

## Press Release

4<sup>th</sup> January 2011

### 7 days to stop the Nocton 'mega-dairy'

Celebrities have joined Compassion in World Farming, the world's leading farm animal welfare charity to announce that the countdown to oppose plans for the UK's first 'mega-dairy' in Lincolnshire is now on.

There are just 7 days left for the British public, local residents and concerned organisations to lodge objections to Nocton Dairies' planning application for a US-style 'mega-dairy' where over 3,000 cows will be housed indoors and given little or no access to outdoor grazing.

Bill Oddie and Coronation Street actress Kate Ford have both given their support to the appeal for the British public to support the notion of Compassion in World Farming's campaign – that cows belong in fields.

Aside from the unacceptable restrictions on grazing, Nocton Dairies could have serious consequences for the environment and the local area. There is a risk that plans to spread slurry and/or digestate could contaminate the local water supply through spillage and infiltration. Local residents are also concerned about an increase in the amount of flies, odours and heavy goods lorries the 'mega-dairy' would bring with it to the picturesque rural area.

As this is the first proposed 'mega-dairy' of this size to be in the UK, there is concern that if it goes through, further such 'mega-dairies' could appear all over the UK.

All objections and comments must be sent to North Kesteven District Council by 5pm Tuesday 11th January 2011 – just 7 days away.

Coronation Street actress Kate Ford who plays Tracy Barlow, said:

"The countdown is on. The proposed 'mega-dairy' would be a disaster for local people, for dairy farmers, for animals and for the environment. We need everyone's support now to keep cows in fields and to stop these plans from going ahead."

Bill Oddie, conservationist, said:

"I think the plan to build a 'mega-dairy' at Nocton is absolutely horrendous and what is so appalling is how this, and factory farming in general, keeps coming back. It represents everything that both Compassion in World Farming and I oppose."

Pat Thomas, Nocton Campaign Manager for Compassion in World Farming, said:

"The public consultation period is nearly over and Compassion needs your support to keep cows in fields. Local residents have been campaigning hard and it is clear that there is

tremendous opposition to these plans which will see thousands of cows kept indoors for most of their lives.

“Nocton Dairies would be the UK’s first ‘mega-dairy’ of its size and the largest in the country. However, this is not just an issue for Nocton, or even Lincolnshire. Plans for other factory dairy farms in Cambridgeshire and Wales are under development. Some are waiting to see the outcome of Nocton before submitting their own planning applications. Sadly your area could be next.”

Other high-profile figures supporting Compassion in World Farming’s ‘Cows Belong in Fields’ campaign include Joanna Lumley, William Roache (Ken Barlow in Coronation Street), Jo Brand and Zac Goldsmith MP. See [cowsbelonginfields.org](http://cowsbelonginfields.org) to see their quotes.

North Kesteven District Council is giving greater consideration to objections which take environmental impact and local amenity (i.e. noise, smell, traffic) into account - over those which focus on animal welfare and ethical issues surrounding factory farming. To make an impact Compassion recommends that objections include these vital environmental issues as well as animal welfare concerns.

Anyone can submit an objection and even if people have previously objected, they must make a new objection to the revised plans.

Compassion’s website [www.cowsbelonginfields.org](http://www.cowsbelonginfields.org) gives good advice for anyone wishing to object to the planning proposals in a way that has the greatest effect.

Wherever you live in the UK you can help say **NO** to Nocton Dairies’ plans.

You can submit your objections from now until 5pm on Tuesday 11th January, 2011:

Please submit your objections online at: [www.cowsbelonginfields.org](http://www.cowsbelonginfields.org) and follow the link to **take action**.

Or write to:

North Kesteven District Council,  
Planning Office,  
District Council Offices,  
Kesteven Street,  
Sleaford,  
Lincolnshire,  
NG34 7EF.

Objections made by post will be uploaded to the District Council’s website.

**-ENDS-**

**Compassion in World Farming ([www.ciwf.org](http://www.ciwf.org)):**

Compassion in World Farming was founded over 40 years ago in 1967 by a British farmer who became horrified by the development of modern, intensive factory farming. Today, we campaign peacefully to end all cruel factory farming practices. We believe that the biggest cause of animal suffering on the planet deserves a focused, specialised approach - so we only work on farm animal welfare.