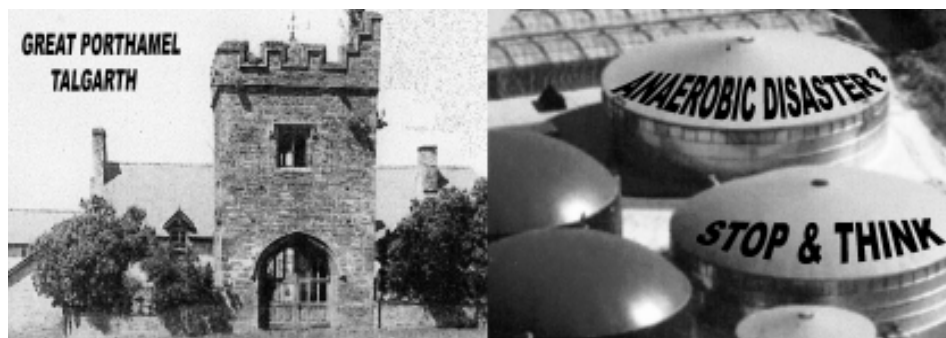


Anaerobic Digester Information Sheet

ADAG have taken the opportunity to put together this information sheet, to help you understand some of the key points, along with our concerns, regarding the planning application at Great Porthamel Farm, Talgarth (Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Ref: 07/01356/FUL).

Contact ADAG at: adag.talgarth2@googlemail.com or on 07954 585914

More information at: <http://www.bywydcymru.com>



What is an anaerobic digester?

An anaerobic digester is a commercial plant designed to process animal and vegetable waste in the absence of air, resulting in the production of biogas which is used to generate electricity. The resulting waste from this process is a digestate which can be used as an alternative to fertiliser.

Traffic, and size of operation!

The proposal has increased enormously. At first it was presented as an agricultural digester, importing animal gut waste from a Merthyr abattoir and mixing it with farmyard manure and maize. It has now turned into a fully fledged industrial WELTEC biogas plant. It is capable of a throughput of 40,000 tonnes per annum, and will include other abattoir wastes, such as grease, blood, manures, slurries, then industrial and local authority food wastes, market and poultry wastes, etc.

Originally it was TWO 10 tonne lorries per day hauling gut waste from Merthyr. Now it is FIVE 20 tonne lorries per day.

The plant will cover 1.6 acres of land and will consist of 4 large steel cylinders, 3 smaller tanks and a number of other buildings and long sheds. It will dominate the historic site of Porthamel with its 16th century Tower and listed buildings.

How safe is the process?

There are huge risks to animal health and cross contamination, especially with food and catering wastes. Remember BSE (Mad Cow Disease) and Foot & Mouth? The site has to be secured and isolated from the rest of the farm and other dwellings, with separate entrances and fencing. There appear to be no drawings or plans that address these serious issues.

Noise and smell?

You will have smelt the animal gut waste Porthamel has been spreading for the last 5 years. The BBNPA have never requested a full or proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this project. Smell and noise affect the quality of our lives, our businesses and property values. This plant operation will smell, will make a noise and we need to know exactly how much.

Is there a need for this plant?

The BBNPA are also processing an application for a 7 acre state of the art waste recycling plant at Hirwaun. It is on an industrial park, not an historic farm. It is 5 miles from the Merthyr abattoir. So what are the BBNPA doing? Why is this authority allowing abattoir waste to be hauled 35 miles across its National Park with all the risks involved, and contrary to its own policies?

What are we doing about these concerns?

Talgarth Town Council has regularly asked questions and challenged the way this application has been processed. Similarly, Brecon Beacons Park Society has also challenged this application, as have many local individuals. ADAG, a new local residents group has also joined the challenge. We have been deeply concerned over the lack of transparency and inadequate consultation process.

How many jobs will be created, and will the community benefit?

Porthamel's planning application was based upon the creation of ONE job! Also, the electricity generation, sufficient for some 1500 homes, is destined for the National Grid and for the commercial benefit of Porthamel!

How can you help?

If you share our concerns, then you can help by signing a new petition requesting that the National Park Authority refuse this application. Also, please write to them and your local politicians to express your personal opinion. For a list of contacts and more information, contact us as detailed on the front page.

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