

Comment for planning application 23/03231/F

Application Number	23/03231/F
Location	Hawthorn Hart Land Wroxton Lane Horley OX15 6BB
Proposal	Erection of agricultural barn for animal food storage, animal welfare, farm machinery storage and security
Case Officer	Imogen Hopkin
Organisation Name	Richard Herrick
Address	Brookfield,6 The Old Council Houses,Wroxton Lane,Horley,Banbury,OX15 6BB
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I wish to present my objections to the proposed planning application for the agricultural barn in Horley based on the 8 acre field which was purchased for Permanent Pasture land.</p> <p>Our names are Richard and Lisa Herrick and we live at Brookfield which is the closest house and garden to the proposed site and I have severe reservations regarding The Applicants request to erect this large building.</p> <p>Horley is beautiful village and is also a conservation area. It was these key factors we looked at when moving to the village which ensured we lived in a tranquil and private setting.</p> <p>The stunning 8 acre field was also another key reason why we purchased Brookfield. We knew the field was pasture land and through talking to other villagers and walking in the field with our dogs we also fully appreciated the significant contribution the field provided for wildlife and wild meadow flowers. The Spring and Summer months are especially stunning.</p> <p>Due to this wonderful ecosystem our garden would regularly welcome Deer, Muntjac, Fox, Otter, Water Voles, Pheasant and other animals. Birds also enjoyed the security and tranquillity of the field and we have seen the likes of Kingfishers, Red Kites, Sparrow Hawks, Heron, Woodpecker, Moorhen and wild ducks in the field and our garden.</p> <p>Since the field was purchased by The Applicant in September 2023 we have seen significant changes already to the above tranquil nature of the 8 acre field in question.</p> <p>We initially had been relaxed about the sale of the field as we were aware the field was purchased on the strict understanding that it was pasture land and a flood plain and apart from some simple options of grazing and cutting etc there would be very little the new owner of the field could do to change the aspect of the field.</p> <p>How wrong we have been.</p> <p>We have seen what can only be described as an industrial type fence erected that not only ensures the two horses kept in the field cannot escape but more importantly nothing (wild animal wise) can now enter a large part of the field.</p> <p>It is no coincidence that since the erection of the fence we have seen none of the aforementioned animals. This fence is completely unnecessary and a far more eco friendly fence could and should have been erected to ensure wildlife still had access to the entire field. It is after all purely for grazing.</p> <p>The tranquil nature of the field has also been completely destroyed by the purchase of the field by The Applicant. We now see a regular stream of various vehicles entering the field on a daily basis - sometimes up to 4 or 5 at a time. The entrance to the field is currently a complete mud pile due to these vehicles.</p> <p>I find it ironic that there's been significant environmental objections by planning regarding the small proposed car park in the field for 8 to 10 cars - which would have significantly improved safety in the village. We now have daily visits from numerous cars and large vehicles in the field, churning up the field and having a significant impact on disrupting our wildlife and environment.</p>

We have also seen the field treated like someone's back garden, in the Summer further vehicles and guests of The Applicant have used the field for parties and get togethers. The noise from these events continued for several hours and caused my wife and I significant anxiety, whilst trying to enjoy the privacy and tranquil nature of our own garden - so we can only guess what impact on the wildlife this caused.

Other issues on noise apart from vehicles, erecting fencing and building a stable block (which I assume planning was agreed for?) is that of his dogs. At the time of writing this the residents at the bottom of Horley are debating whether to make an official complaint of the continuous barking of the dogs.

There is now a general understanding with my neighbours and I that we know when The applicant and his family are in the field as we have to literally put up with the barking of the dogs for the duration of his stay in the field. Last Sunday the 10th December was a prime example of the major issues we as a neighbourhood have suffered since the field was purchased.

The barking began at approximately 9am on Sunday and did not stop until around 1pm - this coincided with the heavy rain and we assume The Applicants decision to leave the field. Both my wife and our next door neighbour Mrs Berger had actually decided to speak to The Applicant as the barking was so loud we could not go out in to the usual tranquil setting of our beautifully private gardens.

Fortunately The Applicant had left by the time they had gone to the field to ask him to remove the dogs or keep them quiet.

The noise from the dogs is also now causing my own dogs to bark and the entire situation is becoming highly stressful for our family.

My next issue is that of a new muck heap. We own a horse and we are fully aware that the usual positioning in a horse field of the muck heap is usually placed at the further point of the field. This is due to several factors. The heaps are a breeding ground for the nesting of vermin, especially rats and flies. The other obvious factor is that of the smell and environmental impact the heaps can have - for obvious reason.

You can therefore understand our dismay and horror regarding the fact that The Applicant has literally built their muck heap within approximately 5 metres from our garden.

This is completely unacceptable. With over 8 acres to place this heap building it within such a close distance to my house and garden is a further point that The Applicant has no regard for the welfare and environmental impact of their actions.

We have serious concerns now about potential rat infestation and the breeding of horse flies moving to Spring and Summer. We have 3 dogs and young children and these flies are notorious for biting, drawing blood and causing infections. The warmer weather will also mean we will be potentially having to deal with the awful smells and odour these muck heaps can generate.

All the above I feel is highly relevant to The Applicants request to build an Agricultural Barn. The Barn will be both in eye and ear shot of my house (along now with this Muck Heap) and I question why one would need such a barn in an 8 acre field which is purely for pasture? The application mentions farm machinery and animals. What type of farm machinery would be needed for an 8 acre pasture field? Surely the only machine needed would be cut the grass? Permanent Pasture is based on grazing for animals and the occasional cutting of the field.

There is a secure area as you enter the field from Horley to the right of the Right of Way gate and I see no reason why this area would not be used by The Applicant. It was more than adequate for the previous owner of the field - who, by the way was actually a farmer! There is then the question of animals. At present The Applicant has 2 horses in the field.

The previous owner would, every year place around 8 beef cattle in the field. These cattle needed no cover or facility and they lived a happy life in conjunction with the wildlife and walkers that used the field.

The Applicant clearly has no thought for the noise currently being generated from the field and housing animals within a barn facility will again cause significant noise pollution levels to the tranquil area and importantly my property and land.

One assumes The Applicant will also have to create some type of access road to the barn as I can only think it is the reason why the proposed build is next to my garden rather than the top end of the field which would be out of site and out of ear shot.

My other concern is one of future needs of The Applicant should this application be

successful.

Clearly The Applicant purchased the field as pasture land - my view is that he had every intention to make quick changes re the fencing etc to then allow this initial application for a farm building.

The Applicant is not a farmer and indeed lives away approx. 2 miles from the village in a housing estate. He knew exactly what he was purchasing and I believe this is another reason why the application should be thrown out.

What next? If successful will the next steps be requests for toilet facilities, heating and lighting to support the animals welfare?

Before we know it we have not just a simple application for a large barn (which I also think looks completely out of character with the environment it is planned to be erected in) but a barn that has the potential to be lived in - again causing huge impact on the eco system of the area.

We would also like to bring to the attention of planning the current grazing of the afore mentioned horses. The horses are currently rugged, are being fed, have shelter and now have a muck heap. Our research suggests that use of pasture land for horses would require planning permission and a change of use to allow the above. Without the change of use the horses should have no rugs, have no shelter and be purely grazing in the field. As this planning/Change of Use being agreed?

I cannot emphasise enough the issues and concerns I raise here and again wish to object to the above application in the strongest possible way.

Received Date

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Attachments