

URGENT – RESPONSES BY 31st October 2020
Bridge Farm Planning Applications

Stoke Canon Parish Council are taking this unusual step of publishing a statement in relation to a planning application in the village due to its potential impact on Stoke Canon and surrounding villages because of the potential impact on village life in terms of noise and pollution to the land, rivers and air.

Application 20/1242/FULⁱ is for the erection of an agricultural building and associated ground works and 20/1680/FULⁱⁱ which is an application for Erection of agricultural building and associated ground works. Please use the links below for full details of these applications.

These applications are out of proportion with the stated level of business activity currently at Bridge Farm and suggest expansion.

We are informed by Exe Valley Ward Councilor, Fabien King, that these applications are related to an Anaerobic Digester business in Clyst St Mary and planning applications in Upton Pyne for a 7,000m³ digestate lagoon.

We echo the concerns of Fabien King below:

Pollution: The Application describes how the increase in surface water run-off, especially with the extra rainfall we have come to expect, will be allowed to flow naturally into the Lagoon. This is within the Floodplain of the Rivers Culm and Exe. Indeed the Lagoon has a Leat into the River Culm and the Farmer is a Riparian Landowner. [We] fear for the safety of the soil and the river should the Lagoon lose its contents by overflowing or being flooded.

Digestate (the by-product of the anaerobic digester) is already being spread onto the fields of Bridge Farm in excess of the limits set by the Environment Agency with fears for the soil and river.

Earthworks and geology: The nature of the hillside with regards to increasing annual storm water and local history of landslips e.g.: A377 at Langford and the loss of Hulk Lane swept away by a "rotational slip" at Thorverton in 2013. Regarding Bridge Farm, is there a confident knowledge of the state of the hillside which is to be excavated for the groundworks? The soil mechanics must be clearly understood using the hindsight from the above two disasters.

Traffic: Up to 3000 extra journeys per year (through Stoke Canon and surrounding area) to the new digestate lagoon in Upton Pyne by agricultural vehicles.

ⁱ <https://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/online-applications/caseDetails.do?caseType=Application&keyVal=QC2V92GHMDZ00>)

ⁱⁱ <https://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>