***Appendix 1 (November 2020)***

**AMENDED DC/20/1197/FUL Lambing Unit – Fornham Farm, Thetford Road, Fornham St Martin**

13th November 2020

Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council have previously objected to this application and have in the past strongly objected to the application for retention of dwelling on this site (DC/16/2278/FUL), which essentially was a retrospective application, and for the subsequent application for change of use of land to Equestrian (DC/18/0069/FUL), which was approved, but it appears that no Equine activity has been undertaken.

Our village is currently an infill Village and any development in this area would have a detrimental impact on the Rural character and appearance of our village, which is in contravention of DM13 and DM32 (Section a &b) of the Joint Development Management Policy document. Even with the amendments to the plans, to sink the proposed development 2ft into the ground, the location and the size would mean the proposed building would sit much higher up on the valley, causing an impact on the landscape and visual appearance forever. We have previously raised concerns over the proximity of residential properties and the impact upon their visual amenity; Bleak House is less than 200m distance from the proposed development. We are aware that this application was refused for Permitted Agricultural Development, in March 2020, for this reason

Clarification is needed regarding the land and its use, land was granted use as ‘Equestrian’ under application DC/18/0069/FUL, although no horses are visible on the land. The applicant appears to want to retain the shipping container on site, with a concrete apron to be placed in front; we have concerns that this is not suitable for a lambing unit, as there is no clarification on ventilation or lighting (daylight), which without would mean it is entirely unsuitable for animals to be kept in. There is already a barn (2015) on the land which is designated for agricultural use, surely this would be eminently more suitable for a lambing unit, along with the apparently redundant stables. Our concerns are that the site will eventually become industrial and will be an eyesore to the village.

The Council is also concerned that the access/exit to the property is onto a D-restricted road of 60MPH limit. The 60mph speed limit and visibility issues at the entrance, do not seem appropriate for horseboxes and trailers, and farming vehicles entering and exiting, which is in contravention of DM32 (Section f) of the Joint Development Management Policy document. We strongly feel that Highways assessment of the access is incorrect, and would ask whether Highways have carried out a site visit, to assess the suitability of the access and road?

In conclusion, Fornham St Martin cum St Genevieve Parish Council strongly objects to application DC/20/1197/FUL, and would ask that the application is taken to Committee.