

PL/20/3519/FA | Erection of new dwelling for agricultural worker | Challen's Chick Farm
Marsh Lane Taplow

The Hitcham and Taplow Society objects to this application

The Society has been in existence for some sixty years. It has a main objective to ensure that all development within the district is of the highest standard and preserves the quality of the environment. It represents a significant proportion of the residents of Taplow.

The application is for a “farm worker” The site in question is not and has not been a farm but open pasture land.

The Design and Access statement includes: Paragraph 3.2.2. The hen unit and egg grading room at Challen’s Chick Farm are temporary structures used in association with the lawful agricultural use of the land. As such these structures do not require formal planning consent. This is a clear admission that the current enterprise on the site is of a temporary nature. The activities are supported by a temporary accommodation with only a three year permission.

It is quite inappropriate to support the development of a permanent residence in support of temporary activities. The application must be rejected. The recent application (PL/18/3946/FA) for a permanent building was rejected on grounds that included harm to the openness of the Green Belt and unnecessary encroachment within the countryside.

The application should also be rejected on similar grounds to the previous one. All development within the Green Belt is by definition harmful and permissions refused unless other factors outweigh the harm. The only factor here is the presence of temporary hen sheds. These do not constitute any form of exceptional circumstances to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt. Approval would also create a precedent by which any part of the Green Belt can have temporary sheds erected to be followed by residential development approval. That cannot have been the intention of the legislation.

If the applicant wishes to set up a permanent commercial activity on the site to include hen sheds, permanent quail barn and residential accommodation in the Green Belt he should make a full formal application for such a business. The current appeal on this same site against a quail barn (PL/18/3946/FA) makes no mention of the need for residential support and as such misrepresents the true situation.

Roger Worthington, Secretary Hitcham and Taplow Society

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