



Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen  
Leader of the Council  
Breckland District Council  
Elizabeth House  
Walpole Loke  
Dereham  
NR19 1EE

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Sam,

**Ref: 3PL/2022/1300/F – Application for 8 poultry houses with associated admin blocks, feed bins and ancillary development (revised scheme) on land to the south side of Swangey Lane, Rocklands All Saints**

I am writing to highlight the widespread concerns and objections that have once again been raised by members of the local community with regards to the above application on land to the south side of Swangey Lane in Rocklands All Saints.

As you will recall, I wrote to you in relation to a prior application on the same site twelve months ago and, while I will not repeat all of the points that I included in that correspondence, I would like to draw your attention, and that of the Breckland Planning Committee, to those key points again this time around. (Please see a copy of my letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 enclosed).

To be clear, I am not against the principle of a new poultry farm in my Mid Norfolk constituency. Having spent much of my own childhood on my stepfather's farm, worked for the NFU and been the MP for our largely rural area for almost thirteen years, I know the vital importance of our local farming sector and have been one of its biggest advocates and supporters. It plays a crucial part in our local economy, providing many jobs and producing food that we all rely on, and I have been working closely with figures across our local farming community, including those in the poultry sector, on a variety of issues in recent months – from the current bird flu crisis to the challenges posed by labour shortages.

It is my understanding that the applicants are a three generation farming family looking to diversify, and that the proposed site would provide additional employment. I believe that the poultry farmed is intended to go to Cranswick County Foods' processing factory at Eye too.

Unfortunately, on this occasion however, it appears that this new, revised application is not fundamentally different to that proposed a year ago and, having read all of the letters and emails that I've received from constituents over the past two to three weeks, as well as all of the submissions already logged on the Breckland Planning portal, it is clear that there is widespread and continued concern at all levels of our local community.

The concerns around the application site's location and on highways are as pertinent now as they were previously, and I am very aware of the continued local concerns around the environmental impacts and possible pollution that a facility of this size, in this location, could generate. On biosecurity, the bird flu concerns raised twelve months ago are even more relevant given the worsening crisis we have seen in the period since.

**Constituency Office**  
8 Damgate Street, Wymondham, NR18 0BQ



**George Freeman MP**  
Member of Parliament for Mid Norfolk  
House of Commons, London SW1A  
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I must therefore place on record my belief that this proposal should be refused – for all those reasons highlighted in my submission this time last year. I share the community’s belief that this application is unsustainable, inappropriate and out of keeping with the surrounding area.

Back in January 2022, I drew attention to my suspicion that had the applicants proactively engaged locally then they may have been able to find a compromise solution that could have avoided much of the opposition being encountered. I would encourage the applicants to go away again, listen, engage with local councillors, nearby parish councils and the community, show that they have taken onboard the concerns being raised and, should they wish to pursue this again, present a set of proposals that the majority of the community can proudly support as a fine example of local farming progress – whether it be at this site or another nearby.

Yours,

George Freeman MP

**Constituency Office**

8 Damgate Street, Wymondham, NR18 0BQ