



DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Thursday 24 September 2020 at 630 PM

ADDENDUM SHEET

Item 5a

20/01355/MFA Full planning application for the construction of a single storey, single chapel crematorium with associated parking, landscaping and infrastructure.

Land South Of Bedmond Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire Bartel Close,

Additional Representations:

Environmental Health:

Having reviewed the Facultatieve Technologies Ltd D1 Stack Calculation (July 2020) and the Socotec Air Quality Impact Assessment Report (August 2020) that were submitted in support of the above application, as well as the resulting email correspondence, I am able to update my advice of the 25th June 2020.

On the basis of the conclusions of the above reports it is no longer necessary to recommend the Local Air Quality Stack Height Condition that was recommended in my memo of the 25th June 2020.

3 Woodfield Gardens:

I would like to add the following comments on the recently uploaded Air Quality report to my previous objection to the planning application for the cremator (emailed to planning on the 16th September 2020)

Number of cremators – The application is for 1 cremator, operational hours of Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm, with space available for a second if required. This is contradicted by the air quality report which refers to 1 or 2 cremators Mon-Fri and on occasions continually for 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The full application appears to show the impact on traffic, hours of operation and the overall effect on the local environment based on one cremator. The application should therefore be restricted to one cremator only.

Environmental Standards – This refers to meeting both the EU Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC) and Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010. Worldwide views on climate change have moved on since then. Governments have given a commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030 by phasing out and stopping reliance on fossil fuels. The report concludes that “The process contributions of nitrogen dioxide are just above Environment Agency screening criteria in normal working hours” They should not be above the screening criteria and what will they be with two cremators operating?

Dispersal Maps for Nitrogen Dioxide Levels – The dispersal map for 2 cremators in working normal hours clearly shows the number of houses will be affected by pollution including those at Woodfield Drive, Woodfield Gardens, Bedmond Road, Chambersbury Lane, Bartel Close, Leverstock Green Way, Greenacres, Hempstead Road etc.

Cremator Flue - "Two stacks, one dedicated to each of the two potential cremators, are present to service the cremators when operating in bypass mode (i.e. bypassing the heat recovery and pollutant abatement systems). The third stack is the main operational stack which serves the combined exhaust from the abatement system. For the purposes of this assessment only operation of one or two cremators using the..."

There is no assessment of the cremators when operating unabated as this mode of operation is "considered likely to be an infrequent and short-term occurrence."

Why is there no assessment of the cremators when operating unabated, it is unacceptable to say this mode of operation is likely to be infrequent or short term. The cremators should not be allowed to operate if they bypass the abatement system abatement plant and exhausting to the main operational stack is considered”

Meteorology Report - There is no modelling available for the application site, the submission is based on information taken from Rothamstead, High Wycombe, Woburn and Northolt. The report should give an accurate reflection of the conditions at the proposed site.

Dacorum Climate Emergency Statement – If Dacorum are serious in their intent to tackle the climate emergency and become net carbon neutral, they should ensure that the application for the new crematorium is only approved using an electric cremator. For every gas cremation approximately 245kg of carbon is released into the atmosphere. Electric cremation process emits approximately 90% less carbon with carbon only occurring from the combustion of the body and coffin. Other renewable energy can be incorporated and surplus heat can be used to heat the building or grow plants in greenhouses as per Huntingdon District Council.

Planning permission should only be granted for a crematorium on this site if the applicant uses an electric cremator as the greenest option available.

Response

All of the supporting documents in relation to the application have been prepared using appropriate data sources and to the satisfaction of statutory consultees.

The air quality and dispersal modelling has been provided for a worst case scenario for the operation of two cremators at the site, whilst the assessment of traffic generation is based upon funeral service capacity and the use of one chapel.

The emissions are well within regulation standards and as such there is no objection to the proposals on air quality grounds. The operation of the premises is subject to a permit issued by the Environmental Health team and will be monitored to ensure that it is operating in accordance with relevant legislation.

It is a legal requirement for the cremators to be fitted with a bypass system. The bypass system will only operate in the event of a power failure or in the event that non-permitted items enter the coffin prior to combustion. Such events are rare and will be recorded under the relevant legislation.

Recommendation

As per the published report.

Item 5b

20/01126/FUL Construction of a detached bungalow with associated parking & landscaping, and the securing of the adjacent land outlined in blue an open space

Land at Laurel Bank, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

None.

Recommendation

As per the published report.