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PO213PX

Your Ref: OWPC13704

Our Ref: P/76/16/PL

07-07-2016

Please ask for:
Richard Temple

25th April 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Construction of a building for the packaging, preparation & distribution of fresh foods with ancillary accommodation associated with the existing horticultural business, revisions to internal access road, car parking & hardstanding areas & landscaping & provision of a wetland. This application affects the setting of Listed Buildings.

Sefter Farm Pagham Road Pagham

Thank you for your internet representation made on 24th April 2017 which has been recorded as **'an objection'** with the comments as follows:

I would like to register a strong objection to any proposed increase in production from Barfoots Farm, and especially any proposal which would increase usage of their already failing bio-digester.

We are the closest neighbours to the farm and as it is the traffic, noise and smell disturbance we experience from them currently is completely unacceptable.

I have complained to numerous occasions direct to the farm, to the environment agency, environmental health and indeed direct to my MP, we have on many occasions also had to register an environmental incident in relation to the smell.

The smell is simply unbearable, any increase in production of veg waste and in turn increase in usage of the digester is going to make our daily lives simply unbearable. The situation has already brought us to the point of trying to sell our house, unfortunately the sale fell through due to the buyer pulling out because of the smell!

Over 7 years we have had a succession of excuses and proposed solutions to combat the stench, none of these have worked! the farm have demonstrated a complete inability to run the plant without causing misery to the neighbours for close to a decade. This is in direct contradiction of both the conditions of their planning and license with the environment agency.

Please see the below quote from the Barfoots website from Barfoots MD Julian Marks in relation the digester project:

"how would a farming company overcome the challenge of a construction project and technology we had no understanding of?"

It would seem to me that the proceeding years have not resulted in a fundamental understanding of the process either. In fact it has been suggest to myself and neighbours by the member of responsible for the digester, that not only is there a lack of qualified individuals in the UK able to operate such a plant, but also if I my family were disturbed by it:

"maybe you should rent your house out and move out of the area"

This is basically the ignorance that we are dealing with when we approach the farm with legitimate complaint, that I should uproot my wife and two young children so they can continue to fail to run their plant efficiently!

In the past couple of weeks, including today we have experienced smell regularly, I have felt the need to contact the farm twice also. Firstly on 02/04 when we took the liberty of leaving our windows open when having left the house. we returned to a house wreaking of waste! I honestly though our dog had fouled somewhere in the house. My 5 year old son, visibly distressed, asked me why he had to sleep in a room that smelled of poo!

Again on Easter Sunday we had to contact the farm, we were hosting a family party in our garden, but unfortunately had to retreat inside closing the windows on glorious spring sunshine because the stench was unbearable.

In my opinion the digester project should simply be halted until they have the staff or knowledge to operate it correctly. Any proposal that considers increasing the working capacity of the digester such as increased pack house space is simply ludicrous!

Your views will be considered before the application is determined and I shall write to inform you of any decision made.

Please be aware that if the application is to be determined by the Council's Development Control committee and your letter has been received at a late stage after the Agenda has been published you will not receive a separate letter notifying you of the date of the meeting and procedures for public speaking. In such circumstances it is recommended that you track the progress of the application on the Council's website or telephone the Council for further information. Please be advised that any comments you make that are not included within the Committee Agenda will be reported to the Members of the Development Control committee. Please also be aware that only a small number of all planning applications received go the Development Control Committee. Most are determined under delegated powers by Officers in which case your comments will again be considered before the application is determined.

Please be aware that Planning Services operate an 'open file' policy and will publish details of your comments on the internet on the Arun District Council Planning section. Please ensure that you only provide information that you are happy will be made available in this way. If you supply information belonging to a third party, please ensure you have their permission to do so. If you do not wish your comments to appear on the 'open file' please confirm this in writing and I will arrange for it to be destroyed although this means that its contents will then be disregarded.

In the event of a subsequent written representations appeal, against a refusal of planning permission on a householder application, any representations made on the application will be automatically forwarded to the Secretary of State. Unlike all other types of appeal, there will be no further opportunity to comment at the appeal stage.

Yours faithfully

Neil Crowther
Group Head of Planning