

Member Briefing

Number: 1616

Title: Avian influenza (bird flu)

Summary: Outbreak of avian flu after positive case was confirmed at a farm in the Dunham on the Hill area on 2 November.

Background

You will be aware that there has been an Avian Flu outbreak, following a positive case that was confirmed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the Dunham on the Hill area.

What is happening?

The Council is supporting DEFRA and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) with this situation. Public Health England has confirmed the risk to public health from the virus is very low and the Food Standards Agency advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for UK consumers. Properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, remain safe to eat.

As a response to this outbreak, DEFRA has declared an “infected premises” and put in temporary movement restriction zones, related to birds (poultry, etc). This involves a 3km prevention zone and a 10km surveillance zone (see maps attached).

The Council and partners will be supporting APHA with carrying out visits to all homes in the 3km prevention zone, as well as to any premises that are registered as keeping birds / poultry. Visits have already started and foot patrols to residential homes in the area will start tomorrow (Saturday, 7 November) and continue over the next few days. This is to alert residents to the situation, establish whether there are birds/poultry at the address and provide support and guidance where required.

The group of volunteers helping with visits will use Castle Park as a base, to allow volunteers to have somewhere to return to for breaks. Volunteer training sessions are already taking place, including guidance and advice in adopting a COVID-safe approach during the foot patrol visits.

The teams are also mindful that Sunday is Remembrance Sunday and as such no visits will take place between 10.50am and 11.15am.

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Responsible Committee, Cabinet Member: Councillor Karen Shore, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Strategic Transport

Date: 6 November 2020