

**From:** David Page CC

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2025

**To:** The Development Control and Regulatory Board (DCRB), Leicestershire County Council

**Re:** Objection to Planning Application 2023/CM/0053/LCC – Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Marigold Farm, Welham Road, Great Bowden

Dear Members of the DCRB,

As the County Councillor for the neighbouring division of **Market Harborough West and Foxton**, which includes the Parishes of **Foxton, Lubenham** and the **District Ward of Lubenham**, all of which will be directly affected by this proposal, I write to strongly object to this application.

Despite additional submissions, the application remains fundamentally flawed. It fails to meet key planning, environmental, and public safety requirements.

### **1. Access, Traffic and Highway Safety**

Welham Lane is entirely unsuited to the scale of traffic proposed. It is a single-track, unkerbed road with no footways, already used by walkers, cyclists and equestrians. The applicant's own data suggests up **to 1,500 vehicle movements daily** during peak feedstock delivery, and yet junction modelling omits upgrades to the **Macdonald's roundabout to the north, the southern A6 roundabout**, or any consideration of the **Kibworths' bottleneck**.

Moreover, the assumption that a nearby poultry farm will be a main supplier of waste is **unsubstantiated** by any confirmed agreement. If this is not the case, then far more vehicle movements will be required than estimated, from a **wider catchment**, on a **constrained highway network**. This materially undermines the applicant's transport modelling and amplifies risks at a **notoriously fast and dangerous section of the A6**, where **serious and fatal accidents** have occurred.

### **2. Environmental Amenity and Countryside Impact**

The cumulative impacts of HGVs, odour, industrial noise, and dust are incompatible with this tranquil countryside location. The proposal would **undermine public use of the Sustrans route**, affect access for leisure users, and conflict with Harborough District Council's nearby **re-wilding programme**.

### 3. Policy Conflict and Precedent

The application does not comply with **EMP2 of the Great Bowden Neighbourhood Plan**, which prohibits development generating severe traffic, or with **Policy CS11 of Harborough's Core Strategy**, requiring safe design. The **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** states that development should only proceed where safe and sustainable access is possible – this is clearly not the case.

### 4. Viability and Waste Policy Conflict

The proposal is commercially questionable. There are already two local AD plants (Rothwell and A508 south of Market Harborough), raising legitimate concerns about whether sufficient feedstock exists without vastly increasing transport distances and carbon impact. This is **not a DEFRA-favoured model**, and the plant appears to rely not on genuine waste but on **agricultural land being diverted from food to energy**, contrary to current government guidance .

### 5. Drainage and Flood Risk

The LLFA has accepted the proposal **only conditionally**, and serious concerns remain about flood resilience, ditch ownership, and long-term maintenance .

In summary, this proposal represents **unjustified industrialisation of the rural landscape**, poses real risks to **public safety and amenity**, is **questionable in policy and commercial terms**, and **fails to provide safe and sustainable access**. I respectfully urge the Committee to reject the application outright or, at minimum, defer it pending comprehensive answers to the material concerns raised.

Yours sincerely,



**Cllr. David Page**

**Market Harborough West and Foxton**

[david.page@leics.gov.uk](mailto:david.page@leics.gov.uk)

0116 305 3702

