

**24<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**REPORT SEEKS TO ALLAY CONCERNS OVER COMPOSTING FACILITY**

AN independent report has revealed that the trial composting of municipal waste near the village of Thorpe Willoughby would have a minimal effect on the local environment.

The risk assessment report concludes that plans and procedures to be put in place by Yorwaste Ltd avoids potential problems with bio-aerosols, odours and health effects – the three main issues of concern raised by local people.

The report has been prepared by independent research company ADAS UK, which is one of the leading experts in the field of composting.

And after listening to local people, Yorwaste has also submitted a number of amendments to its original planning application, with a view to addressing all of the objections raised from members of the public.

The company says the scientific and technical information it has prepared in response to residents' concerns comprehensively demonstrates that its plans would have negligible impacts on the local environment.

This information is expected to be submitted to North Yorkshire County Council by the end of the week and will be followed by a meeting between Yorwaste and Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council.

The ADAS report accepts that whilst historically, the odours associated with the former mushroom composting plant at Gateforth Park site did cause nuisance, the proposed modifications to the composting facility would result in the trials being carried out with minimal effect upon the local environment.

Additional measures that will be taken by Yorwaste to ensure this is the case include:

- Ensuring that the entire process, from the reception of the waste material to the removal of the finished compost, will take place within an enclosed environment with air extracted through a bio-filter that would prevent the release of bio-aerosols and any potential odours
- Reducing the time the waste material is held in the reception building from the five days originally proposed down to 48 hours, further reducing the chances of the material producing unpleasant odours
- Providing an on-site backup generator that would be able to restore power within 30 minutes or less of an electrical power failure
- Carrying out improvements to the waste reception building to ensure it is totally enclosed.

Yorwaste Recycling & External Affairs Manager, John Miller, said: “By commissioning an independent report and submitting amendments to our original planning application, we hope to have demonstrated that we have taken the views and concerns of local people on board and addressed them in a serious manner.

“We can categorically state that the limited trial we are proposing bears no resemblance whatsoever to the previous operations at Gateforth Park and that the historical problems associated with the site, such as odour, will not occur during the trial period.

“It is widely acknowledged that, as a nation, we have to reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that goes to landfill and if this trial is successful, it will have long-term benefits for everyone.

“We believe we have been open and transparent throughout this process and we will continue to consult with the parish council and local people.”

A copy of the ADAS report is to be made available to Thorpe Willoughby Parish Council.

\* ADAS UK provides independent impartial research and consultancy services to public and private sector companies involved in agriculture, horticulture, rural enterprises, the food chain and environmental management. For further information visit [www.adas.co.uk](http://www.adas.co.uk)