

#SAVEOURLANES

Ref: Safeguarding our Local Lanes & Countryside

You may have read that Ecotricity are proposing to build a bio gas plant in the hamlet of Fiddington. In principal of course this can be viewed as a positive step however it is important that everyone fully understands what in fact this means. The plant will be what is known as an Anaerobic Digestion or AD plant that will convert silage to gas which will then be pumped into the national grid. The plant will be around 13.5m high & occupy 10 acres. To put this into perspective this is around the total length of Tewkesbury High Street and as wide as most of the buildings either side. It is a vast site and will require 80,000 tonnes of silage and will in fact be one of the largest AD plants in the country. It will require a substantial multi million pound investment upon which no doubt a substantial profit will be required.

Approximately 15% or 12000 tonnes of this silage will be actually converted to gas which will be a mixture of methane (55%) and carbon dioxide (45%) – the Carbon Dioxide being released directly into the air. The methane gas will be pumped into a main gas line that continues up through the Evesham Vale where silage is of course readily available adjacent to the main A46 - a road designed for heavy traffic. Approximately 47300 tonnes will become a liquid digestate or fertiliser and the remaining 20700 tonnes will become some sort of by-product or sludge.

The silage will be harvested within a 15 km radius of the plant & moved by agricultural tractor & trailer and some of the sludge will be removed by the same vehicles. These will be large vehicles around 2.5m wide, 13m long and weighing around 30 tonnes in total but only with around 14t payload due to max legal loading regulations. The liquid digestate will also require to be moved off site and overall it seems that in total around 17,000 vehicle movements per annum will be necessary to service this plant – 365 days per annum, 7 days a week 13 hours a day.

The routes to/from the proposed plant have not been confirmed by Ecotricity - no doubt due to the sensitivity of this number of vehicle movements on narrow lanes. However given there are only 4 routes to the plant most if not all will be adversely affected in some way. They are:

- via Walton Cardiff down the unnamed lane usually used by school children on an almost daily basis plus of course local runners & walkers. Ecotricity claim that they will stop contractors using this lane. We will see no doubt but you can make up your own mind what the outcome in reality will be.
- via Ashchurch and the already congested A46 and past Ashchurch School
- via The Odessa and past Sherdons Golf Centre
- via Piffs Elm at the junction of the Gloster Old Spot pub, past Tredington School and again past Sherdons

These are all narrow lanes varying between 4m & 5m wide & where at it's maximum width there is barely enough room for 2 of these large tractors and trailers to pass each other thus the grass verges will be destroyed. In some places it is impossible for any vehicle to pass if one of these tall vehicles is converging with a small car travelling in the opposite direction. What will be the outcome then we wonder and we can tell you it can be quite frightening.

Ecotricity advise that the number of vehicle movements will be a maximum of 91 per day for the whole month of May.

If this is evenly spread over every day and every operational hour it equates to:

**One movement
every 6.7 minutes – 7 days/ week**

Please visit our website to see how www.saveourlanes.uk

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Despite the heavily disguised report by Ecotricity this is almost impossible to co-ordinate as we all can imagine. The supermarkets have been trying to achieve this for years with their deliveries and they cannot do better than one every 20 to 30 minutes. How will Ecotricity perform we wonder? Please make up your own minds but we all will be familiar with the chaos following a never ending convoy of tractors in both directions as we all go about our daily business including getting to & from work or home. Something we all have to live with – unlike the profit hunting Ecotricity and the land owner who recently acquired the planned site.

Overall if permitted this plant will effectively bring a huge volume of traffic to the narrow lanes through Fiddington and effectively grid lock the area. It will most certainly remove any opportunity for the many runners, riders and walkers from the wider community to enjoy the countryside and these lanes. What will be next?

We ask that you consider if this is something that will benefit us all as is being claimed or purely an investment for financial gain by Ecotricity and the land owner no matter what the cost to the local environment and the community surrounding Tewkesbury who use these lanes on a regular basis for leisure.

Ecotricity have now applied for planning permission and we urge you to oppose these plans and encourage your local councilor to do so also. You can do so in one of the following ways.

- a. Register your comment/objection with TBC by post to**
Development Manager, Borough Development, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Council Offices,
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, Glos, GL20 5TT

Or

- b. Login to TBC Online with the planning application link below**
<http://publicaccess.tewkesbury.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=O3GBHNQDJOW00>

Or

- c. By email to developmentapplications@tewkesbury.gov.uk**

Do not allow Ecotricity & the Land Owner to gain at the expense of the community of Tewkesbury who live here and within the surrounding area.

Yours Sincerely

The Save Our Lanes Campaign

Protecting our Local Community for the Benefit of ALL

See www.saveourlanes.uk

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