

# Dedham Vale Society

Workhouse Cottage,  
Workhouse Road,  
Colchester CO6 4DS

22 August 2014

Colchester Borough Council  
(Attn Carl Allen),  
PO Box 889,  
Rowan House,  
33 Sheepen Road,  
Colchester CO3 3WG

Dear Mr Allen,

**Application No: 145577**

**Location: Thrift Farm House, Horkesley Hill, Great Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4JP**

**Proposal: Erection of one Poultry run and one Aviary**

The Dedham Vale Society wishes to object most strongly to this outrageous application. The previous application No: 140529 for the erection of a barn was approved earlier in the year but with tight controls to the effect that within one month of the completion of the barn:

- The site to the east of the barn should be cleared and restored to its former agricultural state;
- Suitable waste storage and collection arrangements should be in place;
- The barn should be used solely for agricultural purposes.

To date the erection of the barn has yet to be commenced, **the site is a hideous eyesore within the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** and yet another planning application has been lodged.

The application itself is misleading, as it speaks only of one poultry run and one aviary, yet the details of the application cover nine aviaries, 2 kennels, 1 ferret house and two mobile poultry houses. **Are we to assume that many of these structures are already in place without planning permission and this application is seeking retrospective planning permission.**

These are not insignificant structures – a typical aviary is 3 m x 2.6m x 4.2m – and would be clearly visible over a wide area of the AONB.

A further question which comes to mind is the long term use of this site – there are similar sites across East Anglia where birds of prey are housed in aviaries and regularly used to demonstrate the art of falconry to large numbers of the general public for commercial gain.

A case can be made that the future commercial development of this site could be more damaging to the peace and tranquillity of the AONB, growing as it would by small incremental steps, than the ill-fated plans for Horkesley Park.

However, the National Planning Policy Framework and the fully approved Colchester Local Plan provided the tools to reject this wholly inappropriate application.

**National Planning Policy Framework** under Section 115 states:

“Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in the National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.....”

**Colchester Local Plan** is the key document against which this application must be assessed is Development Policy 22. It asks three questions which should be used to assess this application:

- Does it make a contribution to the special landscape character?
- Does it adversely affect the character, quality of views, the distinctiveness of the AONB?
- Does it support the objectives of the Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Management Plan?

This application must be refused on the basis of both the NPPF and Local Plan.

**DVS calls on both Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council to reject this attempt to commercially exploit the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

Yours sincerely,

J R Drury

DVS Essex Planning Secretary

Copies Cllr Anne Brown ECC Constable

Cllr Nigel Chapman CBC Fordham & Stour