

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council
20 July 2023

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Jake Berriman
Cabinet Member for a Connected Powys

SUBJECT: Question from Dr David Williams

What can residents do to stop P.C.C. giving Planning Permission for new and extensions to Intensive Poultry Units [IPUs], in the light of the damage they cause to watercourses and the potential for the spread of Avian Flu?

Response

The Council is aware of the concerns many residents have, and recognises the environmental impacts associated with Intensive poultry Units (IPU) proposals. These impacts are taken into consideration when determining planning applications when the Council assiduously follows prevailing legislation, regulations, planning policy and guidance that is in place when a decision is taken. Comments made by statutory consultees, including Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are also considered, given their expertise and legal standing in terms of environmental permitting.

Whilst residents may comment on any planning application, their observations and concerns will be weighed, along with other considerations, for “materiality” against the prevailing legal and policy context.

A number of residents have called for such developments to be stopped and for a legislative moratorium to be put in place. This, however, is a matter for Welsh Government’s consideration and is not something that Powys County Council could do unilaterally. I understand that the Welsh Government is requiring all local planning authorities to include a planning policy on intensive livestock units in their replacement Local Development Plans, and this is something that we will look at in relation to any changes to the legal, regulatory, or national policy frameworks.

In the meantime, we have recently received notification from Welsh Government that we should not approve a number of such applications we are holding, until they have made clear their view whether they wish to call them in to determine them themselves. This amounts to some 13 applications being held in abeyance currently, with no planning approvals having been issued by Powys Council for an IPU for approximately 12 months.