

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Cc:** [Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot)  
**Subject:** FAO Ruari Kelly: Objection  
**Date:** 10 June 2021 14:10:38

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FAO Ruari Kelly. Case officer Angus council.

Objection to:

21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.

Dear Ruari and the Planning Committee.

**I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.**

**Please accept my objection to the above planning application.**

**I am utterly disgusted that you have decided to use your limited budget to create further animal suffering and abuse instead of promoting plant based and vegan products.**

**It is absolutely clear by now that animals are sentient beings who feel pain. They have maternal instincts just like us. They don't want to be used and eventually discarded of.**

**To go ahead with this, is to ACTIVELY IGNORE the lives experiences of millions of animals across our world who are exploited and murdered for their bodily secretions and flesh.**

**It goes against all of the work the UK is planning to put in place to work against climate change. It is ridiculously hypocritical of the council to even propose this.**

**We know now animal products cause heart disease, cancer, and all sorts of horrible illnesses (and worsen existing ones) which puts our NHS at a breaking point. By instead promoting plant based products; you encourage the public to cut out animal products for their health, the environment and for the animals themselves.**

**Please put a stop to these plans.**

**Free range eggs, as we all know in the vegan community are still hell for these poor hens. It's not all those happy hens you see on adverts out in the sun all day; they only have slightly more room to live in which barely makes a difference to them, and there are not enough thorough checks to ensure their safety and to ensure that the rules are being followed. Way too many of these issues are swept under the carpet and it's time it is put to an end.**

**The sad thing is that many of the eyes that read this email and countless other objections to these plans might not even know the extent of the horrific industry they are supporting, funding, and giving a platform to, and normalising to the public.**

**For anyone who actually attempts to read through this email and not discard it as another 'annoying vegan' complaining, I urge you to please watch Dominion, Earthlings, Cowspiracy, Seaspiracy, and countless other documentaries that have been made around animal suffering.**

**I particularly emphasise the documentary called "The land of hope and glory" available online. This documentary has tons of footage all from UK farms that will open your eyes to the cruelty you actively support.**

**Please, hear us out. In 10 or 20 years time, our children will be taught about animal agriculture and how barbaric it is, and wonder to themselves - why did so many people support this disgusting industry?**

My main reasons are as follows:

## **HUMAN HEALTH:**

### **PANDEMICS**

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu.

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The answer is yes: it is not only possible, but it is just a matter of time.

It is important to note that there are concerns from many people in the UK of another impending pandemic of which a factory farm could well become the cause with their overcrowding and unhygienic conditions. Why on earth would a planning application for another Intensive factory farm even be considered at this time?

It is a massive risk to consider introducing an industrial chicken farm on such an enormous scale, **64000** birds, with high population densities and genetically homogenous birds. Given the known propensity for low pathogenic viral strains to mutate into high pathogenic strains amongst poultry flocks, and potential to become more easily transmissible to other mammals, it is not scaremongering to treat this development as an ongoing risk to human health.

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Please consider this list of UK Government zoonotic diseases. It is a long and frightening list.

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"Farm animals consume one-third of all antibiotics in the UK and it is intensive farming systems that use drugs at unnecessarily high levels, putting human health at risk."

"The routine use of antibiotics in intensive farming systems is driving this problem. Drugs are given to animals as a preventative measure - before they show signs of illness - to compensate for animals being housed in cramped, unsanitary conditions where infections spread fast. Intensively reared pigs and poultry account for 79 % of UK farming antibiotic use"

Looking holistically, what is more important, planning rules, another factory farm or people dying?

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The short-term benefits of employment and meat production are outweighed by the environmental impact that it will have on the local area which is already facing a climate emergency. What we eat has a huge impact on the environment and has potential to cause disease and pandemics so applications should be considered in line with our broader responsibilities to protect future generations.

Furthermore, the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area.

To quote DEFRA 2007 - "The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N<sub>2</sub>O. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub>, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production."

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If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units still being approved when the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets?

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*In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).*

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“Biodiversity - Farming practices can have many impacts that can lead to a reduction in wildlife biodiversity (including loss of habitats and food sources). The UK farmland bird index, an indicator of the state of wildlife generally, has fallen to less than half its 1970 value”.

According to Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - since humans became farmers, just 17% of wild mammal species remain (from mice to elephants).

As the site is relatively close to a number of residential properties this development can only have an increased negative effect on the local residents, in particular noise, odour, pollution and disease.

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

### **GLOBAL HUNGER**

The impact of factory farming also goes beyond the local environment to global food poverty and UK food insecurity. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations predicts that by 2050 world meat production will have almost doubled global warming, pollution, deforestation, land degradation, water scarcity and species extinction all increasing as a consequence.

850 million people go hungry every day. Animal agriculture uses 83% of farmland but only produces 18% of calories (Joseph Poore, Oxford University).

“We already produce enough to feed the world. It’s overconsumption – especially of animal protein by the global middle class, inequality, waste and inadequate production/distribution systems - that stands in the way of enough food for everyone and space for wildlife. To feed the world in a way our one planet can sustain, we need to consume and produce food differently”. (Worldwide Fund for Nature. Appetite for Destruction)

### **ANIMAL SUFFERING**

Another reason for my objection is that I do not feel this application for a factory farm represents current public opinion. In a recent survey 85% of the public were against Factory Farms.

In addition, Defra 2019 reported that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

Although the current animal welfare laws in the UK are slim I feel it is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life. Factory farms like these result in close confinement aggression and arguably completely prevent any sense of normal behaviour as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside ‘ranging’ during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7Ish7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dlbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>

Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute 'free-range'.

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really right for this community?

### **SUMMARY**

The future looks grim.

- More pandemics.
- A climate raging out of control.
- Environmental damage.
- Biodiversity loss.
- Global food poverty and UK food insecurity.
- Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.
- Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all the above.

With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today's children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture.

**The climate crisis is here but the greatest impacts of it will be felt by our own children. Biodiversity is being lost, environments destroyed, soil quality diminishing. Pandemics are already a threat and antibiotic resistance is growing.**

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully

Amy McNally

# Comments for Planning Application 21/00337/FULM

## Application Summary

Application Number: 21/00337/FULM

Address: Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm Cononsyth Arbroath

Proposal: Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping

Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Mr Andrew Leaver

Address: No 1 Farm Cottage West Mains of Gardyne Guthrie DD8 2SR

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: Environmental; The proposed IPU development is currently planned to be constructed on high grade agricultural farming land which contravenes a number of planning protocols. Health and wellbeing of neighbouring residents due to the IPU outputs, which includes airborne particles from chicken waste and slurry. This is very concerning during an ongoing respiratory pandemic. Site access is via minor roads which are unlikely to support the exponential increase in IPU traffic and is a danger to local residents. Farm traffic on the proposed access road goes un-policed and is already a danger to locals in and out of vehicles, with a number of near-misses recorded by residents. Removal of woodland from the same farmer on a neighbouring site has contributed to poor drainage and the IPU would exacerbate the already poor drainage on the site, putting surrounding agricultural land and property at risk from flooding.

I would ask my objection is noted and urge planning committee to consider reviews outside Angus and recommend conduction of extensive environmental impact studies

Email to: [planning@angus.gov.uk](mailto:planning@angus.gov.uk)

FAO Ruari Kelly. Case officer Angus council.

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- Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.
- Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all the above.

With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today's children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture.

**The climate crisis is here but the greatest impacts of it will be felt by our own children. Biodiversity is being lost, environments destroyed, soil quality diminishing. Pandemics are already a threat and antibiotic resistance is growing.**

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** FAO Ruari Kelly. Case officer Angus council.  
**Date:** 10 June 2021 23:57:13

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Objection to:

21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.

Dear Mr Kelly and the Planning Committee.

**I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.**

**Please accept my objection to the above planning application.**

There just can't be a good reason to approve this planning application. It's not good for the area and the local environment, it's not good for the people who live nearby, and it will not be good for the chickens. My reasons are as follows:

### **HUMAN HEALTH:**

#### **PANDEMICS**

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a2.htm>

Since November 2020 we have had 25 outbreaks of Avian Flu in the UK.

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Some of these have been outbreaks in Scotland itself :

[Avian influenza \(bird flu\): how to spot and report the disease - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

On 18 February 2021, the National IHR Focal Point for the Russian Federation notified WHO of detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven **human** clinical specimens. These are the first reported detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in **humans**.

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If we just look at the past 100 years of influenza pandemics, epidemics, and control strategies then the question must be whether another pandemic like the 1918 Spanish influenza, with such a deadly and disruptive impact on society killing 50 million people, is possible?

The answer is yes: it is not only possible, but it is just a matter of time.

It is important to note that there are concerns from many people in the UK of another impending pandemic of which a factory farm could well become the cause with their overcrowding and unhygienic conditions. Why on earth would a planning application for another Intensive factory farm even be considered at this time?

It is a massive risk to consider introducing an industrial chicken farm on such an enormous scale, **64000** birds, with high population densities and genetically

homogenous birds. Given the known propensity for low pathogenic viral strains to mutate into high pathogenic strains amongst poultry flocks, and potential to become more easily transmissible to other mammals, it is not scaremongering to treat this development as an ongoing risk to human health.

It is noteworthy that the H5 group of highly pathogenic influenza viruses were never reported in humans before the mid-1990s; now they are found in humans in several countries every year.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said "... authorities have a responsibility for controlling zoonoses – diseases transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water and the environment. An estimated 75% of emerging pathogens are of zoonotic nature".

Scientists estimate "that more than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>)

Please consider this list of UK Government zoonotic diseases. It is a long and frightening list.

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To exemplify this further, listed UK diseases linked to just chickens (there are similar lists for other farmed species) include:

- [if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Avian Flu (Animal influenza)
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“Farm animals consume one-third of all antibiotics in the UK and it is intensive farming systems that use drugs at unnecessarily high levels, putting human health at risk.”

“The routine use of antibiotics in intensive farming systems is driving this problem. Drugs are given to animals as a preventative measure - before they show signs of illness - to compensate for animals being housed in cramped, unsanitary conditions where infections spread fast. Intensively reared pigs and poultry account for 79 % of UK farming antibiotic use”

Looking holistically, what is more important, planning rules, another factory farm or people dying?

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The short-term benefits of employment and meat production are outweighed by the environmental impact that it will have on the local area which is already facing a climate emergency. What we eat has a huge impact on the environment and has potential to cause disease and pandemics so applications should be considered in line with our broader responsibilities to protect future generations.

Furthermore, the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area.

To quote DEFRA 2007 - “The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N<sub>2</sub>O. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub>, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production.”

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If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units still being approved when the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets?

“Ammonia and nitrogen pollution, mostly from agriculture, is harming more than 60% of the UK’s land area and affecting the most sensitive habitats, according to a DEFRA report. Ammonia pollution also effects species composition through soil acidification, direct toxic damage to leaves and by altering the susceptibility of plants to frost, drought and pathogens. At its most serious, certain sensitive and iconic habitats may be lost” (<https://www.endsreport.com/article/1588258/ammonia-pollution-harming-60-uk-land-area>)

## **LOCAL IMPACT and SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

On the Angus Council Website there are various statements that the council has committed to which this type of development actively goes against, below are just a

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*We support the principle of sustainable development and are committed to improving the quality of life for present and future generations in Angus. By a process of integrating responses to environmental, social and economic issues the council will help to maximise human welfare while enhancing the environment in Angus.*

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*In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).*

Animal agriculture does not protect wildlife – quite the opposite – as this 2019 Defra report illustrates:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf)

“Biodiversity - Farming practices can have many impacts that can lead to a reduction in wildlife biodiversity (including loss of habitats and food sources). The UK farmland bird index, an indicator of the state of wildlife generally, has fallen to less than half its 1970 value”.

According to Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - since humans

became farmers, just 17% of wild mammal species remain (from mice to elephants).

As the site is relatively close to a number of residential properties this development can only have an increased negative effect on the local residents, in particular noise, odour, pollution and disease.

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

## **GLOBAL HUNGER**

The impact of factory farming also goes beyond the local environment to global food poverty and UK food insecurity. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations predicts that by 2050 world meat production will have almost [doubled](#) global warming, pollution, deforestation, land degradation, water scarcity and species extinction all increasing as a consequence.

850 million people go hungry every day. Animal agriculture uses 83% of farmland but only produces 18% of calories (Joseph Poore, Oxford University).

“We already produce enough to feed the world. It’s overconsumption – especially of animal protein by the global middle class, inequality, waste and inadequate production/distribution systems - that stands in the way of enough food for everyone and space for wildlife. To feed the world in a way our one planet can sustain, we need to consume and produce food differently”. (Worldwide Fund for Nature. Appetite for Destruction)

## **ANIMAL SUFFERING**

Another reason for my objection is that I do not feel this application for a factory farm represents current public opinion. In a recent survey 85% of the public were against Factory Farms.

In addition, Defra 2019 reported that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

Although the current animal welfare laws in the UK are slim I feel it is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life. Factory farms like these result in close confinement aggression and arguably completely prevent any sense of normal behaviour as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside ‘ranging’ during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ISh7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dlbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>



Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute 'free-range'.

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really right for this community?

## **SUMMARY**

The future looks grim.

- More pandemics.
- A climate raging out of control.
- Environmental damage.
- Biodiversity loss.
- Global food poverty and UK food insecurity.
- Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.
- Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all the above.

With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today's children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture.

**The climate crisis is here but the greatest impacts of it will be felt by our own children. Biodiversity is being lost, environments destroyed, soil quality diminishing. Pandemics are already a threat and antibiotic resistance is growing.**

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours sincerely  
Beattie Slavin

# Comments for Planning Application 21/00337/FULM

## Application Summary

Application Number: 21/00337/FULM

Address: Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm Cononsyth Arbroath

Proposal: Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping

Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Miss Cass Briscoe

Address: 110H Deptford High Street London SE8 4NS

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I object to this on the grounds that it's cruel and barely "free range".

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Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Mrs Corrine Napier

Address: Braccadale The Square Meigle PH12 8RN

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I object to the proposal to erect 2 32,000 chicken sheds as they will have a negative impact on the local environment and residents.

Direct air pollution from the sheds themselves along with increased traffic and development of road networks will destroy habitats and ecosystems.

The effect of increased volume and size of traffic will be detrimental to the peaceful environment where residents have chosen to live.

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Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Mr Daniel James

Address: 1 Heyford Avenue South Merton SW209JT

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: Building far too near residential housing with the amount of noise and pollution that it will cause.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds  
**Date:** 10 June 2021 21:29:57

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Objection to:

21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.

Dear Ruari and the Planning Committee.

Please reconsider this horrendous proposal to build a hellhole for animals. You do not want this on your doorstep.

In the UK we should be making improvements to animal welfare. Not building sheds that cram in 32,000 innocent animals. This is an absolute disgrace and if you go ahead with this, you should be very ashamed.

**I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.**

**Please accept my objection to the above planning application.**

My reasons are as follows:

### **HUMAN HEALTH:**

### **PANDEMICS**

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu.

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It is important to note that there are concerns from many people in the UK of another impending pandemic of which a factory farm could well become the cause with their overcrowding and unhygienic conditions. Why on earth would a planning application for another Intensive factory farm even be considered at this time?

It is a massive risk to consider introducing an industrial chicken farm on such an enormous scale, **64000** birds, with high population densities and genetically homogenous birds. Given the known propensity for low pathogenic viral strains to mutate into high pathogenic strains amongst poultry flocks, and potential to become more easily transmissible to other mammals, it is not scaremongering to treat this development as an ongoing risk to human health.

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Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside 'ranging' during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ISh7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dlbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>

Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute 'free-range'.

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really right for this community?

## **SUMMARY**

The future looks grim.

- More pandemics.
- A climate raging out of control.

Environmental damage.

- Biodiversity loss.
- Global food poverty and UK food insecurity.
- Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.
- Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all the above.

With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today's children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture.

**The climate crisis is here but the greatest impacts of it will be felt by our own children. Biodiversity is being lost, environments destroyed, soil quality diminishing. Pandemics are already a threat and antibiotic resistance is growing.**

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully

Darrell Sawczuk

# Comments for Planning Application 21/00337/FULM

## Application Summary

Application Number: 21/00337/FULM

Address: Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm Cononsyth Arbroath

Proposal: Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping

Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Mr David Stanley

Address: East Mains of Dumbarrow Forfar Dd8 2sr

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I would like to object to this planning application as this is not a suitable site for such a large development. Also the country lane leading to the site is not suitable for large vehicles and an increase in traffic would be dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders who use this lane.

# Comments for Planning Application 21/00337/FULM

## Application Summary

Application Number: 21/00337/FULM

Address: Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm Cononsyth Arbroath

Proposal: Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping

Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Mr G Heaton

Address: East Cotton of Gardyne Arbroath DD11 3RX

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I have three comments and a request:

1. I love the environment in which we are lucky enough to live and it fills me with an enormous sense of wellbeing. I fear the development and the associated impacts have the potential to change that and increase levels of anxiety in myself and others within our community.
2. Careful decision making is required in the world we now live in (during the pandemic and afterwards). In the past I was able to leave my home for a proportion of the day (go to work and arguably have some respite from potential sources of nuisance), that is no longer the case as I now work from home and this is unlikely to change given most organisations are now forward thinking and climate conscious.
3. Elements that may not be covered by a PPC Permit are of concern, e.g. odour from manure transport, storage and spreading. Given the grey areas that exist between waste exemptions and statutory nuisance, control of these aspects must be considered.

I would like to see the PPC application which I understood (communication from the applicant's consultant) would be submitted to SEPA and assessed in a timeframe concurrent with the planning application. I understand a cyber attack on SEPA is currently preventing public access to these documents, it would be helpful if you could direct me to where I can access the application to ensure I can pass any comments concerning environmental protection to the correct body. Perhaps it could be added to the planning application documents.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** Chickens and Coronaviruses  
**Date:** 09 June 2021 18:06:16

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Sir,

There is an undeniable and well-established link over decades, between coronaviruses and the intensive barn-rearing of chickens and poultry throughout the World.

We were warned long ago, that these viruses would become increasingly dangerous if we persisted in ignoring the lethal consequences of industrial farming.

We ignored this warning - and now we have Covid19 and all the mutations which are decimating the human population of this planet.

It is utter madness to continue promoting the continuation of factory farming.

Please do not permit this to take place in Angus now; you owe this to the people of the affected area - and all humanity.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Maher



# Comments for Planning Application 21/00337/FULM

## Application Summary

Application Number: 21/00337/FULM

Address: Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm Cononsyth Arbroath

Proposal: Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping

Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Mrs Jacqueline McKay

Address: 21 Seaforth Road DUNDEE DD5 1QG

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: MORE POULTRY FARMS ARE NOT NECESSARY. THEY ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY DISTRUCTIVE AND UNFRIENDLY. CHICKENS ARE SENTIENT BEINGS (QUOTE In nature, chickens form friendships and social hierarchies, recognize one another and develop a pecking order, love and care for their young, and enjoy dust-bathing, making nests, and roosting in trees. Chickens raised for meat and eggs are unable to engage in any of these activities.) ON POULTRY FARMS CHICKENS ARE KEPT IN CRUEL AND UNNATURAL CONDITIONS. (QUOTE - Antibiotics Lead to Drug-Resistant Bacteria, Human Illnesses - Factory farms simply cannot raise billions of animals per year without using drugs that allow the animals to survive cramped, filthy, and stressful conditions that would otherwise kill them. Millions of pounds of antibiotics are fed to chickens, who metabolize only about 20 percent of the drugs fed to them: The remaining 80 percent ends up in their feces.<sup>19</sup> The 3 trillion pounds of waste produced by factory-farmed animals every year is usually used to fertilize crops and subsequently ends up leaching into waterways-along with the drugs and bacteria that it contains) THIS ENDS UP IN THE HUMAN FOOD CHAIN.

ALSO, I AM CONCERNED THAT THESE UNITS ARE TAKING UP PRECIOUS AGRICULTURAL LAND IN ANGUS AND WILL CAUSE UNNECESSARY POLLUTION AND DISEASE. THEY WILL ALSO INCREASE TRAFFIC ON SMALL ROADS AND WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH OTHER FARMS AND GENERAL TRAFFIC.

THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SERIOUS OUTBREAKS OF COVID-19 AMONG STAFF ON POULTRY SHEDS IN ANGUS AND PERTHSHIRE WHICH IS A SERIOUS, VALID REASON FOR NO MORE POULTRY FARMS (QUOTE - Poultry immunity, health, and production are several factors that challenge the future growth of the poultry industry. Consumer confidence,

product quality and safety, types of products, and the emergence and re-emergence of diseases will continue to be major challenges to the current situation and the strategic future of the industry. Foodborne and zoonotic diseases are strictly linked with poultry.)

## Ruari Kelly

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**From:** James Barnes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 June 2021 18:02  
**To:** Ruari Kelly  
**Subject:** 21/00337/ FULM -Erection of free range hen sheds at North Mains of Cononsyth

To the Planning Officer concerned;

Dear Sir,

I OBJECT to the above planning application for the development and consequent permanent loss of prime agricultural land for the formation of a large scale industrial development for the rearing of chickens and the production of eggs. The proposed buildings are of a very substantial size and are both inappropriate and detrimental to the area and to neighbouring proprietors. If the development is permitted to go ahead there will inevitably be unacceptable levels of noise from both chickens and vehicles, the generation of toxic pollution on a large scale, the destruction of the immediate environment, and the release of worrying quantities of Carbon Dioxide in the construction and operation of the unit. Climate change is already producing a greater volume and density of rainfall leading to widespread flooding. The construction of this proposed development can only add to the existing significant level of risk without generating any benefit to the community in the form of employment creation nor any trickledown revenue for service providers such as local shops. I live in nearby Guthrie and often use the the very narrow and winding U467 road to access the B961 if I am driving towards Dundee. It is the U467 from which it is proposed that access is taken to the site. It is totally unsuitable for use by large or artic. vehicles. This gives rise to legitimate concerns for the safety of both the drivers of such vehicles and of other road users.

I respectfully submit that this application be rejected to ensure that the peace and amenity of the Angus countryside is preserved in good order for the benefit of future generations.

Yours Sincerely,

James Barnes,

Cotton of Guthrie Cottage,

Guthrie

DD8 2TL

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** PLANNING  
**Subject:** Objection letter  
**Date:** 10 June 2021 19:41:29

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FAO Ruari Kelly. Case officer Angus council.

Objection to:

21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.

Dear Ruari and the Planning Committee.

I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.

Please accept my objection to the above planning application.

My reasons are as follows:

HUMAN HEALTH:

PANDEMICS

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a2.htm>

Since November 2020 we have had 25 outbreaks of Avian Flu in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Some of these have been outbreaks in Scotland itself :

Avian influenza (bird flu): how to spot and report the disease - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

On 18 February 2021, the National IHR Focal Point for the Russian Federation notified WHO of detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven human clinical specimens. These are the first reported detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in humans.

<https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

If we just look at the past 100 years of influenza pandemics, epidemics, and control strategies then the question must be whether another pandemic like the 1918 Spanish influenza, with such a deadly and disruptive impact on society killing 50 million people, is possible?

The answer is yes: it is not only possible, but it is just a matter of time.

It is important to note that there are concerns from many people in the UK of another impending pandemic of which a factory farm could well become the cause with their overcrowding and unhygienic conditions. Why on earth would a planning application for another Intensive factory farm even be considered at this time?

It is a massive risk to consider introducing an industrial chicken farm on such an enormous scale, 64000 birds, with high population densities and genetically homogenous birds. Given the known propensity for low pathogenic viral strains to mutate into high pathogenic strains amongst poultry flocks, and potential to become more easily transmissible to other mammals, it is not scaremongering to treat this development as an ongoing risk to human health.

It is noteworthy that the H5 group of highly pathogenic influenza viruses were never reported in humans before the mid-1990s; now they are found in humans in several countries every year.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said "... authorities have a responsibility for controlling zoonoses – diseases transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water and the environment. An estimated 75% of emerging pathogens are of zoonotic nature".

Scientists estimate "that more than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>)

Please consider this list of UK Government zoonotic diseases. It is a long and frightening list.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-zoonotic-diseases/list-of-zoonotic-diseases>

To exemplify this further, listed UK diseases linked to just chickens (there are similar lists for other farmed species) include:

Avian Flu (Animal influenza)  
Campylobacteriosis  
Psittacosis  
Salmonellosis

## ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

THE WHO states "Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today." (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance>)

and "If no action is taken - warns the (UN Ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance) – drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty. Currently, at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 people who die from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. More and more common diseases, including respiratory tract infections, sexually transmitted infections and urinary tract infections, are untreatable; lifesaving medical procedures are becoming much riskier, and our food systems are increasingly precarious". (<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-04-2019-new-report-calls-for-urgent-action-to-avert-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>)

The WHO also state "Antibiotic resistance occurs naturally, but misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals is accelerating the process." ([www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance))

The Soil Association says ([www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/](http://www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/))

"Farm animals consume one-third of all antibiotics in the UK and it is intensive farming systems that use drugs at unnecessarily high levels, putting human health at risk."

"The routine use of antibiotics in intensive farming systems is driving this problem. Drugs are given to animals as a preventative measure - before they show signs of illness - to compensate for animals being housed in cramped, unsanitary conditions where infections spread fast. Intensively reared pigs and poultry account for 79 % of UK farming antibiotic use"

Looking holistically, what is more important, planning rules, another factory farm or people dying?

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The short-term benefits of employment and meat production are outweighed by the environmental impact that it will have on the local area which is already facing a climate emergency. What we eat has a huge impact on the environment and has potential to cause disease and pandemics so applications should be considered in line with our broader responsibilities to protect future generations.

Furthermore, the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area.

To quote DEFRA 2007 - "The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N2O. Nitrous oxide (N2O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO2 and ammonia (NH3), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH4, N2O and NH3, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production."

(<http://scienceresearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=14662>)

If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units still being approved when the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets?

"Ammonia and nitrogen pollution, mostly from agriculture, is harming more than 60% of the UK's land area and affecting the most sensitive habitats, according to a DEFRA report. Ammonia pollution also effects species composition through soil acidification, direct toxic damage to leaves and by altering the susceptibility of plants to frost, drought and pathogens. At its most serious, certain sensitive and iconic habitats may be lost"

(<https://www.endsreport.com/article/1588258/ammonia-pollution-harming-60-uk-land-area>)

## LOCAL IMPACT and SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

On the Angus Council Website there are various statements that the council has committed to which this type of development actively goes against, below are just a few excerpts:

We support the principle of sustainable development and are committed to improving the quality of life for present and future generations in Angus. By a process of integrating responses to environmental, social and economic issues the council will help to maximise human welfare while enhancing the environment in Angus.

We will seek to:

promote a sustainable approach to land and habitat management.

protect and enhance local biodiversity.

encourage a sustainable managed approach to public access to the natural environment.

We will seek to:

reduce local pollution of air, land, water and to reduce the incidence of noise and light pollution.

We will seek to:

conserve and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of Angus and the local characteristics of the towns and villages.

encourage design in new or regeneration developments which will improve access for the disabled and create an environment free from the fear of crime.

ensure that new developments are in line with sustainable development priorities in regard to location and design.

conserve and promote a network of greenspace within the built environment which links to the surrounding countryside through a footpath network.

The documented discussions from the Angus Council Development Standards Committee 15 Sept also mentions: In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).

Animal agriculture does not protect wildlife – quite the opposite – as this 2019 Defra report illustrates:

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf))

“Biodiversity - Farming practices can have many impacts that can lead to a reduction in wildlife biodiversity (including loss of habitats and food sources). The UK farmland bird index, an indicator of the state of wildlife generally, has fallen to less than half its 1970 value”.

According to Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - since humans became farmers, just 17% of wild mammal species remain (from mice to elephants).

As the site is relatively close to a number of residential properties this development can only have an increased negative effect on the local residents, in particular noise, odour, pollution and disease.

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

## GLOBAL HUNGER

The impact of factory farming also goes beyond the local environment to global food poverty and UK food insecurity. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations predicts that by 2050 world meat production will have almost doubled global warming, pollution, deforestation, land degradation, water scarcity and species extinction all increasing as a consequence.

850 million people go hungry every day. Animal agriculture uses 83% of farmland but only produces 18% of calories (Joseph Poore, Oxford University).

“We already produce enough to feed the world. It’s overconsumption – especially of animal protein by the global middle class, inequality, waste and inadequate production/distribution systems - that stands in the way of enough food for everyone and space for wildlife. To feed the world in a way our one planet can sustain, we need to consume and produce food differently”. (Worldwide Fund for Nature. Appetite for Destruction)

## ANIMAL SUFFERING

Another reason for my objection is that I do not feel this application for a factory farm represents current public opinion. In a recent survey 85% of the public were against Factory Farms.

In addition, Defra 2019 reported that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

Although the current animal welfare laws in the UK are slim I feel it is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life. Factory farms like these result in close confinement aggression and arguably completely prevent any sense of normal behaviour as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside ‘ranging’ during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7Ish7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dlbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>

Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute ‘free-range’.

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really right for this community?

## SUMMARY

The future looks grim.

More pandemics.

A climate raging out of control.

Environmental damage.

Biodiversity loss.

Global food poverty and UK food insecurity.

Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.

Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all the above.

With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today’s children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture.

The climate crisis is here but the greatest impacts of it will be felt by our own children. Biodiversity is being lost, environments destroyed, soil quality diminishing. Pandemics are already a threat and antibiotic resistance is growing.

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully

John cross

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to application 21/00337/FULM  
**Date:** 09 June 2021 14:54:29

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Dear Sirs

I unequivocally object to planning application 21/00337/FULM to erect two 32,000 capacity chicken sheds and outhouses on land west of north mains of Cononsyth farm Arbroath.

In light of the Pandemic the world is still trying to deal with transmitted from animals to humans and the request from the World Health Organisation to have all authorities take responsibility for controlling zoonoses it would be very unsafe to continue to allow such intensive factory farming practices such as this.

Chickens carry diseases. Already outbreaks of bird flu in this country. Chickens also carry Campylobacteriosis, Psittocosis and Salmonellosis.

A huge amount of antibiotics used as a preventative measure already in animals across the world is leading towards total antibiotic resistance to animals and human consumption of these animals effects humans too.

Over consumption of animal proteins has a huge impact on human health. Forest devastation due to clearing land to grow feed for animals for humans to eat. Antibiotic resistance. Factory farming contributes a huge amount to global warming . More deadly pandemics. And finally the unimaginable cruelty inflicted upon animals when killed and throughout their short lives.

The majority of British people are against animal cruelty and would far rather eat meat from animals who have been reared with the highest standards of welfare as opposed to eating foods that are diseased, pumped full of antibiotics and knowing they have lived and died so inhumanely. These chicken sheds planned for 32,000 chickens are in no way free range.

For all the reasons above, any further applications for animal factory farms must be rejected.

Judy Curnow

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



**Ref: Application Number: 21/00337/FULM**

Dear Planners

**I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.**

This email explains my reasons for objecting to the planning application 21/00337/FULM, which concerns:

*The erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping at:*

*Field 530m West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath*

I object to this application for many reasons and hope your planning team has the courage to do the right thing in rejecting it.

- Public Health
- Climate Change
- Your Commitment to Your Local Community
- A Dying Industry
- Cruel & Inhumane

### Public Health – A breeding ground for future pandemics

Factory farming causes zoonotic diseases, like the coronavirus Covid-19, which has resulted not only in a heartbreaking loss of life, but also a devastating blow to the local economy. Zoonotic diseases are transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water and the environment.

Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a2.htm>). And it will start in a facility like that proposed in this application. The UK has had 25 outbreaks of Avian Flu in only the few months since November 2020 (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>), and some of those have been in Scotland ([Avian influenza \(bird flu\): how to spot and report the disease - gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot) ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))).

On 18 February 2021, the National IHR Focal Point for the Russian Federation notified WHO of detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven human clinical specimens. These are the first reported detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in humans. (<https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>)

The next pandemic – even worse than Covid-19 – is around the corner. Governments – including local authorities – who ignore these risks are gambling on people's lives and livelihoods. It is incredible that a planning application for another intensive factory farm would even be considered at this time.

To consider introducing an industrial chicken farm on such an enormous scale – cramming 64,000 birds into severely crowded and unhygienic conditions – is reckless if not criminal. Given the known

propensity for low pathogenic viral strains to mutate into high pathogenic strains amongst poultry flocks, and their potential to become more easily transmissible to other mammals, it is not scaremongering to treat this development as an ongoing risk to human health.

It is noteworthy that the H5 group of highly pathogenic influenza viruses were never reported in humans before the mid-1990s; now they are found in humans in several countries every year.

To understand what other diseases have emerged in the UK from this kind of farming, please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-zoonotic-diseases/list-of-zoonotic-diseases>

Some of those linked only to chickens include:

- Avian Flu (Animal influenza)
- Campylobacteriosis
- Psittacosis
- Salmonellosis

An estimated 75% of emerging pathogens are of a zoonotic nature, according to the World Health Organization, which has challenged governments to take responsibility for stopping them.

### Antibiotic Resistance

Furthermore, the extreme use of antibiotics - over 73% of the world's antibiotics are used in animal agriculture as a preventative measure to enable them to be kept in unnatural conditions - is reducing our ability to fight infections.

This not only affects our resistance to the new infections we're creating, but also means that your children could be killed by something that is today as seemingly simple to treat as a UTI (cystitis).

*"Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today."* **World Health Organization** ([www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance))

*"Drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty. Currently, at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 people who die from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. More and more common diseases, including respiratory tract infections, sexually transmitted infections and urinary tract infections, are untreatable; lifesaving medical procedures are becoming much riskier, and our food systems are increasingly precarious".* **World Health Organization** (<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-04-2019-new-report-calls-for-urgent-action-to-avert-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>)

*"Farm animals consume one-third of all antibiotics in the UK and it is intensive farming systems that use drugs at unnecessarily high levels, putting human health at risk."* **United Nations Ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance**

*"The routine use of antibiotics in intensive farming systems is driving this problem. Drugs are given to animals as a preventative measure - before they show signs of illness - to*

*compensate for animals being housed in cramped, unsanitary conditions where infections spread fast. Intensively reared pigs and poultry account for 79 % of UK farming antibiotic use" Soil Association ([www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/](http://www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/))*

## Climate Change

We are in a climate emergency and have precious little time to turn it around. Our children are striking from school because their leaders don't care about their future. This is not a myth, so why are we still denying that we need to act decisively and immediately to combat climate change? A paperless office, some recycling and turning the lights off are not going to cut it and we need to get real on accepting changes to our lifestyles.

The short-term benefit of the minimal employment created by this proposal is outweighed by the environmental impact that it will have. What we eat has a huge impact on the environment, and you must consider applications in line with your broader responsibilities to protect future generations.

The Government sees local authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets, yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area.

*"The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of [greenhouse gases] and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N2O. Nitrous oxide (N2O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO2 and ammonia (NH3), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH4, N2O and NH3, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production." DEFRA 2007*

*(<http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=One&Completed=0&ProjectID=14662>)*

If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units still being considered when local authorities who are still not delivering on emission targets?

*"Ammonia and nitrogen pollution, mostly from agriculture, is harming more than 60% of the UK's land area and affecting the most sensitive habitats, according to a DEFRA report. Ammonia pollution also effects species composition through soil acidification, direct toxic damage to leaves and by altering the susceptibility of plants to frost, drought and pathogens. At its most serious, certain sensitive and iconic habitats may be lost"*

*<https://www.endsreport.com/article/1588258/ammonia-pollution-harming-60-uk-land-area>*

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations predicts that by 2050 world meat production will have almost doubled global warming, pollution, deforestation, land degradation, water scarcity and species extinction all increasing as a consequence.

*"Animal agriculture uses 83% of farmland but only produces 18% of calories," while 850 million people go hungry every day. Oxford University, Joseph Poore.*

*“We already produce enough to feed the world. It’s overconsumption – especially of animal protein by the global middle class, inequality, waste and inadequate production/distribution systems - that stands in the way of enough food for everyone and space for wildlife. To feed the world in a way our one planet can sustain, we need to consume and produce food differently”.* **Worldwide Fund for Nature:** Appetite for Destruction

## Your Commitment to Your Local Community

Angus Council states on its website that it *“supports the principle of sustainable development”*.

I urge you to honour your word, and remind you below of what this entails:

*“We support the principle of sustainable development and are committed to improving the quality of life for present and future generations in Angus. By a process of integrating responses to environmental, social and economic issues the council will help to maximise human welfare while enhancing the environment in Angus.*

*We will seek to:*

- *promote a sustainable approach to land and habitat management.*
- *protect and enhance local biodiversity.*
- *encourage a sustainable managed approach to public access to the natural environment.*

*We will seek to:*

- *reduce local pollution of air, land, water and to reduce the incidence of noise and light pollution.*

*We will seek to:*

- *conserve and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of Angus and the local characteristics of the towns and villages.*
- *encourage design in new or regeneration developments which will improve access for the disabled and create an environment free from the fear of crime.*
- *ensure that new developments are in line with sustainable development priorities in regard to location and design.*
- *conserve and promote a network of greenspace within the built environment which links to the surrounding countryside through a footpath network.”*

The documented discussions from the Angus Council Development Standards Committee 15 Sept also mentions:

*“In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).”*

Animal agriculture has a devastating impact on wildlife and the local environment.

*“Since humans became farmers, just 17% of wild mammal species remain - from mice to elephants.”* According to Proceedings of **the National Academy of Sciences**

*“Biodiversity - Farming practices can have many impacts that can lead to a reduction in wildlife biodiversity (including loss of habitats and food sources). The UK farmland bird index, an indicator of the state of wildlife generally, has fallen to less than half its 1970 value”.*

**DEFRA report 2019**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf)

*"Unfortunately farming is still one of the biggest sources of pollution incidents and farm slurry (a mix of animal excrement and water) causes more than 1 serious incident of pollution a week. In 2018, farming activities caused 77 serious incidences of pollution in our waterways..... we found that 95% of dairy farms failed to meet water protection standards".* **The Environment Agency**

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

Furthermore, its proximity to residential properties would mean a negative effect on the local residents, in particular from noise, odour, pollution and disease.

## A Dying Industry

Scientists, the IPCC, and United Nations, amongst many others are calling for a reduction in meat and dairy consumption by 2030, saying 2050 will be far too late, and the UK Climate Committee has just declared the need for a 40% reduction in meat urgently.

Intensive meat farming is a dying industry, it must be to ensure the survival of the planet. The purported economic benefit of such an application will benefit the applicant only, leaving a workforce again redundant and outdated, without skills for the future.

It is time for local authorities to show competent leadership in promoting future-proofed, sustainable industries.

Vegans and vegetarians are forecast to make up a quarter of the British population by 2025, and in 2021, plant-based product sales are expected to make up £658m.

The people of Scotland are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease.

For consumers who continue to eat meat, they are turning against factory farms like this. The general public is increasingly demanding more ethical food choices and favouring outdoor bred and organic products as well as plant-based diets.

Defra reported in 2019 that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was "very important" to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

## Cruel & Inhumane

The reason people are turning against factory farming is because intensive agriculture is horrifically cruel and inhumane. Images and footage taken by witnesses inside these farms are released on an increasingly regular basis to demonstrate that the practices employed therein amount to torturing animals, something which would be illegal on an individual level, if the treatment of just one animal was witnessed.

Apparently animal welfare is not a planning consideration, but you should know the truth about what is really being proposed for this site. A recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside 'ranging' during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside. **Animal Aid** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ISh7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dIbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>)

This is not an isolated incident, and farms which market themselves as Red Tractor or free range are consistently among those exposed. This is what is British "high standards" currently look like. Huge scale, vertical farms with many thousands of hens, are marketed as "free-range".

It is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to squalid, cramped conditions without daylight or room to move, where they are denied the opportunity to express their natural behaviours, like mud-bathing, spreading their wings, breathing fresh air and basking in the sunlight. Chickens have a strong sense of social structure – we know this and use in our own language the term "pecking order" to describe it. Kept in such close confinement as 32,000 birds per shed, they lose this order and experience close confinement aggression, often cannibalise each other, die underneath each other's feet, exhibit symptoms of extreme distress and are mutilated without anaesthetic, then brutally treated, including before and during being killed.

With 32,000 chickens in a shed, the health and welfare cannot possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. Whilst sadly this may not be a legal consideration for planners, it most certainly should be a moral one.

In summary, I STRONGLY OBJECT to this application and consider it to be the responsibility of this local authority TO REJECT an application that is unsustainable, unhygienic, unhealthy, disgustingly cruel, against your climate and biodiversity commitments and which will lead to unemployment in the near future.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all of the aforementioned problems.

Please make the right decision for the majority of your citizens, their children and all sentient beings, not just the one category of voters who benefits financially from ignoring all these risks.

Kind regards  
Julie Hayes  
27 Manvers St, Hull, HU5 2HH

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Objection letter  
**Date:** 10 June 2021 21:27:29

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FAO Ruari Kelly. Case officer Angus council.

Objection to:

21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.

Dear Ruari and the Planning Committee.

I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.

Please accept my objection to the above planning application.

My reasons are as follows:

HUMAN HEALTH:

PANDEMICS

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a2.htm>

Since November 2020 we have had 25 outbreaks of Avian Flu in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Some of these have been outbreaks in Scotland itself :

Avian influenza (bird flu): how to spot and report the disease - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

On 18 February 2021, the National IHR Focal Point for the Russian Federation notified WHO of detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven human clinical specimens. These are the first reported detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in humans.

<https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

If we just look at the past 100 years of influenza pandemics, epidemics, and control strategies then the question must be whether another pandemic like the 1918 Spanish influenza, with such a deadly and disruptive impact on society killing 50 million people, is possible?

The answer is yes: it is not only possible, but it is just a matter of time.

It is important to note that there are concerns from many people in the UK of another impending pandemic of which a factory farm could well become the cause with their overcrowding and unhygienic conditions. Why on earth would a planning application for another Intensive factory farm even be considered at this time?

It is a massive risk to consider introducing an industrial chicken farm on such an enormous scale, 64000 birds, with high population densities and genetically homogenous birds. Given the known propensity for low pathogenic viral strains to mutate into high pathogenic strains amongst poultry flocks, and potential to become more easily transmissible to other mammals, it is not scaremongering to treat this development as an ongoing risk to human health.

It is noteworthy that the H5 group of highly pathogenic influenza viruses were never reported in humans before the mid-1990s; now they are found in humans in several countries every year.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said "... authorities have a responsibility for controlling zoonoses – diseases transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water and the environment. An estimated 75% of emerging pathogens are of zoonotic nature".

Scientists estimate "that more than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>)

Please consider this list of UK Government zoonotic diseases. It is a long and frightening list.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-zoonotic-diseases/list-of-zoonotic-diseases>

To exemplify this further, listed UK diseases linked to just chickens (there are similar lists for other farmed

species) include:  
Avian Flu (Animal influenza)  
Campylobacteriosis  
Psittacosis  
Salmonellosis

## ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

THE WHO states "Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today." (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance>)

and "If no action is taken - warns the (UN Ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance) – drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty. Currently, at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 people who die from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. More and more common diseases, including respiratory tract infections, sexually transmitted infections and urinary tract infections, are untreatable; lifesaving medical procedures are becoming much riskier, and our food systems are increasingly precarious".

(<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-04-2019-new-report-calls-for-urgent-action-to-avert-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>)

The WHO also state "Antibiotic resistance occurs naturally, but misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals is accelerating the process." ([www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance))

The Soil Association says ([www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/](http://www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/))

"Farm animals consume one-third of all antibiotics in the UK and it is intensive farming systems that use drugs at unnecessarily high levels, putting human health at risk."

"The routine use of antibiotics in intensive farming systems is driving this problem. Drugs are given to animals as a preventative measure - before they show signs of illness - to compensate for animals being housed in cramped, unsanitary conditions where infections spread fast. Intensively reared pigs and poultry account for 79 % of UK farming antibiotic use"

Looking holistically, what is more important, planning rules, another factory farm or people dying?

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The short-term benefits of employment and meat production are outweighed by the environmental impact that it will have on the local area which is already facing a climate emergency. What we eat has a huge impact on the environment and has potential to cause disease and pandemics so applications should be considered in line with our broader responsibilities to protect future generations.

Furthermore, the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area.

To quote DEFRA 2007 - "The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N2O. Nitrous oxide (N2O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO2 and ammonia (NH3), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH4, N2O and NH3, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production."

(<http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=14662>)

If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units still being approved when the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets?

"Ammonia and nitrogen pollution, mostly from agriculture, is harming more than 60% of the UK's land area and affecting the most sensitive habitats, according to a DEFRA report. Ammonia pollution also effects species composition through soil acidification, direct toxic damage to leaves and by altering the susceptibility of plants to frost, drought and pathogens. At its most serious, certain sensitive and iconic habitats may be lost" (<https://www.endsreport.com/article/1588258/ammonia-pollution-harming-60-uk-land-area>)

## LOCAL IMPACT and SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION



On the Angus Council Website there are various statements that the council has committed to which this type of development actively goes against, below are just a few excerpts:

We support the principle of sustainable development and are committed to improving the quality of life for present and future generations in Angus. By a process of integrating responses to environmental, social and economic issues the council will help to maximise human welfare while enhancing the environment in Angus.

We will seek to:

promote a sustainable approach to land and habitat management.

protect and enhance local biodiversity.

encourage a sustainable managed approach to public access to the natural environment.

We will seek to:

reduce local pollution of air, land, water and to reduce the incidence of noise and light pollution.

We will seek to:

conserve and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of Angus and the local characteristics of the towns and villages.

encourage design in new or regeneration developments which will improve access for the disabled and create an environment free from the fear of crime.

ensure that new developments are in line with sustainable development priorities in regard to location and design.

conserve and promote a network of greenspace within the built environment which links to the surrounding countryside through a footpath network.

The documented discussions from the Angus Council Development Standards Committee 15 Sept also mentions:

In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).

Animal agriculture does not protect wildlife – quite the opposite – as this 2019 Defra report illustrates:

([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf))

“Biodiversity - Farming practices can have many impacts that can lead to a reduction in wildlife biodiversity (including loss of habitats and food sources). The UK farmland bird index, an indicator of the state of wildlife generally, has fallen to less than half its 1970 value”.

According to Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - since humans became farmers, just 17% of wild mammal species remain (from mice to elephants).

As the site is relatively close to a number of residential properties this development can only have an increased negative effect on the local residents, in particular noise, odour, pollution and disease.

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

## GLOBAL HUNGER

The impact of factory farming also goes beyond the local environment to global food poverty and UK food insecurity. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations predicts that by 2050 world meat production will have almost doubled global warming, pollution, deforestation, land degradation, water scarcity and species extinction all increasing as a consequence.

850 million people go hungry every day. Animal agriculture uses 83% of farmland but only produces 18% of calories (Joseph Poore, Oxford University).

“We already produce enough to feed the world. It’s overconsumption – especially of animal protein by the global middle class, inequality, waste and inadequate production/distribution systems - that stands in the way of enough food for everyone and space for wildlife. To feed the world in a way our one planet can sustain, we need to consume and produce food differently”. (Worldwide Fund for Nature. Appetite for Destruction)

## ANIMAL SUFFERING

Another reason for my objection is that I do not feel this application for a factory farm represents current public opinion. In a recent survey 85% of the public were against Factory Farms.

In addition, Defra 2019 reported that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

Although the current animal welfare laws in the UK are slim I feel it is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life. Factory farms like these result in close confinement aggression and arguably completely prevent any sense of normal behaviour as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside ‘ranging’ during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ISh7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dIbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>

Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute ‘free-range’.

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really right for this community?

#### SUMMARY

The future looks grim.

More pandemics.

A climate raging out of control.

Environmental damage.

Biodiversity loss.

Global food poverty and UK food insecurity.

Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.

Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all the above.

With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today’s children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture.

The climate crisis is here but the greatest impacts of it will be felt by our own children. Biodiversity is being lost, environments destroyed, soil quality diminishing. Pandemics are already a threat and antibiotic resistance is growing.

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully

Kayleigh Beresford

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** Planning Objection - FAO Ruairi Kelly  
**Date:** 09 June 2021 17:19:08

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Dear Mr Kelly and the Planning Committee.

Objection to:

21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.

I request that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.

Please accept my objection to the above planning application.

My reasons are as follows:

**Pandemics** -We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a2.htm> Since November 2020 we have had 25 outbreaks of Avian Flu in the UK. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Some of these have been outbreaks in Scotland itself : Avian influenza (bird flu): how to spot and report the disease - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) On 18 February 2021, the National IHR Focal Point for the Russian Federation notified WHO of detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven human clinical specimens. These are the first reported detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in humans.

<https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

**Environmental Impact** - The short-term benefits of employment and meat production are outweighed by the environmental impact that it will have on the local area which is already facing a climate emergency. What we eat has a huge impact on the environment and has potential to cause disease and pandemics so applications should be considered in line with our broader responsibilities to protect future generations. Furthermore, the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area.

To quote DEFRA 2007 - "The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N2O. Nitrous oxide (N2O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO2 and ammonia (NH3), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH4, N2O and NH3, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production."

(<http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?>

Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=14662)

If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units

still being approved when the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets?

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The documented discussions from the Angus Council Development Standards Committee 15 Sept also mentions:

In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).

As the site is relatively close to a number of residential properties this development can only have an increased negative effect on the local residents, in particular noise, odour, pollution and disease.

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

**Animal Suffering** - The main reason for my objection is that I do not feel this application for a factory farm represents current public opinion. In a recent survey 85% of the public were against Factory Farms. In addition, Defra 2019 reported that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards. I feel it is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life. Factory farms like these result in close confinement aggression and arguably completely prevent any sense of normal behaviour as

defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside 'ranging' during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ISh7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dIbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>



### Combwell egg farm operated by Fridays Ltd - YouTube

We investigated a Fridays unit at Combwell Farm to expose the terrible conditions at their so-called 'higher welfare free-range' farm. The footage shows hens...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute 'free-range'. Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

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With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today's children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture. The climate crisis is here but the greatest impacts of it will be felt by our own children. Biodiversity is being lost, environments destroyed, soil quality diminishing. Pandemics are already a threat and antibiotic resistance is growing.

**OBJECT** strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully,  
Kirsty John

## **Objection to the Planning Application 21/00337/FULM by Cononsyth Farms Ltd for 2 x chicken sheds to house 32,000 chickens in each shed.**

I would like to register my objection to the above application as a resident within the DD8 2SR.

### **Concerns regarding traffic**

Most of us within this postcode are either retired or work from home. Many of us own 2 cars or a car and motorbike and use the local roads at all times during the day. Since last year there has been a noticeable increase in traffic on the road from home delivery vans, cyclists and pedestrians which is already creating increased risk on the road.

- The vehicles servicing the sheds will most likely be tractors or heavy goods vehicles bringing feed, taking the eggs etc. The proposed access from the B961 into a single track road is completely unsuitable for tractors and heavy goods vehicles. It is barely wide enough to fit a tractor and there is a hidden ditch to at least one side which makes passing another vehicle practically impossible.
- Several metres of drystone dyke have already been removed from the entrance of the proposed site..

View of the road a few metres from the proposed site entrance to show how little room there is to pass another vehicle.



Hidden obstacles within the ditch close to the proposed site entrance



- As seen in Appendix 9.1 of the PAN, the turn into the single track road is metres away from a blind bend. Vehicles speed up to this bend either coming from Redford as it is all

downhill or on the straight stretch up from Helenston making it a dangerous place to either pull out onto the B961 or turn into the single track road. Any extra vehicles will only exacerbate this problem. Heavy goods vehicles coming from Redford have to stop 20 yards from the entrance to the B961, pull across the road to the wrong side at the blind bend to be able to turn into the single track lane and therefore access the proposed site. Access from the A932 Forfar to Friockheim road at Pitmuies gardens would necessitate driving over 2 humpbacked bridges which do not support heavy goods vehicles and there are already road signs there to advise of this.

### **Compliance with local development plan**

The proposed plans contravenes the Angus Local Development Plan (ALDP) (2016) which clearly states:

(Page 36) “The ALDP supports development opportunities throughout the rural area where the location, use, scale and nature are appropriate and would not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the environment. In many cases proposals will involve the re-use of existing buildings or will be developed because of a particular locational need or advantage.”

This proposal is not for re-use of a current building but will be completely new structures and sited away from Cononsyth Farm and making it closer to at least 4 houses.

### **Amenity/noise/nuisance and smell**

On page 13 of the ALDP it states:-

“The stewardship of natural resources is key to sustainable development and the ALDP has a role in avoiding over-development, protecting the amenity of new and existing development and considering the implications of development for air quality. There is also a need to safeguard the amenity of future occupiers, or existing properties near to development as well as the wider area. Where it is considered that development has an impact, appropriate mitigation or compensatory measures will be secured through conditions or planning obligations. Specific impacts relating to the water environment, geodiversity and minerals resource are covered by policies elsewhere within the Plan.”

- The air quality will be compromised for all of us within the DD8 2SR postcode as the smell of ammonia, bacteria and dust produced by 64,000 chickens will be spread by the wind to the wider community. This was apparent to us all recently when chicken manure was used on the fields after the harvest last year. The smell was so strong that we were forced indoors with all the windows closed. If you did venture out, you had to wear a face covering of some sort to try and make it easier to breathe.
- The manure produced by this amount of chickens will also need to be stored somewhere which will make this nuisance not just once a year event but a permanent one.
- Inevitably there will be an increased presence of flies, rats and other vermin attracted to the extra food within the sheds. They will affect the delicate biodiversity balance of the area.



- There will be added noise pollution which will affect us all from the fans sited both in the top and bottom of the chicken sheds and from the extra vehicles servicing the site delivering feed etc and taking the eggs/chickens on and off site.
- The proposals show that the sheds will be sited at the end of a small wood. This wood is home to a diverse variety of wildlife such as red squirrels, deer, rooks, woodpeckers, small amphibians etc. It is bounded by a line of ancient beech trees which will be at risk from the pollution of the chicken ammonia wash off into the drainage ditch which follows the line of the beech trees as seen below:-



- Approximately 80% of the residents within this postcode have either dogs or horses and daily exercise them around the local roads and fields. We will be at an increased risk from the extra traffic on very narrow roads, wind borne smells and pollutants and potential diseases.

### **Classification of arable land**

- This farmland has been used for arable crops for many, many years. Throughout the consultation process with COGEO there has not been an explanation of how this land has been re-classified as being unsuitable for crops.

### **SEPA report/drainage**

- The SEPA report is currently outstanding and I am therefore unable to comment on any findings. However, I walk the fields and lanes daily and I have seen that the field drains are all working and draining into ditches which then flow into Denton Burn and ultimately Lunan water. I am extremely concerned that the run off of the ammonia produced by the chickens will ultimately pollute these waterways and affect the local bio diversity of plants and animals that live in this area.

In summary, I would ask the Planning Committee to note my objection to the plans for the chicken sheds and urge you to consider peer reviews outside Angus and recommend  
conduction of extensive environmental impact studies.

Lesley Durham  
Denton Mill Cottage  
Forfar  
DD8 2SR

# Comments for Planning Application 21/00337/FULM

## Application Summary

Application Number: 21/00337/FULM

Address: Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm Cononsyth Arbroath

Proposal: Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping

Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Mrs Lorna McFarlane

Address: 25 Main Road Inverkeilor Arbroath DD11 5RN

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I own The Bungalow Fairfield Mains. I strongly object to the application due to effect of discharge of rain water adding to surface water flooding. The drainage ditches all join together at Fairfield Mains or as originally called The Ditch of Cononsyth for that very reason. Surface water flooding can take weeks to subside and all the additional water from the roofs, will make this much worse. Also adverse effect on quality of life for properties at Fairfield mains which are very close to this huge Industrial chicken shed and directly down wind.

The site is a lovely area to walk in with great views and this will be totally spoilt. Why is this Development not beside existing farm at South Mains of Cononsyth. Three separate areas of farm buildings for a single farm is surely not required. The new building will also require supervision and toilet facilities but foul water discharge not considered. Especially in dry months if the field drainage ditch run dry in the summer.

# Comments for Planning Application 21/00337/FULM

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Proposal: Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping

Case Officer: Ruari Kelly

## Customer Details

Name: Ms Morag Malcolm

Address: Summerhill House Guthrie Forfar DD8 2SR

## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I object to this planning proposal on the following grounds:

- 1) Building on prime agricultural land. Loss of a large area of prime agricultural prime agricultural land with no commitment to restoration.
  - 2) Reduced bio-diversity. Fencing around the site will block natural wide-life corridors, thereby adversely affecting the bio-diversity of the area.
  - 3) Pollution. Damage to people and the environment:
    - a) Air - chicken waste and dust and vehicles;
    - b) Water - run-off from the chicken sheds and range entering water courses and subsequently Lunan Water;
    - c) Noise - from the shed and transport;
    - d) Light - from security lighting and transport;
    - e) Odour - from waste.
  - 4) Access. The proposed access to the site would be via the recently constructed track very close to the southern end of our garden. Despite the applicant's attempts to obfuscate about creating an industrial complex in the countryside, it will inevitably involve much coming and going of large vehicles servicing the site. If any restrictions are imposed then we will end up having to police them by constantly having to complain to SEPA and the Council.
  - 5) Sustainability. The volume of chicken waste generated cannot possibly be accommodated on the fields owned locally by the applicant and will have to be transported elsewhere, causing even more pollution.
  - 6) Loss of amenity. We spend much time in our garden and hope to continue to do so without detriment to our physical and mental health.
- Site selection. A number of my objections could be alleviated by siting the sheds near the

applicant's existing industrial buildings for example Bio-mass plant, and consequently using the access points already in use onto the B961. This would be much safer and it is difficult to see why this hasn't already been considered as a more convenient arrangement.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** For Attention Of - Ruari Kelly (Case officer)  
**Date:** 09 June 2021 16:53:30

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21/00337/FULM

I would like to register my objection to the above application.

Firstly, I find it extraordinary that at a time when the world is focussed on the dangers of animal farming (ie regarding the current pandemic) such a thing should be contemplated.

There is also the environmental damage these facilities bring with them (pollution of water and other toxic damage).

Then there is the problem of antibiotic resistance which I hope you are fully aware of.

Please do not allow this facility to proceed.

Regards

Dr Renata Bartoli  
6 Romney Drive  
Harrow  
Middx  
HA2 7EG

## Ruari Kelly

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**From:** Samantha Batty [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 June 2021 19:47  
**To:** Ruari Kelly  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposal of Application Reference 21/00337/FULM

I wish to register my objection to the above planning application on the following grounds:

### Impact on traffic and road safety

The access to the proposed site is along a single track road off the B961 which runs to Pitmuies Gardens and joins the A932. This road has very few passing places and has 2 weight restricted hump back bridges and is generally unsuitable for HGV. The road is used by residents at all times throughout the day as well as farm vehicles and there are numerous occasions where I have had to reverse substantial distances to allow vehicles to pass. I am also aware of at least one incident where a passenger vehicle was 'written off' after collision with a Combine Harvester. Over the past 6 months there has been a significant increase in traffic using the road with delivery vans, cyclists and pedestrians increasing in number. In addition, during winter months and inclement weather the road is untreated and often treacherous, frequently icy and occasionally blocked with snow and unpassable.

The access to this road, as previously stated, is from the B961 on an almost 90 degree blind bend which is approached in both directions by roads which are long and straight where vehicles build up significant speeds. HGV lorries turning into the road from the B961 have to swing into the opposite carriageway to negotiate the tight entry and this has significant potential to add to the risk on this hazardous road. Numerous accidents have occurred on this blind bend.

### Noise pollution and disturbance to local residents

Residents local to this proposed development will be exposed to visual intrusion, the noise of fans, traffic and all the activities associated with the Chicken Sheds, including but not limited to delivery of feed, transportation of produce away from the development, noisy fans etc not to mention emissions of poultry dust (hazardous to health, according to the Health and Safety Executive), ammonia, smells and flies. The development will also drastically change the landscape as the proposal is to build in open fields, not adjacent to or even near to any existing farm buildings.

### Environmental pollution, such as ammonia released by decomposing manure

Bioaerosols (micro-organisms) and dust will be expelled into the air whenever the sheds are emptied into HGVs, odour from the sheds will be troublesome to a large number of properties out with the 1km area directly affecting individuals and businesses.

Bioaerosols (micro-organisms) and dust from the air will also be expelled into the air by high speed fans and distributed over the surrounding area. As mentioned above emissions of poultry dust are hazardous to health.

The polluting effects of the 'dirty' water used to clean out the poultry sheds should also be considered specifically run off into Denton Burn but also the impact on localised flooding. I believe that the area of proposed development is in a nitrate vulnerable zone? I have also noticed that the farmer wishing to develop this site has already commenced some preparation work, for example removing an approximately 15 metre section of dry stone wall and creating a large opening into the field where there was no access previously.

I appreciate that farming is a key industry in Angus however I feel that the proposed location of this very large development will impact detrimentally on a significant number of residents within the immediate and wider area as well as on the local environment.

Yours sincerely

Samantha Batty  
Denton Mill Cottage  
Forfar  
DD8 2SR



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** FAO Ruari Kelly, case officer  
**Date:** 09 June 2021 18:31:34

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**Objection to:**

**21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.**

Dear Ruari and the Planning Committee.

I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.

Please accept my objection to the above planning application.

My reasons are as follows:

**HUMAN HEALTH:**

1. PANDEMICS

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6635a2.htm>

Since November 2020 we have had 25 outbreaks of Avian Flu in the UK. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Some of these have been outbreaks in Scotland itself : Avian influenza (bird flu): how to spot and report the disease - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))

On 18 February 2021, the National IHR Focal Point for the Russian Federation notified WHO of detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in seven human clinical specimens. These are the first reported detection of avian influenza A(H5N8) in humans.

<https://www.who.int/csr/don/26-feb-2021-influenza-a-russian-federation/en/>

If we just look at the past 100 years of influenza pandemics, epidemics, and control strategies then the question must be whether another pandemic like the 1918 Spanish influenza, with such a deadly and disruptive impact on society killing 50 million people, is possible?

The answer is yes: it is not only possible, but it is just a matter of time.

It is important to note that there are concerns from many people in the UK of another impending pandemic of which a factory farm could well become the cause with their overcrowding and unhygienic conditions. Why on earth would a planning application for another Intensive factory farm even be considered at this time?

It is a massive risk to consider introducing an industrial chicken farm on such an enormous scale, 64000 birds, with high population densities and genetically homogenous birds. Given the known propensity for low pathogenic viral strains to mutate into high pathogenic strains amongst poultry flocks, and potential to become more easily transmissible to other mammals, it is not scaremongering to treat this development as an ongoing risk to human health.

It is noteworthy that the H5 group of highly pathogenic influenza viruses were never reported in humans before the mid-1990s; now they are found in humans in several countries every year.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said "... authorities have a responsibility for controlling zoonoses – diseases transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water and the environment. An estimated 75% of emerging pathogens are of zoonotic nature".

Scientists estimate "that more than 6 out of every 10 known infectious diseases in people can be spread from animals" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/onehealth/basics/zoonotic-diseases.html>)

Please consider this list of UK Government zoonotic diseases. It is a long and frightening list.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-zoonotic-diseases/list-of-zoonotic-diseases>

To exemplify this further, listed UK diseases linked to just chickens (there are similar lists for other farmed species) include:

- Avian Flu (Animal influenza)
- Campylobacteriosis
- Psittacosis

· Salmonellosis

## 2. ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

THE WHO states "Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today." (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance>) and "If no action is taken - warns the (UN Ad hoc Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance) – drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty. Currently, at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 people who die from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. More and more common diseases, including respiratory tract infections, sexually transmitted infections and urinary tract infections, are untreatable; lifesaving medical procedures are becoming much riskier, and our food systems are increasingly precarious". (<https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-04-2019-new-report-calls-for-urgent-action-to-avert-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>)

The WHO also state "Antibiotic resistance occurs naturally, but misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals is accelerating the process." ([www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance](http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance))

The Soil Association says ([www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/](http://www.soilassociation.org/reducing-antibiotics-in-farming/))

"Farm animals consume one-third of all antibiotics in the UK and it is intensive farming systems that use drugs at unnecessarily high levels, putting human health at risk."

"The routine use of antibiotics in intensive farming systems is driving this problem. Drugs are given to animals as a preventative measure - before they show signs of illness - to compensate for animals being housed in cramped, unsanitary conditions where infections spread fast. Intensively reared pigs and poultry account for 79 % of UK farming antibiotic use"

Looking holistically, what is more important, planning rules, another factory farm or people dying?

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

The short-term benefits of employment and meat production are outweighed by the environmental impact that it will have on the local area which is already facing a climate emergency. What we eat has a huge impact on the environment and has potential to cause disease and pandemics so applications should be considered in line with our broader responsibilities to protect future generations.

Furthermore, the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area. To quote DEFRA 2007 - "The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N2O. Nitrous oxide (N2O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO2 and ammonia (NH3), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH4, N2O and NH3, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production." (<http://scienceresearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=14662>)

Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=14662)

If the science was clear in 2007, why are planning applications for intensive livestock units still being approved when the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO2 emission targets?

"Ammonia and nitrogen pollution, mostly from agriculture, is harming more than 60% of the UK's land area and affecting the most sensitive habitats, according to a DEFRA report. Ammonia pollution also effects species composition through soil acidification, direct toxic damage to leaves and by altering the susceptibility of plants to frost, drought and pathogens. At its most serious, certain sensitive and iconic habitats may be lost"

(<https://www.endsreport.com/article/1588258/ammonia-pollution-harming-60-uk-land-area>).

### **LOCAL IMPACT and SITE-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

On the Angus Council Website, there are various statements that the council has committed to which this type of development actively goes against, below are just a few excerpts:

We support the principle of sustainable development and are committed to improving the quality of life for present and future generations in Angus. By a process of integrating responses to environmental, social and economic issues the council will help to maximise human welfare while enhancing the environment in Angus.

We will seek to:

- promote a sustainable approach to land and habitat management.
- protect and enhance local biodiversity.
- encourage a sustainable managed approach to public access to the natural environment.

We will seek to:

- reduce local pollution of air, land, water and reduce the incidence of noise and light pollution.

We will seek to:

- conserve and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of Angus and the local characteristics of the towns and villages.
- encourage design in new or regeneration developments which will improve access for the disabled and create an environment free from the fear of crime.
- ensure that new developments are in line with sustainable development priorities in regard to location and design.
- conserve and promote a network of greenspace within the built environment which links to the surrounding countryside through a footpath network.

The documented discussions from the Angus Council Development Standards Committee 15 Sept also mentions: In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).

Animal agriculture does not protect wildlife – quite the opposite – as this 2019 Defra report illustrates: ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/834432/evidence-compendium-26sep19.pdf))

“Biodiversity - Farming practices can have many impacts that can lead to a reduction in wildlife biodiversity (including loss of habitats and food sources). The UK farmland bird index, an indicator of the state of wildlife generally, has fallen to less than half its 1970 value”.

According to Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - since humans became farmers, just 17% of wild mammal species remain (from mice to elephants).

As the site is relatively close to a number of residential properties this development can only have an increased negative effect on the local residents, in particular noise, odour, pollution and disease.

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

## **GLOBAL HUNGER**

The impact of factory farming also goes beyond the local environment to global food poverty and UK food insecurity. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations predicts that by 2050 world meat production will have almost doubled global warming, pollution, deforestation, land degradation, water scarcity and species extinction all increasing as a consequence.

850 million people go hungry every day. Animal agriculture uses 83% of farmland but only produces 18% of calories (Joseph Poore, Oxford University).

“We already produce enough to feed the world. It’s overconsumption – especially of animal protein by the global middle class, inequality, waste and inadequate production/distribution systems - that stands in the way of enough food for everyone and space for wildlife. To feed the world in a way our one planet can sustain, we need to consume and produce food differently”. (Worldwide Fund for Nature. Appetite for Destruction)

## **ANIMAL SUFFERING**

Another reason for my objection is that I do not feel this application for a factory farm represents current public opinion. In a recent survey 85% of the public were against Factory Farms.

In addition, Defra 2019 reported that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

Although the current animal welfare laws in the UK are slim I feel it is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life. Factory farms like these result in close confinement aggression and arguably completely prevent any sense of normal behaviour as defined in the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed

hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. Conditions were extremely dirty with heavy dust and faeces accumulating. A very small percentage of the birds were outside 'ranging' during the daytime, this may be attributed to crowding and social hierarchy which prevents birds accessing pop holes. Some hens may never range outside. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7lSh7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dlbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>

Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute 'free-range'.

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one. Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really right for this community?

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really right for this community?

### **SUMMARY**

The future looks grim.

- More pandemics.
- A climate raging out of control.
- Environmental damage.
- Biodiversity loss.
- Global food poverty and UK food insecurity.
- Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.
- Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of all the above.

With this in mind, I write to ask you to protect today's children, from serious problems that will dominate their future if we do not act now. Not just pandemics but the climate crisis, environmental problems, antibiotic resistance..... it paints a horrifying picture.

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully, Tejapushpa Entwistle

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PLANNING](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to:21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds  
**Date:** 09 June 2021 23:28:53

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FAO Ruari Kelly. Case officer Angus council.

Objection to:

21/00337/FULM | Erection of two 32,000 capacity free-range hen sheds and associated infrastructure including feed silos, egg packing facility, vehicular access, access tracks, drainage and landscaping | Field 530M West Of North Mains Of Cononsyth Farm, Cononsyth, Arbroath.

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**I ask that a copy of this letter is made available to the whole Committee delegated the task of assessing this application.**

**Please accept my objection to the above planning application.**

My reasons are as follows:

We are in the middle of a pandemic that is killing people. Scientists have predicted that the next pandemic will start as an Avian Flu. Since November 2020 we have had 25 outbreaks of Avian Flu in the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

Many people in the UK fear another pandemic and factory farming could well become the cause with their overcrowding and unhygienic conditions. Why on earth would a planning application for another Intensive factory farm even be considered at this time?

### **ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

THE WHO states "Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today." (<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/antibiotic-resistance>)

drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050. By 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty. Currently, at least 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 230,000 people who die from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. More and more common diseases, including respiratory tract infections, sexually transmitted infections and urinary tract infections, are untreatable; lifesaving medical procedures are becoming much riskier, and our food systems are increasingly precarious".

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

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Furthermore, the Government sees Local Authorities as central to delivering its CO<sub>2</sub> emission targets yet more and more intensive farming applications are going through planning departments across the UK. It is important to recognise the significant impact just one factory farm will have on the pollution and environment of the local area.

To quote DEFRA 2007 - “The production of food from animal agriculture is a significant source of emissions in the UK, especially the production of GHGs and pollution of water sources. For pigs and poultry, the main pollutants are ammonia and N<sub>2</sub>O. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO<sub>2</sub> and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), contributes significantly to acidification of rain and soils. The agriculture sector accounts for around 37%, 66% and 88% of total UK emissions of CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and NH<sub>3</sub>, respectively (NAEI, 2007), nearly all of which is derived from livestock production.”

<http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=14662>

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*We will seek to:*

- *reduce local pollution of air, land, water and to reduce the incidence of noise and light pollution.*

The documented discussions from the Angus Council Development Standards Committee 15 Sept also mentions:

*In this case the proposed development would involve the loss of prime agricultural land (Policy PV20); it would introduce a use that could generate odour and noise in proximity to existing residential uses (Policy DS4); it would have impacts on the landscape (Policy PV6) and it is located in an area where SEPA flood maps indicate there is a flood risk (Policy PV12 and 15).*

As the site is relatively close to a number of residential properties this development can only have an increased negative effect on the local residents, in particular noise, odour, pollution and disease.

A chicken farm of this size will produce enormous amounts of faecal matter, much of which could be deposited on the outdoor ranging areas and from there into the local watercourses and river habitats.

## **ANIMAL SUFFERING**

Another reason for my objection is that I do not feel this application for a factory farm represents current public opinion. In a recent survey 85% of the public were against Factory Farms.

In addition, Defra 2019 reported that a survey showed that 78% of people felt it was “very important” to protect the welfare of farmed animals and that 82% said farmers should be rewarded for offering animals higher welfare standards.

Although the current animal welfare laws in the UK are slim I feel it is morally wrong to subject sentient animals capable of fear and misery to overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, large scale antibiotic use, mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

Whilst I appreciate that animal welfare is not a planning consideration, I would like to draw your attention to the recent Animal Aid investigation into another unit where the group exposed some terrible conditions. Footage showed hens with extensive feather loss, injured birds and several dead and decomposing birds left among the living. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7ISh7cMOXA&list=UUQU-2dlbbNDhtW7rHr3RG2g>

Two sheds are proposed for the purpose of accommodating 32,000 laying hens each, totalling 64,000 hen capacity at the site. In light of this, we really must question whether the health and welfare of an even larger population of birds can possibly be effectively monitored generally or safeguarded in an emergency situation. And more widely question whether such huge scale, vertical farming with many thousands of hens, can really constitute ‘free-range’.

Whilst sadly not a legal consideration it most certainly should be a moral one.

Plant based diets are gaining favour with the public as people of this country are recognising that they have been eating diets that are poor for their health and the links meat consumption has to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Vegans and vegetarians look set to make up a quarter of the UK population in 2025 and with vegetarian and vegan product sales expected to increase to £658m by 2021 it begs the question is another factory farm really needed?

## **SUMMARY**

The science is clear. Factory farming of animals is a leading cause of:-

- More pandemics.
- A climate raging out of control.

- Environmental damage.
- Antibiotic resistance - antibiotics used to keep animals in cramped, unhygienic conditions alive until slaughter.
- Animal mutilations without anaesthetic and no chance of a normal life.

I OBJECT strongly to this application on the above grounds.

Yours faithfully

Tony Pullen



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