

3 Greenmeadow Avenue  
NEWPORT  
NP19 4LR

28<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Regeneration and Economic Development  
Civic Centre  
NEWPORT  
NP20 4UR

Dear Sir

**Response to Application No.25/0337 – Proposed demolition of existing sheds and construction of a new shed for chickens – OPPOSED**

I am writing in response to the above proposal.

Firstly, as an animal lover and former chicken keeper myself, I would like to state that I am in no way opposed to the keeping of chickens in gardens, per se. Many neighbours have been upset by the noise that the cockerels make crowing early in the morning, but I do not find this a nuisance in any way at all. The cock-a-doodle-doo of a rooster, however early, is preferable to me to the usual noise in our local area of yapping dogs and loud exhausts.

However, since the arrival of the chickens at Greenmeadow Road, the area, the streets and our gardens have been plagued with what can only be described as an **ABSOLUTE INFESTATION** of **RATS**. They can be seen daily, in the roads and in our gardens. This was never an issue before the arrival of the chickens.

My 14-year-old cat has been managing to catch, on average, a rat a week. Unfortunately, he then thinks it's ok to bring them in through the cat flap, so I have regularly awoken to find a dead rat in my kitchen. Sadly, last week, while "ratting" in the road (seen on CCTV stalking), my cat was struck by a car, ran away, and has not been seen since.

Also, given that the property backs onto the patch of what *looks* like disused land in Greenmeadow Avenue, where there have been longstanding issues of the property owner abandoning old vehicles on the land, and on the street outside this patch; basically, dumping rubbish there, only exacerbates the rat problem. The vehicles are taxed if on the roads, so technically not illegally parked, but an incredible eyesore and nuisance which the Council have had many, many reports of over the last few years. As I say, this is a separate issue, which has been reported to the Council on **numerous** occasions, but is also massively enabling the chicken/rat problem.

Of note, conversations with neighbours have highlighted that there are houses on Greenmeadow Road whose owners claim the property deeds deem the keeping of chickens to be kept to no more than six chickens. Further conversations with neighbours also highlight the concern that the proposer may be running an (un-licensed -?) egg-selling business from the property. These are interesting points that the Council could possibly investigate further.

Another issue with keeping chickens in Greenmeadow Road is that the owner of the proposing property likes to burn his chicken bedding and waste in his garden, often on a Sunday afternoon, and the smell is intolerable.

Again, as a former chicken keeper, I have no opposition to a small, **CLEAN**, well-maintained coop and a small, manageable brood of garden/pet chickens kept with good standards of animal husbandry, kept as pets, and to produce just enough eggs for personal use. However, the large number of chickens kept on Greenmeadow Road has become unmanageable.

Furthermore, the property is an eyesore with mismatched and poorly maintained fencing, and the increase in weeds, possibly caused by chicken feed (?), in and around the property, add to this. This badly affects the visual appeal of the area, and no doubt the value of our properties.

Therefore, wish to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** this proposal, and I urge the Council to decline this application, for the following reasons, including my own, and my neighbours', concerns regarding: -

**NOISE**

**SMELLS**

**RAT INFESTATION**

**HYGIENE AND CLEANLINESS**

**CONCERNS ABOUT ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS**

**WEEDS/GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND "AMBIANCE" OF THE AREA**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss the matter further.

Yours faithfully