



The countryside charity
Hertfordshire

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Standing up for Hertfordshire's countryside

Colin Lecart
Planning and Development
Dacorum Borough Council
Civic Centre, Marlowes
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire HP1 1HH

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

24th November 2021 (by email)

Dear Mr Lecart,

Application 21/03397/FUL
Construction of two mushroom tunnels and agricultural storage building
Cupid Green Lane, Hemel Hempstead

I have written a number of times regarding several recent planning applications concerning the community farming area on Cupids Green Lane and the proliferation of proposals for various structure and buildings connected with these activities. CPRE Herts is generally supportive of appropriate uses for the countryside and welcomes the development of a thriving community food production sector.

We have noted that a number of the applications do not seem to result in the developments originally envisaged and so revised proposals are submitted which re-arrange the buildings and structures to some extent. Our concerns clearly arise from the potential effect of these proposals on the Green Belt caused by the cumulative effect of uncoordinated proposals which tend to degrade the amenity provided by the open countryside.

We accept that there is a balance to be drawn between amenity considerations and the appropriate use of agricultural land, and there are additional considerations where the land is designated as protected. In these situations, relatively minor alterations to planned developments, or the introduction of modest planting, hedgerows or similar measures can have a significant effect in ameliorating the impacts of low rise structures such as polytunnels as well as introducing biodiversity on a local scale.

We would encourage such initiatives wherever possible and I should be grateful if you could let me know if you have been in direct contact with the land-owners and/or community farmers to gain an indication of their ultimate plans for the Cupid Green Lane sites. CPRE nationally is also promoting a local hedgerow campaign and sponsoring local projects which could have a beneficial impact in such areas, and I would be pleased to discuss these further with appropriate interested parties.

CPRE is working nationally and locally for a beautiful and living countryside

CPRE Hertfordshire is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

President: Sir Simon Bowes Lyon, KCVO
Chairman: Allan McNab

Registered Charity 1162419



In any case, it would be most helpful to have any further information concerning the intentions of the land-owners and tenants with regard to future plans, as this would help us to make the appropriate responses on future proposals in this sensitive area. In the meantime, we would urge the Council to take all possible measure to seek to minimise the impact of buildings and structures in this important area of Green Belt.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Berry
Planning Manager