

From: Environmental Health
Sent: 09 February 2026 14:55
To: Development Control
Cc: Demi Crawford
Subject: 4/26/2012/0F1 - EAST OF EHEN, LITTLE MILL, EGREMONT

Erection of pigeon loft (retrospective)

Thank you for the above planning consultation.

Although this is a small scale proposed development, it does have the potential to affect local residential amenity and public health.

Environmental Health have, therefore, considered the following relevant factors within its remit:

- Avian Flu – Outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) are still occurring in the UK.

The [DEFRA latest advice \(England\)](#) outlines the current situation.

England remains within an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone and, by law, strict biosecurity and hygiene rules must be followed.

Racing Pigeons can be affected by avian influenza but appear to show resistance and there is no confirmed evidence

that racing pigeons have become ill in England. They may even be considered as a 'dead end host' and appear not to significantly spread the virus.

Nevertheless, anyone keeping more than 50 birds must house them and follow advice.

A bird keeper should also register with the UK Animal and Plant Health Agency.

- Dust - It is possible that the avian flu virus can spread through large build-ups of droppings and wind-blown dust (and its odour) may also affect nearby residential amenity. Good hygiene management is required.
- Pests - Pigeon lofts can be an attraction for vermin, rats in particular. It is important that good loft hygiene is followed to prevent rat infestations.
- Odour - To a large degree, the problems of odour (ammonia) associated with pigeon lofts can be negated / managed by good loft design (incorporating ventilation, sufficient room for the birds, a dry loft environment that is free of condensation and security from predators) and good hygiene management. There is good advice available on this from the various racing pigeon representative bodies.
- Noise - The proposed location of the loft appears to be far enough away from other dwellings that noise should not be a problem. The dominant day time noise is from background road traffic on the nearby A595 trunk road.

In conclusion, therefore, Environmental Health have not received any complaints about this pigeon loft and would not object to this development though recognises that measures need to be taken by the applicant to ensure good biosecurity and hygiene measures are put in place and are followed.

We would request that the following conditions are applied to any approval that may be granted:

- Dust Management Plan

No use commenced until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, a Dust Management Plan setting out cleaning, maintenance and disposal procedures. The approved dust management plan shall be complied with throughout the duration of the use.

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of nearby premises and biosecurity against avian influenza.

- Vermin Management Plan

No use commenced until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, a Vermin Management Plan setting out feed storage and handling, waste management, loft design and maintenance, water management, outdoor environment and housekeeping, monitoring and inspection, and vermin control measures (if vermin is detected). The approved vermin management plan shall be complied with throughout the duration of the use.

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of nearby premises and the area generally.

- Odour Management Plan

No use commenced until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, an Odour Management Plan setting out potential odour sources, control measures, cleaning and hygiene, waste management and carcass disposal measures.

The approved odour management plan shall be complied with throughout the duration of the use.

Reason: To safeguard the amenity of nearby premises and the area generally.

- Advice

1. DEFRA advice and rules on avian influenza is followed at all times.
2. The flock is registered with the Animal and Plant Health Agency.
3. Further advice / assistance on the requested management plans can be obtained from the Environmental Health team.

Regards

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