrying dangerous explosive loads such as Propane. The road is near an oil pipeline and two residential areas (Castle Eaton and Water Eaton) It was noted that there is no risk assessment in the plans with regards to this.

The C114 and Drove way will become inaccessible to walkers and horse riders due to the increase in size and volume of expected traffic.

**c. Traffic Flow**

The C114 will not be able to cope with the increased volume of traffic from Drove way to the A419. There is no highways analysis regarding the C114 junction and A419 junction. A huge concern is the problems of lorries pulling out onto the A419, which is a very dangerous junction anyway.

Drove way is a link Road between the Thames path at Lush Hill and the Thames at Castle Eaton, it is a very popular public footpath. Many walkers utilise this path on a daily basis, a small survey indicated that 29 walkers used this path on one particular day. The increase in traffic in the application will render this unusable for walkers.

**d. Lack of full documentation**

A resident that has in-depth knowledge of the planning procedure for this type of project highlighted that numerous documents are missing from the application, including ;-

- Statement of Community Involvement
- Heritage Impact Assessment, including a settings assessment which considers the potential impact on the setting of the Conservation Area
- Transport Assessment
- An EIA Screening Opinion request Direction

**e. Other Concerns**

When in operation, which it hasn't been for about two years, the noxious odours from the current two digesters was sometimes be unbearable, depending on the direction of the wind.

The increase in size from the current site is excessive in relation to the village.





The noise pollution report was completed when the site was not in use, therefore not fit for purpose.

It was suggested that we could fail at preventing this application due to its Green impact and we should perhaps request some recompense for the village.

A question was raised as to whether CBF could be used for the representation of a solicitor. The Chairman responded that it is possible if it is deemed to be of benefit to the community. Further discussions lead to the suggestion that an expert in Planning would be of more use.

Prior to the meeting a rumour was circulating that a new village hall could be built on David Sainsburys land with the monies received from the developers. David Sainsbury was not party to these discussions. David Sainsbury took advice from the council solicitor who said that David Sainsbury did not need to declare it to the meeting as an Interest and Cllr Penny agreed that this is just hearsay and does not prejudice David Sainsburys contributions to the meeting.

f. Going Forward

Ask SBC for an extension to the consultation period

Create a multi skilled team and committee, two members of the council should be involved. What knowledge base do we have within the village?

Robin agreed to head this up and any interested parties to inform the Clerk via email by lunchtime 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

Investigate legal support

Advise other Parish and Town Councils of the potential impact of this project on their highways.

Meeting was adjourned at 8.20pm by Dinesh Naidu (Chairman)

Minutes submitted by: Teresa Whyborn - Parish Clerk

Approved by: Dinesh Naidu - Chairman



19/2/21