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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PLANNING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
26 JUL 2016
To:
Ack'd: File:

21st July 2016

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Mr. R. Close
Herefordshire Council Planning Services
P.O. Box 230
Blueschool House
Hereford
HR1 2ZB

Planning Application P162021/F
The proposed construction of six new poultry units at
Gillow Farm, St Owens Cross, Hereford, Herefordshire, HR2 8LE

Dear Mr Close,

We live at Gillow Cottages, one of the receptor points used throughout the report. We have a number of concerns as follows:

There have been a number of traffic accidents on the junction of the A49 and A4137. The road layout has been changed several times to stop (minimise?) further traffic accidents. The proposal increases the slow moving traffic coming out of the farm entrance on this busy junction. One solution is a new safe exit for the farm traffic away from the busy junction. Alternatively, the junction needs changing to accommodate the increased volume of slow moving farm traffic.

We will see the new construction from our back garden which will alter the view to the A49. Amongst the issues that concern us are the:

- Light pollution from the site at night.
- Noise levels during the construction.
- Noise levels during the ongoing production cycle.
- Increase in flies, etc attracted by the operation.
- Pollution of the local ponds and water courses which eventually flow into the River Wye.
- Aroma from the chicken sheds.

We are unable to comment on the technical data contained within the report. However, the projections on noise, odour, pollution, etc, are a model of the perfect world and are rarely true in the final reality. Friends who live near poultry units have a different view on the impact of living close to such a factory unit.

Given the fields are cropped; the waste is unlikely to be spread immediately. Assuming normal farm practice by other local farmers, the waste will be stored in large mounds until a suitable time for spreading. If this is correct, where will the stored waste be? This is also likely to increase the possibility of the smell, rodents, insects, flies, etc, becoming a nuisance. It also increases the vehicle movements – one trip to the dump, and further trips to load for spreading. In addition, it increases the potential for the weather to create run off from the stored waste to pollute the ponds on Gillow Manor with the run off eventually entering the River Wye.

The development is within the setting of the historical site at Gillow Manor. If the proposed development is to go ahead, it has the potential to impact on the significance of a heritage asset by altering the landscape therefore reducing the understanding of them in the original setting.

We are concerned about the smell from the units, particularly at the end of each production cycle when they are cleaned (either about every six weeks or if they are cleaned in rotation two sheds approximately every fortnight and if the latter, an almost a continuous aroma?).

One wonders how many people actually read the report and are not put off by its length, weight and all the technical data which is beyond the average to comprehend and comment on. The size and complexity of the report impressed the Parish Council at their Public Meeting on the previous submission but it seemed none of the Councillors had read it or were capable of interpreting the statistics. The statistics indicate the development will have no, or very limited, impact on the surrounding areas. However, driving around Hereford, you can smell the chicken sheds before you see them. I am not sure we have come across a chicken production unit which does not produce an unpleasant aroma from some distance.

It creates one job. Local jobs are valuable. However, this application brings more downsides to the local community than the creation of a single job.

There is little or no mention of their existing farm businesses which adds to the noise and the traffic movements on the busy junction of the two main roads.

Finally, if the industrial scale of the operation does cause a nuisance, it will devalue our property, and many others, with no recourse for compensation.

Yours sincerely,

Di and Phil

Copy submitted via the website