

DCAdmin

From:
Sent: 01 July 2024 11:35
To: DCAdmin
Subject: Planning Application 2024/91484, Erection of Poultry Shed in Bolster Moor

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I am strongly opposed to this planning application.

As pointed out in another objection, there appears to be many errors and omissions in this planning application, surely this automatically renders the application null and void.

The proposed poultry building will be far too close to residential properties. If an individual wants to erect a livestock building within 400m of residential properties, then permitted development rules do not apply, instead the individual has to apply for planning permission (as has happened here). Surely this must mean that anyone living within 400m of a livestock building must be extremely susceptible to the pollutants emitted from the livestock building, otherwise this 400m rule would not exist.

The application does not show how near the closest houses will be to the proposed building. It has been drawn to make it look as though the poultry building is surrounded by empty fields and other sheds. This is not correct. The nearest house will only be a few metres away and would be unacceptably close to this proposed building.

The nearest properties will suffer from constant air pollution due to the normal direction of the wind. Numerous studies available to read on the Internet, done by reputable organisations, go into great detail regarding the dangers of living near to poultry buildings and regularly breathing in poultry dust and ammonia.

The Statement of Evidence – Respiratory Hazards of Poultry Dust document issued by the HSE makes for grim reading. It has been written in relation to those individuals working within poultry farms who would only have to suffer this during their normal working hours. However, given the close proximity of this proposed building to residential properties, the individuals living in these properties will be breathing in these toxic gases 24 hours a day, every day, due to the normal wind direction. There is nothing contained within the application to state how emissions will be properly controlled in order to protect local residents against constant exposure to these respiratory health hazards. The health and wellbeing of those closest to this proposed site must be taken seriously. COSSH lists poultry dust as being harmful to health and a respiratory hazard.

The level of noise generated by the hens, machinery and wagons servicing the building would be intrusive to the local residents and unacceptable in an area that is normally known for its peace and quiet. The hens will all lay eggs at different times to each other and have a habit of squawking loudly after laying. This loud squawking would be non-stop every day.

The applicant appears to have forgotten about the land drain running across his land. This land drain would be at serious risk of contamination if a poultry building was placed uphill of it. This land drain regularly blocks and floods, groundwater contaminated by the poultry building would then flood over residential properties – a health hazard. I understand there are a number of properties that already suffer contaminated runoff from the applicant's existing manure heap.

The applicant does not own all the land outlined in blue in the application. His land ownership is very much smaller than what he is stating in the application.

The application shows that access to the poultry building would be through a narrow gate on Drummer Lane and across two fields. It is unclear from the application how vehicles would access this site, especially in bad weather when the fields would be waterlogged or frozen. It is to be hoped that the applicant is not planning to put a tarmac road across these Green Belt fields to service this poultry building. Drummer Lane is a narrow lane, with no pavements, popular with walkers (including children from the local Nursery and school) as, due to its rural nature, it is a quiet and safe road to walk along. The traffic required to regularly service this poultry building would have a detrimental effect on this safe space for walkers. Traffic through the village has increased exponentially over the last few years (due to the applicant's family's farm shop), and this poultry building will only add to traffic density through Bolster Moor. The roads are already in a serious state of disrepair due to this large increase in traffic.

Biosecurity measures are non-existent in the application – surely a huge oversight when wanting to own 1,500 hens in such close proximity to residential properties and the applicant's current flocks of birds (including widely travelled racing pigeons). The drawing of the proposed building shows that there is no way of preventing the hens from escaping from the building whenever the door is opened. I suspect these "barn" hens would soon become "free range" as it seems it would be impossible to properly contain them in the building.

It is unclear from the application whether the poultry building will meet the internal criteria as set out in paragraph 18.1 of the Guidance on Legislation Covering the Marketing of Eggs.

The applicant claims that the keeping of 1,500 barn laying hens is not a commercial activity. This is difficult to believe when there will be approximately 1,250 eggs laid per day (average taken from various sources). This amount of eggs would equate to over 200 boxes of eggs per day that would need to be disposed of – either sold at the field gate or thrown away. The customer base required to get rid of over 200 boxes of eggs every day at the field gate would generate an unacceptable increase to the level of traffic coming into the village. As stated earlier, there are no pavements on Drummer Lane, and no suitable parking areas.