

Stow-Cum-Quy Parish Council

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Our Ref: Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation Flyer Residents 11082020

Date: 12th August 2020

Dear Parishioner

Waste Water Treatment Plant Relocation

Further to my recent letter on this topic, I thought I'd share some updates from the PC meeting on the 10th of August. The decision unanimously carried by the councillors in attendance was that, based on the feedback we have received, we should as a Parish Council oppose site 3 (Honey Hill) for the waste water treatment plant.

The project website, www.cwwtpr.com, includes a virtual exhibition and documents describing the site-selection process in detail. The key decision – on which site this will be – will be based heavily on the results of the current consultation, which closes on **14th September 2020**, extended from the 19th August 2020. To have your say on the choice of site it is important to respond now, by returning the feedback form you received in the post, or online (follow the Have Your Say links). If you did not get the form or have mislaid it, you can print out a copy from the project website or call 0808 196 1661 for a replacement.

Please do not ignore the consultation document you have received or assume that the Parish Council response will be sufficient. Please respond to the consultation directly in addition to the Parish Council response (obviously either way depending on your opinion).

To help with this, I thought I'd share some of the key points the PC will be making in case you wish to also include these. They are arranged using the consultation section headings.

Traffic and access during construction and operations

There will be on average 146 HGV movements to and from the site every day¹, most between 7am and 6pm, leading to increased congestion and delay, already a significant problem in the village. A14 JN35 is already an accident cluster². High Ditch Road has a weight restriction, unsuitable for HGVs, and the Newmarket Road / High Ditch Road junction is dangerous enough as it is, especially for cyclists crossing High Ditch road by the junction without HGVs using it every 6 minutes during the day.

Impact on local amenities

The Honey Hill area is well used for exercise and recreation. It's adjacent to Quy Fen, a site of special scientific interest, and areas of the proposed site are part of the long term Wicken Fen Vision. Users of these areas will be negatively impacted by a large (smelly) industrial site situated at Honey Hill.

Air quality, noise and vibration.

The site will be operating 24 hours a day, and there will be HGVs arriving through the night.

¹ CWWTPR Stage 3 Fine Screening Report

² CWWTPR Stage 3 Fine Screening Report

The extra noise of this HGV traffic will have a negative impact on nearby residents. The additional traffic and congestion that will come with this will result in more traffic at a standstill through Quy and this will impact the air quality through Quy. Inevitably, even with a modern plant, at times there will be an odour; the wind is predominantly from the west which puts Quy downwind of the site. The wind direction will also tend to make noise from the site carry towards Quy.

Landscape and views

A new industrial plant at Honey Hill will definitely impact the landscape and views in and around Honey Hill. Furthermore, the highest structure, the digesters, are 26m high³! That's taller than Quy Church so it's not clear that it will be possible to hide it from Quy with landscaping. It's almost certainly going to impact negatively on the views and air quality at Quy Mill and it would be unfortunate if it drove one of our local business out of business.

Local ecology and biodiversity

The site is right next to Quy Fen, a site of special scientific interest. Extra traffic will have a negative impact on local wildlife. Honey Hill has a large bee population and will lose 22ha (30 football pitches worth) of bee habitat. The wastewater treatment plant will be a magnet for gulls; not something you normally see in the area and they will likely have a significant impact on the local species.

Archaeology and local heritage

High Ditch Road is on Fleam Dyke, an ancient feature of great historic importance with a Roman villa site to the north at Honey Hill and recent discoveries of Roman, Iron and Bronze age settlements in the surrounding area. This archaeological heritage would be severely damaged by industrial development of the site.

Flood risk and water quality

The proposal is for a large industrial plant with potential to pollute the streams and drains and Quy Fen.

Other

Loss of pristine green belt and 22ha of fertile farmland.

Finally, I know one or two people, including myself, have aired the view that a WWTP at Honey Hill might put a brake on housing developments towards Quy. While Anglia Water say they would object to housing development near the site, the decision would be made by the Secretary of State and housing could be allowed inside the 400m buffer zone. This also wouldn't exclude the possibility of new office developments; the existing site has offices well within 400m. In other words, unfortunately, I don't think we can count on this.

Hopefully these thoughts are useful when filling in your own consultation response. An electronic copy will be available on the Quy facebook page, the village website www.stowcumquy.co.uk on the parish council pages, or by emailing the parish council (parishclerk@stowcumquy.co.uk) if you wish to copy and paste directly.

Many thanks,



Mr Matt Eaton
Chairman of Stow-Cum-Quy Parish Council

³ CWWTPR Stage 3 Fine Screening Report