

D.J And K.L Leadbetter
Breach Gorse Farm

Breach Lane
Sudbury
DE6 5HH

10 October 2019

RE: planning application for an agricultural workers' dwelling for DJ and KJ Leadbetter and family of the above address.

To whom it may concern,

I have been the acting Veterinary Surgeon for this dairy farming family for the past two years. They look after a very high yielding dairy herd of Pedigree Holstein cattle and I am in full support of the application to build an agricultural workers' dwelling on site.

The nature of the breed of these animals requires intensive management and care 24 hours a day and in my opinion it is essential that the people responsible for the herd are on site at all times. The cattle are some of the highest yielding in the country and to produce these high yields they need the best care at all times of day and night. Not only this, the ever increasing demands of milk buyers to ensure the highest levels of animal welfare mean it is essential that someone is on site 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to ensure these welfare standards are met.

The herd calves all year round, so caring for dry cattle that are close to calving is ongoing throughout the year. This can be a very stressful time for both the animal and the farmer responsible for the care, so it is important that there are no other stressors involved, such as the need to travel in between checks.

The family have lived in a static caravan adjacent to the farm for the past 9 years, and in my opinion the reason that the cattle have such immaculate welfare standards and produce such high yields of good quality milk is because of the care that they already receive. This level of care is only possible because the family currently live on site and need to continue to do so in order to continue in this way.

If you require any more information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Faithfully,



**McMurtry
& Harding**
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