

Online Comment

Application H23-0313-25
Location Land At Peartree Hill Road Whaplode Drove Spalding PE12 0SL
Proposal Provision of new poultry unit & associated works

Name Holbeach Parish Council - Full Council
Address Holbeach Parish Council Coubro Chambers, 11 West End Holbeach
PE12 7NH

Date Submitted 05-09-25
For/Against Objections

Holbeach Parish Council - Objection to Planning Application H23-0313-25

Holbeach Parish Council strongly objects to application H23-0313-25, submitted by Holbeach Poultry Ltd. for twelve poultry houses and up to 552,120 birds (with permission for 690,000) at Pear Tree Hill Road, Whaplode Drove, Spalding PE12 0SL.

Although the applicant cites a lower-intensity customer contract, the site would be permitted to house up to 4.83 million birds annually. All impacts must be assessed on a worst-case basis.

Highways and Infrastructure

- Access Road Unsuitability: Pear Tree Hill Road is narrow and visibly degraded. It cannot support the weight and frequency of HGV traffic this proposal would generate.
- Network Fragility: Surrounding roads show subsidence and cracking. These routes were not built for sustained heavy goods movement.
- Incomplete Assessment: The applicant's transport report lacks key data, including California Bearing Ratio (CBR) tests, essential for evaluating road resilience.
- Traffic Volume: Estimated 2,884 HGV movements annually- likely conservative- would accelerate road damage and impose repair costs on local authorities.

Public Health and Environmental Risks

- Air Pollution: Increased traffic and operations will release dust, ammonia, and particulates, posing respiratory risks to workers and 4,400 residents- especially children and the elderly.
- Antibiotic Resistance: Intensive poultry farming contributes to antibiotic overuse. The UK sees over 2,000 deaths annually from resistant infections; globally, over one million. This facility risks worsening the crisis.
- Avian Flu Risk: The site lies just 1.8km from another poultry farm- within the 3km biosecurity zone required during outbreaks. Lincolnshire is already a hotspot, and pandemic risks are rising.
- Dietary Impact: High poultry consumption (over 300g/week) is linked to increased risks of gastrointestinal cancers, elevated cholesterol, and pathogen exposure. This facility may contribute to long-term public health burdens.

Cumulative Impact and Fiscal Responsibility

- Existing Operations: Several intensive poultry farms already operate nearby. Cumulative impacts on air quality, biosecurity, and infrastructure must be considered.
- Public Spending: Approving a proposal likely to incur substantial highway and healthcare costs would be fiscally irresponsible.
- Precautionary Principle: Where risks to health and biosecurity are credible and potentially severe, planning authorities must act to prevent harm.

SHDC Amendment Policy

Applications must be complete upon submission. South Holland District Council does not accept unsolicited amendments post-validation unless exceptional circumstances apply and statutory deadlines are maintained.

Holbeach Parish Council expects any attempt to revise or dilute the scope of this application to be handled strictly in accordance with this policy.

We respectfully request that this application be refused in its current form. Holbeach Parish Council supports sustainable development that prioritises community wellbeing, environmental stewardship, and responsible infrastructure planning.