

Item 5 - Report on Planning Applications

Application Ref: NP/15/0417/FUL

Case Officer	Kate Attrill		
Applicant	Mr Watkins		
Agent	Reading Agricultural Consultants		
Proposal	Cattle accommodation buildings, slurry lagoon, silage clamps & open yard areas (part retrospective)		
Site Location	Trewern, Felindre Farchog, Crymych, Pembrokeshire, SA41 3XE		
Grid Ref	SM87020167		
Date Valid	16-Jul-2015	Target Date	09-Sep-2015

Application Ref: NP/15/0418/FUL

Case Officer	Kate Attrill		
Applicant	Mr Watkins		
Agent	Reading Agricultural Consultants		
Proposal	0.5mw anaerobic digestion plant		
Site Location	Trewern, Felindre Farchog, Crymych, Pembrokeshire, SA41 3XE		
Grid Ref	SM87020167		
Date Valid	16-Jul-2015	Target Date	09-Sep-2015

Purpose of report.

To request that Members visit the application site prior to the consideration of the planning application at a future meeting of the Development Management Committee.

Background

Application NP/15/417 is a retrospective application for the erection of 11 agricultural buildings, slurry lagoon, silage clamps and open yard areas which have all been built since 2011. The application also seeks approval for an extension to Building 9 and a new silage pad.

Application NP/15/ 481 is for the installation of an Anaerobic Digester with a 500 Kw generating capacity.

The retrospective application (NP/15/417) has been received as a result of discussions and site visits by planning officers with the applicants concerning the proposed anaerobic digestion facility. As a result, two full planning applications have been submitted. There is further unauthorised development on the farm and a further two applications for retrospective works to the farmhouse and a number of static caravans are expected to be submitted imminently.

The holding extends to approximately 285ha, of which 150ha is owner-occupied with the remaining land rented or farmed under cropping

Item 5 - Report on Planning Applications

agreements. In addition to land within the holding, the farm also spreads slurry over 800ha in the vicinity.

The farm had a herd size of approximately 530 cows in 2010, which has expanded to 950 at present, with twice daily milkings yielding 10,750 litres of milk per cow per year with cows housed inside for the majority of the year with dry cows being kept at Eglwysrwr. The farm currently has 12 employees, six workers being housed in the static caravans which have not yet received planning permission, the others live locally.

Current Proposal(s)

Application NP/15/417 is a retrospective application for the erection of 11 agricultural buildings, slurry lagoon, silage clamps and open yard areas, a proposed extension to Building 9 and a new silage pad.

Application NP/15/481 is for the installation of an Anaerobic Digester (AD) with a 500 Kw generating capacity.

The capacity of the AD facility is estimated to be around 58,080 tonnes per annum of slurry, manure and rejected animal feed. These materials are currently applied to land at the farm. Slurry and manure from livestock kept by the farm business will account for approximately 57,780 tonnes per annum of inputs (99.5%).

The proposed development as detailed in the planning application will comprise primary and secondary digestion tanks and a gas accumulator.

The digestion tanks will be 11.0m high by 17.0m diameter and 1.5m high by 8.0m diameter and the gas accumulator will be a closely-associated hemispherical structure. Gas produced by the AD process will be used to power a Combined Heat and Power unit on the site, with up to 0.5MW being supplied into the National Grid.

Heat from the CHP system will be used to raise the temperature of inputs to the system from external ambient temperature to process levels. Any surplus heat will be used to dry separated solids arising from digestate production.

The operation of the proposed plant will produce in the region of 52,656 tonnes per annum of separated solids and liquid material that will be used on the farm unit to replace artificial fertilisers.

Key Issues:

The key issues to be addressed in the determination of this planning application are the principle of the proposed development in this location and the impact of the development on the character of the landscape.

Item 5 - Report on Planning Applications

Recommendation

In light of the sensitive nature of the site and range of issues that have been identified for the proposals; together with the level of response received to the proposed development following consultation, officers would respectfully request that Members undertake a site visit prior to the full consideration of the planning applications submitted to date and the unauthorised developments in situ.