

**Planning Regulatory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Friday 31 July 2020
at 11am on Teams Live (virtual meeting)**

Present:

Cllr Colin Foulger (Chairman)
Cllr Brian Long (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Stephen Askew
Cllr Mick Castle
Cllr David Collis
Cllr Danny Douglas

Cllr William Richmond
Cllr Eric Seward
Cllr Tony White

Substitute Members Attending:

Cllr Bev Spratt for Cllr Brian Iles

Officers Present

Hollie Adams	Committee Officer, Democratic Services, Norfolk County Council
Ralph Cox	Principal Planner, Norfolk County Council
Jon Hanner	Engineer (Highways Development Management), Norfolk County Council
Nick Johnson	Head of Planning, Norfolk County Council
Jane Linley	Team Lead (Planning & Environment), nplaw
Andrew Sierakowski	Consultant Planner, Norfolk County Council

1 Apologies and Substitutions

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Brian Iles (Cllr Bev Spratt substituting) and Cllr Martin Storey. Also absent were Cllr Roy Brame and Cllr Mike Sands.

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee meeting held on 5 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 No interests were declared.

4 Urgent Business

- 4.1 There was no urgent business discussed.

Applications referred to the Committee for determination.

5 FUL/2019/0056 - Land at SS Agri Power Limited, Ellingham Road, Attleborough, NR17 1AE

- 5.1.1 The Committee received the report setting out the application for extension of an existing anaerobic digestion plant at the SS Agripower Limited site, Ellingham Road, Attleborough. It sought to extend the plant within the existing site to allow the processing of Category 3 food waste (as defined in the Animal By-Products Regulations), from within Norfolk, as well as agricultural waste and increase the tonnage of organic matter processed from 23,900 tonnes per annum (tpa) to 129,000 tpa.

- 5.1.2 The Committee heard a presentation by the Consultant Planner on the planning application:

- The 4 new tanks would be larger than the existing 3 tanks; screening and landscaping was built into the proposals, but the structures would likely still be visible to an extent due to their size
- It was intended to increase the range of waste through the plant to include food fit for human consumption and waste from food manufacturing
- The proposed increase in tonnage would increase traffic going in and out of the site and two-way movements in and out of the site from 50 to 120 movements per day
- There had been 3 objections from residents and comments from Attleborough town council regarding traffic, noise, flies and disturbance from vehicle movements at night
- No objections had been received from statutory consultees subject to suitably worded conditions
- The proposal was in line with development plan policy and the environmental policy
- The Consultant Planner advised of three amendments to the report since it had been published and advised that the application should be approved.

- 5.2.2 Committee Members asked questions of the Consultant Planner about the presentation:

- A Member asked about the screening on the south west side of the site and suggested that native trees should be prioritised in screening programmes. The Consultant Planner confirmed that there were landscaping proposals around the site which included tree planting around the perimeter of the site to provide additional screening. The Council's landscape officer had reviewed the proposal and confirmed that it would provide an adequate amount of screening around the site. The Head of Planning confirmed that the proposed screening scheme would use native trees already present in the area..

- 5.3.1 The Team Lead, nplaw, read key points for consideration submitted by the applicant in the absence of the applicant; see appendix A.

- 5.4.2 The Committee moved on to debate:

- A Member noted in the 10 years the site had been in place a low number of complaints had been received.

- The Vice-Chairman noted the progress in the waste treatment industry since the existing plant was built, and that many tonnes of carbon dioxide would be captured by the proposed extension on the site and that the application was for a sustainable development.
- The Consultant Planner confirmed that in 2015-16 there were 75 complaints about the site but none had been received since.
- At the time of reporting biomethane was used to power the CHP (combined heat and power) plant on site. If the application was approved, a connection would be built on site so that the local grid could be supplied with gas from the site.
- A Member suggested that the screening and planting should be monitored. The Head of Planning confirmed that site inspections, which had been halted due to Covid-19, were due to be reinstated shortly subject to health and safety protocols. There would be 4 visits per year, or more if needed, to review compliance with requirements.

5.6.6 Councillors were each asked for their vote on the proposal to approve the application (where Cllrs were not present for the whole debate and therefore unable to vote, or were not able to declare their vote due to technical issues, a null vote would be recorded)

5.6.7 **The Committee unanimously RESOLVED** that the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services be **authorised** to:

- I. Grant planning permission subject to the conditions outlined in section 11.
- II. Discharge conditions where those detailed above require the submission and implementation of a scheme, or further details, either before development commences, or within a specified date of planning permission being granted.
- III. Delegate powers to officers to deal with any non-material amendments to the application that may be submitted.

The meeting ended at 11.46

Chairman



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Planning (Regulatory) Committee

Friday 31st July 2020

FUL/2019/0056 – Land at SS Agri Power Limited, Ellingham Road, Attleborough, NR17 1AE

Key Points

Currently, segregated food waste collected by borough councils in Norfolk is taken to Hertfordshire for processing. This is a unique opportunity to make use of an existing site to expand the processing capacity within Norfolk and reduce transport CO2 emissions. The low carbon renewable biomethane produced will supply Attleborough's residents.

The site is well related to the Norwich policy area, the strategic highway network, and Attleborough.

- Vehicle movements have been estimated with HGVs operating at 50% capacity and with a 20% buffer applied to ensure consideration of a worst-case scenario. **HA raises no objection.**
- Visibility from publicly accessible locations is limited, with planting mitigation proposed. **Landscape officer raises no objection.**
- Odour and noise impacts will be enforced by the EA through the environmental permitting regime. **EHO raises no objection.**
- Proposal is acceptable in terms of impacts on bats and a suitable condition is imposed relating to bat mitigation. **County ecologist raises no objection.**
- In terms of contamination, further site investigation and detailed risk assessment reporting can deal with any potential contamination risks on site. **EA raises no objection.**

The application accords with the development plan and can be considered a sustainable form of development in line with advice set out in the NPPF.