

Wiltshire Council Planning Department
Alex Edge, Planning Officer

Elms Cross Stables
Elms Cross
Bradford on Avon
Wiltshire
BA15 2AL

22 February 2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Planning application PL/2025/09664 (Granby House) – Objection on behalf of Owner/tenants at Elms Cross Stables, adjacent to Granby House Fields.

We are writing in respect of the above planning application, proposing change of use from agricultural to dog walking facilities. The Elms Cross Stables fields are adjacent to the proposed fields identified within the application.

We currently have 3 elderly horses that reside at Elms Cross Stables and are writing to share our concerns and objections regarding the proposed planning application referenced above. The horses have a number of age-related illnesses and historical injuries which require specific care and management. 2 of the horses are also visually impaired due to their age.

1. Noise disturbance

There is frequent barking from dogs that attend the dog walking field, with owners often ignoring the situation when dogs are running along the fence line repeatedly barking at our horses. This occurs when the horses are loose in the field or when we are trying to lead them in/out of the field in their headcollars. There is also the noise that comes from inconsiderate owners, who appear to screech at their dog if they are not responding to calls or in some instances, using dog whistles which can unsettle the horses, due to the pitch of the noise. We understand from reviewing the application that dog whistles are forbidden, however, we have witnessed these high pitch whistles being used on more than one occasion. There is the noise when several dogs are being walked together and they are interacting with each other, barking as part of their excitement or dominating each other. This noise can impact the stress levels for our horses, sometimes inducing fear. We have had instances whereby the horses have been galloping around the field due to the stress caused by the dogs running and barking along the fence line, with the dog owners failing to respond to the situation that their dog(s) has caused. This has resulted in one of our horses having a fall in the field, putting them, and us as owners, at risk of injury. We have had instances whereby the 'livestock worrying' caused by some dogs has resulted in the horses dripping in sweat due to bolting away from the noise, and the dogs barking and running along the fence line.

Mrs Bishop is aware of our concerns around injury to our horses due to the dogs barking and fence running, including the time when one of the elderly horses was so stressed by the dogs barking at the fence that she fell to the ground. Fortunately, on this occasion she did not sustain a serious injury. It's worth nothing that a broken leg would result in euthanasia which needs to be avoided at all costs. The current arrangements present this risk on a daily basis and this needs to be considered in the decision-making process when reviewing this application.

The planning statement references protocols and good operational practices in place to control noise levels; this is not something that we have witnessed being adhered to when we are present. As noted above, on occasion the noise from dogs and their owners is excessive.

2. Recent changes to legislation -Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025

You will be aware of the recent amendments to legislation [Dogs \(Protection of Livestock\) \(Amendment\) Act 2025](#) that specifically includes protection of horses in respect of dogs causing harm, which includes causing fear or stress, alongside chasing:

*The **Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Act 2025** expanded the definition of livestock to **explicitly include horses, ponies, and donkeys**. This means:*

- *Horses are now legally recognised as livestock for the purposes of livestock worrying offences.*

A dog is committing livestock worrying in relation to horses if it:

- **Attacks a horse**
- **Chases a horse** in a way likely to cause injury, distress, or danger
- **Causes fear or stress** that could lead to injury (e.g., bolting, slipping, crashing into fencing)
- **Is out of control near horses** on farmland, public paths, or roads

We therefore believe that this legislation needs to be taken into consideration when reviewing this application due to the risk posed to our horses and the impact on dog owners should there be a requirement for enforcement. The updated legislation is there to protect the welfare of animals and this needs to be considered for neighbouring livestock. It should be noted, that the current fencing in the dog field next to our horses is not sufficiently secure for the purposes of loose dogs, putting our horses at risk of dogs accessing neighbouring land, with the potential to harass, chase, worry or injure horses. As stated, we experience regular incidents with dogs running at the fence line barking which can cause our horses to react. Mrs Bishop did mention that she may review the current fencing, but this has not happened to date.

3. Unauthorised feeding of our horses

We have experienced issues with people who are accessing the dog walking field attempting to feed our horses. There have been several occasions where apples have been thrown into the field, and on one occasion, still in green plastic wrapping (dog poo bags). Our horses are on special diets and have poor dentition. Strangers feeding them put them at risk from colic, choke, other illnesses, including potential death, due to dog owners that access the dog walking field thinking this is acceptable behaviour. We have installed a sign in our field advising that the horses are not to be fed to make this clear. We have electric fencing within our boundary along the full length of the field to try and reduce the risk of people petting or feeding our horses. Unfortunately, this does not stop strangers throwing things across the boundary into the horses grazing areas.

4. Regular traffic accessing the incorrect driveway in error and turning vehicles around in neighbouring properties.

We regularly see visitors for Granby House who have taken the wrong turning in their car, and stop to ask us for directions. This has resulted in an increase in traffic using the shared single-track driveway, with 'customers' having to drive into neighbouring properties to turnaround on a regular basis. This has an impact on privacy and security for neighbouring occupants/residents.

5. Operating hours (7am- 6pm in winter/ 7am-8.30pm in summer)

We feel that the current operating hours are excessive. This again has an impact on the lack of privacy, whilst also exposing our horses to longer periods of potential risk and stress. When the dog walking field is occupied, we regularly experience dogs barking at the fence line when trying to turn out/bring in our horses. This poses a risk to horses/owners in light of how the horses may react to stress/fear and as noted above, has caused incidents whereby horses have bolted or fallen.

6. Impact on environment

On occasion, we have retrieved dog toys and balls from our fields, alongside plastic dog waste bags that have blown across the boundary. As noted, this presents a risk to our horses, should they be hit by objects or consume the plastics whilst grazing.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information or clarity.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Cullen and Miss S Keam – Occupiers of Elms Cross Stables

Mrs S Lewis – Owner of Elms Cross Stables