Acaster Malbis
Parish Council

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14 January 2026

Dear Sukaina Devraj

NY/2025/0177/FUL – Retrospective application biosolids recycling

At a meeting of Acaster Malbis Parish Council held on 12 January 2026, it was resolved that the Council objects to this application.

The Parish Council considers that the development gives rise to unacceptable impacts and conflicts with both national and local planning policy for the following reasons.

Impact on Green Belt and Landscape Character

The site lies within the Green Belt, where there is a strong presumption against inappropriate development. The Parish Council considers that the biosolids digester, by virtue of its industrial appearance, scale and associated infrastructure, results in harm to the openness and rural character of the Green Belt – see attached image.

The development is clearly visible from nearby public footpaths, which are used for recreation and enjoyment of the countryside. The presence of this industrial facility within an otherwise rural landscape significantly detracts from the visual amenity of users of these public rights of way and undermines the purposes of Green Belt designation.

Loss of Amenity – Odour

The Parish Council has significant concerns regarding odour arising from the operation of the biosolids digester. Odour has the potential to adversely affect the amenity of both nearby residents and users of surrounding public footpaths.

Even intermittent odour can have a material impact on the enjoyment of the countryside and on the perception of the area as a rural and tranquil environment. The Council considers that insufficient weight has been given to this amenity impact, particularly given the retrospective nature of the application.

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Traffic and Highway Safety

The development results in increased vehicle movements, including heavy goods vehicles, through a rural village served by narrow roads that are not designed to accommodate frequent large vehicle traffic.

The Parish Council is concerned that the additional traffic associated with the transport of biosolids adversely affects highway safety, residential amenity, and the character of the village. This impact is particularly significant given the cumulative effect of regular HGV movements on roads used by pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians.

In the event that permission is granted, the Parish Council requests that stringent conditions be applied to control vehicle numbers and operating hours, including restrictions to avoid school start and finish times and peak commuter periods.

Retrospective Nature of the Application

The Parish Council also notes that this is a retrospective application. The development has therefore been carried out without prior consideration of its full impacts on landscape, amenity and traffic, which the Council regards as a serious concern.

Of particular concern is the potential for pollution of local watercourses, which may already have occurred via the network of field drains in and around the disused airfield.

Should this application be approved, the Parish Council requests robust and ongoing monitoring to ensure full compliance with any planning conditions and environmental controls with a yearly review of the licence.

Conclusion

For the reasons set out above, the Parish Council considers that the proposed development represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt, causes harm to landscape character and public amenity, and results in unacceptable traffic impacts on a rural road network.

Accordingly, Acaster Malbis Parish Council strongly objects to the application and requests that planning permission be refused.

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Yours sincerely

Craig Booth

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Acaster Malbis Parish Council

