

SOUTH PLANNING COMMITTEE		
SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL LETTERS		
Date: 24.03.2025		
NOTE: This schedule reports only additional letters received before 5pm on the day before committee. Any items received on the day of Committee will be reported verbally to the meeting		
Item No.	Application No.	Originator:
6	25/00309/FUL	Mark Foxall (Applicant)
	<p>Dear Cllr Boddington,</p> <p>Please see answers below in blue font to the questions you have recently raised regarding the council's biochar plant development proposed for Coder Road Business Park, Ludlow. A number of Officers will be present at the planning committee meeting and can discuss anything further you may wish to know then if necessary.</p> <p>1) Organic Rankine Cycle. Do the organics come from the pyrolysis? If so, they will be continually produced, so what happens to excess or used organics?</p> <p>An ORC (Organic Rankine Cycle) is a closed thermodynamic cycle that uses organic fluids to convert low to medium temperature heat sources to electricity. For the ORC on this project, a closed loop of F Gas liquid is heated through a plate heat exchanger to 105-118°C. This expands the liquid to a gas which then turns a twin screw expander and generates electricity. The gas is then cooled by another plate heat exchanger and the cycle repeats itself. The Organic fluid in an ORC is a closed loop with heating and cooling completed through heat exchangers.</p> <p>2) The plans use some of the storage units at the rear of the main building. To what extent do these still contain material from the biodigester and how will this be removed?</p> <p>As part of the remedial work to be undertaken at the site, SC will commission the removal the tanks in line with the submitted planning application. The tanks contain non-hazardous digestate material from the previous use as a biodigester plant. All waste will be removed from site, safely & in accordance with EA regulations. SC has had a chemical analysis of the digestate undertaken and the results were recently submitted to the EA, we await advice from the EA on the options available to either use or dispose of the digestate.</p>	

3) CO² is a greenhouse gas. How much will be emitted from:

a) The stack - This is calculated within the LCA as standard and overall the process will be CO₂ negative. With any combustion CO₂ is produced but this will depend on the feedstock. The amount of CO₂ is comparable to an oil boiler of a scale that would heat a small swimming pool.

b) Vehicles travelling to deliver feedstock - This is calculated within the LCA, as standard the vehicles source feedstock within a 20 mile radius.

c) Vehicles delivering biochar.- This is calculated within the LCA, as standard the vehicles deliver biochar within a 100 mile radius. Part of the aim for this project is to stimulate understanding of biochar and its many useful applications across various sectors and therefore stimulate demand for the product. Already SC is collaborating with stakeholders in academia, DEFRA and DESNZ to improve awareness and understanding.

4) Visitors. The plan shows retention of the current Visitor Room. What are the plans for use of this? - The proposal is for the room to be retained and used for visitors on plant visits as well as for training and education, We aim to see the proposed plant in Ludlow as something of a learning centre for biochar in much the same way as it was for the AD industry which led to a number of AD company start ups and numerous employment opportunities for Ludlow and the surrounding area.

5) Are there any plans to use food waste feedstock? - No, food waste is not currently a feedstock compliant with the EBC Biochar standard and Puro credits which are part of the business case for the investment.

6) The Shropshire Council FAQ on pyrolysis states:

“At our site in Powys, our site operators Woodtek Engineering Ltd clean all the emission before venting to the atmosphere using a wet scrubber meaning that particulates are virtually eliminated.

- Methane: 0 emissions*
- Sulphur and chlorine: 99% removal*
- Nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide: 95% removal*

This would be the same for a unit at the proposed Ludlow site.”

There is no mention of a wet scrubber in the application documents. Does this mean that this will not be installed in Ludlow? If so, why not? [A wet flue gas scrubber and continuous emissions monitoring system \(CEMs\) will be installed at the outset.](#)

7) Do emissions vary according to feedstock? [With the scrubbing technology proposed the variation is minimal which can be evidenced with the results from the BDC site now in operation. The priority in feedstock preparation for consistent emissions in pyrolysis \(as with biomass boiler combustion\) is a consistent moisture content which is possible with the plant having the most efficient dryer available for consistent feedstock preparation control. Removal of fines also reduces emissions variation greatly and will be part of the process.](#)

8) From where will the wood feedstock be sourced? [The proposal is to source from a range of providers as locally as possible and there are a number in Shropshire. This will provide resilience in the supply and allow for seasonality. Additionally, the council has a considerable tree estate of its own to manage and a council tree strategy is currently being developed, the revenue from the biochar project will](#)

	enable a more strategic approach to the council's tree responsibilities. A similar feedstock sourcing model has been used at Woodtek since 2017 and has helped to develop the market assisting local companies by stabilising demand thus helping stabilise employment.	