Put your name, address, phone number and email address here -> Mr John Smith

1 Example Road

Chainhurst  
Marden

Tonbridge

Kent

TN12 3AB

01622 123456

email@website.com

\/ -Complete as appropriate

MP or Parish Councillor or Maidstone Borough Councillor or Kent County Councillor

1 Example Street

Maidstone

Kent

ME12 3AB

25/11/2020 <- Put the date here

Re - Planning Application MA/20/505751, Reed Court Farm, Hunton Road, Marden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 9SJ

Dear MP or Parish Councillor or Maidstone Borough Councillor or Kent County Councillor

/\ -Complete as appropriate

I am writing to ensure that you are aware of the above planning application which has been submitted to seek permission for construction of three poultry units at Reed Court Farm, Hunton Road, Marden, Tonbridge, Kent, TN12 9SJ (Planning Application Number MA/20/505751). I have a number of concerns related to the application, which are summarised below.

**Impact on the River Beult SSSI:**

I find it impossible to imagine that the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) can be protected from further degradation caused by runoff pollution caused by chicken manure. Downstream water courses fed by the Beult will also be impacted. Any attempt to develop the farm that risks further degradation to an already at risk SSSI should be refused permission.

**Flooding of the site:**

Every winter large areas of the site flood. Development of a site which is at such risk of regularly flooding is not a sustainable approach either from an environmental or practical point of view. Ranges will be dramatically reduced in size and site access hampered.

**Impact on Biodiversity:**

The site contains areas of designated ancient woodland, established hedgerows and ponds which have been shown to be great crested newt habitat. The “Breeding Birds Survey” included with the application notes specifically that there were twelve species, found by the survey team, that are present on the British Trust for Ornithology’s “Red List” including turtle doves, skylarks and nightingales. The overall impact on wildlife and the current biodiversity of the farm is too great.

**Transport:**

As well as flooding to the site, Hunton Road is also routinely flooded during flood events. The road is subject to a 7.5 tonne weight limit and is signed as “unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles”. The increased safety risks, as well as noise and vibration impact, of regular HGV use of Hunton Road is unacceptable.

**Footpaths:**

For the development to proceed, two regularly used footpaths will either require diversion or to be effectively extinguished. One of these footpaths, KM144, has followed its current route since at least 1868. Both footpaths will suffer from reduced general amenity as they will run either on access roads or between, or next to, 2.5m high chain link fencing. These changes to the current footpaths will render them unusable for extended periods in winter months and when they are accessible, they will be unpleasant to use.

**Visual impact, pollution and impact on general amenity:**

The overall impact of the development of the farm will be to generally degrade the current environment through the construction of fences, roads and what are undeniably three enormous buildings. I am of the view that development of this scale in this location causes an unacceptably large visual impact and will inevitably degrade air quality locally.

**Animal welfare, stocking density and impact on human health:**

The applicant has utilised every available square metre of the site in order to maximise the number of birds that can be housed. They claim that egg production will meet “the country’s high levels of animal welfare standards”, but in reality the proposal is for an intensive farming facility designed to maximise profits. As concerning as the above issues are, I have greater concerns about potential human health implications, such as outbreaks of avian flu and salmonella, specifically at Fridays’ farms. News stories about chicken welfare have also recently come to public attention.

In summary, when all of the factors above are considered, it is clear that the proposed farm will have a demonstrable detrimental impact upon local people, the surrounding countryside and ecology, the wider environment and, over time, will be a significant threat to public health. The resulting facility would also have a negative impact on the wellbeing of birds held at the premises. I therefore urge you to **use any influence you can bring to bear to ensure that permission for this development is refused**.

Yours sincerely

John Smith <- Put your name here, and sign

{SIGNATURE}