

Sibley, Sally

From: jeff@fenlandairfield.co.uk on behalf of FAC Secretary <secretary@fenlandairfield.co.uk>
Sent: 14 August 2025 14:24
To: _planningadvice
Cc: Chairman FAC
Subject: Objection to the proposed poultry farm near Fenland Airfield – Ref: H23-0313-25

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Dear Mr Mark Niland

I am writing as Chairman of Fenland Aero Club to register my strong objection to the proposed development of a poultry farm in close proximity to Fenland Airfield, less than 20 metres from the proposed site to our runway.

My primary concerns relate to the serious safety risks this project poses to aviation operations. Such a facility, by its nature, inevitably attracts large numbers of birds (wild birds seeking food). Increased bird activity in the vicinity of aircraft approach and departure paths significantly raises the risk of bird strikes – collisions between aircraft and birds – which can lead to severe accidents, endangering the lives of pilots, passengers, and people on the ground.

In addition, in the event of an engine failure during take-off or landing, the close presence of large buildings and structures associated with the poultry farm would greatly increase the risk of collision. Such an incident could result in a major aviation accident, with potentially tragic consequences for the crew, passengers, and individuals in or around the farm.

Furthermore, the installation of large extraction fans releasing air in the direction of the Runway 08 approach path poses another potential hazard. The air turbulence generated by these systems could adversely affect the stability of aircraft during critical final approach phases, particularly for light aircraft that operate at Fenland Airfield. Even minor disruptions to airflow can compromise flight safety during landing, especially in adverse weather or crosswind conditions.

Another important consideration is the environmental and community impact, particularly the increase in unpleasant odours from the poultry farm due to its close proximity to our clubhouse restaurant. This facility is regularly visited by members, guests, and event participants, and a decline in air quality would negatively affect visitor comfort and reduce the appeal of our venue, directly impacting attendance and revenue.

Fenland Airfield is an active aviation facility with up to 7000 movements a year, serving both training and private flights. The increased risk of bird strikes, the hazard of building collisions in emergency situations, the potential for airflow turbulence from extraction fans, and the odour nuisance represent clear conflicts with established aviation safety standards and the guidance issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regarding the minimisation of bird-attracting sources, obstacles, and environmental hazards near aerodromes.

For the above reasons, I respectfully urge the planning authority to reject the application for the poultry farm in the proposed location, and to consider alternative sites that do not pose a threat to aviation safety or the quality of life in the surrounding area.

Yours sincerely

Zbigniew Krasa
Chairman
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