

HEREFORDSHIRE PLANNING POLICY – Minerals and Waste Local Plan –
Response from
Almeley Parish Council to first draft consultation

Almeley Parish Neighbourhood Plan has identified that there are no known present day workable mineral reserves within the parish and therefore this Council makes no comment upon that issue.

During the public consultation exercise for the NDP (currently approved to proceed to Referendum) it quickly became clear that there was substantial concern regarding one particular matter which should be addressed as part of the above Review. This concerned the effects of disposal to land by surface spreading, of the waste arising from intensive livestock production, particularly chickens.

The deterioration in the quality of the rivers Wye and Lugg had recently been highlighted and reinforced general concern over the effects on residential amenity of smell, dust and flies.

There was a consensus that this form of food production is a departure from traditional farming (which was widely supported) sufficient to be regarded as an industrial process resulting in the production of industrial waste, the disposal of which should be better controlled.

This view was reflected in the draft NDP which was reviewed by the Examiner in November 2018. Paras 81 to 92 of her report refer. The Examiner considered the matter in some detail referring to the Environment Agency guidance “Decide if a material is waste or not”, the guidance for planning applications for intensive livestock units produced by Shropshire Council, the former Herefordshire UDP policy on distances between dwellings and intensive livestock units (where waste would be both produced and stored) and the removal of permitted development rights for such units by the GDPO 2015.

She concluded that such issues were more appropriately addressed by the Local Planning Authority and amended our draft NDP accordingly but included some control over wastes arising from intensive livestock operations requiring planning permission.

In view of the impact upon this County of large scale chicken production this is clearly an important issue to be addressed by the current review.

The Environment Agency guidance helps by advising that material should be regarded as waste if it constitutes a production residue, not produced deliberately in a production process and/or is contaminated.

Clearly faecal material with other ovarian residues such as carcasses or feathers must be regarded as being contaminated both by chemical and biological substances.

The guidance also states that “Where manure or slurry is spread to land in such a way that it exceeds crop requirements, is of no benefit to the land OR provides no ecological improvement it will be waste and spreading it to land simply to get rid of it IS classified as a disposal operation.

You are therefore requested by this parish council to take the above into account during your review of County Waste Disposal. I enclose for your information a copy of the Examiner’s report.