

Support Document – 17.07.2023

Planning Proposal – Erection of Agricultural Building to house New Dairy & Milking Parlour & Calving Area.

██████████. The Brook, Eglwys Cross, Tybroughton. SY13 2JT

Context:

██████████. Farming is a legacy, and we are keen to create a farm which is sustainable and provides a farm infrastructure which enables our next generation (██████████) to farm in the future. The farm and animal numbers have steadily grown over the years to try and remain a viable business. We are currently milking ██████████ through a dated parlour which is 35 years old and desperately needs replacing. The parlour can only milk 10 cows at any one time. This means that milking takes approximately 4/4.5 hours and requires two members of staff in the parlour. This is proving not only inefficient, ineffective but also costly. There is also an impact to cow health as cows are waiting too long in the collecting yard which is resulting in health issues. The dairy industry is being heavily challenged to reduce its carbon foot print and improve sustainability – this will be impossible without installing a more efficient and effective milking parlour. A new milking parlour will half milking times, reduce cow health issues, reduce our energy usage and ensure our farm is ready for the next generation to farm.

Proposal

Please find below a google maps image of the farm site for reference. As you can see the farm is in a 'V' shape and is edged by a lane on either side of the 'V'. As a result, any necessary infrastructure changes are restricted by placement within this. The proposed building site is the obvious choice with existing internal infrastructure access and the natural place to locate a new building. See proposed site shown as a yellow box.



The plan which has been submitted is for a juniper green box profile sheeted clad structure which will blend with the current farm buildings which are currently on view to the neighbour. This building will contain a new milking parlour enabling us to milk the cows twice as fast as we currently can. Therefore, halving milking time. The new parlour by its nature will be quieter and more efficient so also reducing our carbon footprint. The new dairy will be located within this building along with an area for calving cows. There is an existing access off the adjacent lane, and we have submitted plans to widen the access and provide a turning area for the milk tanker.

Additional Information:

Access: Plans have been submitted for a widening to the existing farm access on the proposed site. This access joins a quiet, straight section of the lane. This will be a 'clean' access for the tanker to collect milk. This reduces the risk of cross contamination as the milk tanker visits numerous farm sites. It ensures the tanker is not visiting areas of the farm where it may get muck on its tyres.

Milk Collections: Milk is currently collected once a day, and this will continue using the new access at the new dairy location. The tanker takes approximately 20 mins to load the milk and then leaves. The current dairy is attached to our home, and we find no disruption from their visits.

Existing Milking Parlour & Dairy: Once the new parlour and dairy is complete the old set up will be removed and no longer used. The new parlour and dairy equipment is to replace the old and is not an addition too.

Machinery: Please find milking parlour and compressor coolers specs attached.

Noise: We are a working dairy farm and have been for over three generations. We are always mindful of our neighbours and [REDACTED] in our interest to maintain low noise levels. The new parlour will be quieter by the fact that the actual time it will be used will be half of its current and its new equipment will be more efficient. The current parlour has a vacuum pump that runs constantly while we are milking. In the new proposed milking parlour this won't be the case, the pumps run only when vacuum is demanded, running far more efficiently. Also the exhaust from the system can be diverted in to a sand drum which minimises the noise from the vacuum pumps. We have been a milking dairy farm for over 80 years. We cannot change the fact that milking a cow produces a noise – it is not a silent process but we will do what we can to minimise noise levels.

Coolers/ Compressors : Coolers/ Compressors are required to cool the milk. These are only 'on' when they are cooling the milk, they do not run continuously. The current compressors are 31 years old and now inefficient, the new compressors to replace the old are more efficient so will cool the milk quicker so won't need to be on as long, so there will be less noise from them. The new Fullwood parlour and coolers highlights that will reduce noise levels. It has been requested that these are contained in an insulated box which is impossible as they need to suck in air. They will however be housed within the building which will reduce any minimal noise outputs.

We kindly ask that you support this application to enable us to continue the work of prior generations and ensure this dairy farm is sustainable for our next generation.