



Date: Tuesday, 14 May 2024

Time: 2.00 pm

Venue: Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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NORTHERN PLANNING COMMITTEE

SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL LETTERS

NOTE: This schedule reports only additional letters received before 5pm on the day before committee. Any items received on the day of Committee will be reported verbally to the meeting

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Agenda Item 8

NORTH PLANNING COMMITTEE		
SCHEDULE OF ADDITIONAL LETTERS		
Date: 14th May 2024		
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Item No.	Application No.	Originator:
6	17/05151/EIA North Farm	Public representation
<p>Public comment: Natural England have not been re-consulted, as required under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015.</p> <p><i>Planning Officer response:</i> <i>Natural England were consulted on this application on 10/11/17, 27/4/21, 25/4/22, 21/9/23 and 10/11/23. Their response to the 27/4/21 consultation is included in the committee report. No response was received to the other consultations.</i></p>		
Item No.	Application No.	Originator:
6	17/05151/EIA North Farm	Public representation
<p>It has been extensively reported on in the press that intensive poultry farming within 5km of a river leads to pollution and severe impacts on biodiversity. This application is well within 5km of the Severn and the Perry. Pollution of the River Wye has been much in the news but a recent report from The Soil Association singled out the Severn as being equally at risk. We cannot keep granting permission for more and more intensive chicken farms in River catchment areas. Shropshire already has one of the highest number of poultry farms in the UK - is this what we want our county to be known for?</p>		
Item No.	Application No.	Originator:
6	17/05151/EIA North Farm	Public representation
<p>Summary (the full text is available on the planning register): The Council (officers and councillors) continue to hide behind the proposition that if the Environment Agency is happy to issue a permit for the site then everything must be alright and the EA will deal with any future problems. The EA's desk-based assessment is purely about the design and equipment proposed at the IPU and whether it meets current BAT standards. The Environment Agency have never refused a permit for an IPU in this region. It is your committee's job to decide whether this is an acceptable place for such a development and whether harm will be caused to other parts of the county and Shropshire residents due to the development. Many would view approving a new intensive poultry unit holding nearly a quarter of a million broilers, on a green field site within 400 yards of a large existing IPU as inappropriate.</p> <p>The applicants, and the planning officer, argue that sending all the manure from this site to an AD unit is sufficient to dismiss water pollution concerns. But there is just as much phosphate and nitrate in digestate as in poultry manure. So unless the Committee put some condition on the AD operator to ensure none of it is spread within the catchment then it will still be contributing to the nutrient problems in watercourses. Poultry manure has much higher levels of phosphate than other livestock manures. There is also the potential problem of operators exporting from the Severn catchment into the Wye catchment.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council has not given permission to any new IPUs in the Wye catchment since early 2021. In Powys the Welsh Government has paused all current applications in the Wye catchment. The lessons from the Wye are clear to see and there is every</p>		

probability that the same issues are well under way in the Severn catchment which, although much bigger, has many more IPUs (see accompanying map). I would suggest any responsible local authority which wanted to avoid falling into the problems experienced along the Wye would at least call a moratorium until it can be established as to whether the situation is as serious in the Severn or not. Instead, the Council doesn't appear to even know how many birds are raised in the county. DEFRA, the EA and APHA all have wildly different numbers for IPUs and birds they contain*.

The UK is 96% self-sufficient in poultry meat. At the last Committee meeting to decide upon an IPU one councillor asked: 'What is the public benefit?'. It seems the Council prioritises private profit over the cumulative impacts on the wildlife and people of Shropshire. It is irresponsible to keep granting permissions** without assessing the extent of the risks and impacts.

Numerous reports have now called for a halt to building new IPUs.

One of these compiled the evidence for levels of phosphorus in the Wye catchment and finally triggered action from local authorities and government agencies, as the role of the poultry industry was made clear. It would be helpful to commission a similar assessment for the Severn catchment or the county of Shropshire. An army of citizen scientists is mobilising across Shropshire to compile data through testing the rivers for phosphate, nitrate and biological pollution such as e-coli. We need to bring all the evidence together and form a collective view as to whether additional nutrients and manures can be accommodated within the catchment. There are more applications in the pipeline – at what point will you say enough?

Public interest and outrage about the impacts of IPUs on public health, the environment and climate change is growing. It is time for Shropshire Council to take action.