

AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Councillor Mrs Carole Paternoster

Aston Clinton Ward

Telephone: (01296) 630710

Email: cpaternoster@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

21st November 2014

Aston Clinton Parish Councillors

Buckland Parish Councillors

Dear Parish Councillor

Re ARLA proposals

On 17th November representatives of local councils were invited to a meeting to discuss Arla's 'zero carbon' proposals. Arla currently have an anaerobic digester on site to deal with waste milk from the plant. This digester digests waste in a sealed unit to produce biogas, which in turn produces heat and energy for the plant.

Arla's new proposals involve bringing Olleco, from Northampton, into the north east corner of their site, near Buckland canal bridge and the land adjacent to the canal. Olleco collects food waste on a commercial basis from fast food outlets, supermarkets, etc. from a wide area, including London. They plan to install a very large anaerobic digester on the site, together with a main building, with shutters, where the food waste will be transferred from vehicles to a large stainless steel pit. Olleco have stated that at no time will the food waste be exposed to the atmosphere.

This facility will generate 98 additional vehicles per day, of which 63 will be HGVs, operating mainly between 9am and 5pm, and using the dedicated Arla routes. Arla have made it clear that there will be no further improvements to the local road network to accommodate the additional vehicles.

Although I am one of your District Councillors, I knew nothing about this proposal until the Arla meeting on 17th November. Previous attempts have been made to dispose of food waste on or near the Arla site. When AVDC began collecting food waste I informed Cabinet Members and senior officers that I would not support food waste being brought to the Arla anaerobic digester for treatment. In due course Bucks County Council, as the planning authority for waste, submitted a planning application to itself to use the household waste recycling centre in College Road North as a food waste transfer station. Since this site is under the RAF Halton flight path, the Ministry of Defence was eventually informed. The MoD stated that no food waste containers were to be opened on the site due to the danger of birdstrike. Bucks County Council granted planning consent, but has not implemented it.

Arla and Olleco argue that their plants are, in theory, 'state of the art', using 'proven



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technology'. In practice Arla are currently having odour problems with their existing anaerobic digester, which has been causing problems for residents in Lower Buckland for several months, despite being regularly reported to Arla. They have now discovered that filters are getting blocked and needing to be cleaned regularly, resulting in odours being emitted. Arla have promised that they will be installing a new pre-filtration system with an enclosed cleaning system in the new year. Whatever the reason, the situation has still not been rectified. How do we know that a similar problem will not occur with the Olleco plant, which will be bringing 140 tonnes of food waste per day to College Road North?

A planning application for the construction of the Olleco anaerobic digester is due to be submitted to Bucks County Council before Christmas.

Please pass this information to the residents of your parish so they will be aware of these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Carole Paternoster