



Walsall Council
Civic Centre
Darwall Street
Walsall WS1 1TP

Via e-mail: planningpolicy@walsall.gov.uk

15 July 2024

Dear Councillors:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals – PETA entities have more than 9 million members and supporters globally – to request that a memorial plaque be erected at former leather factory Hatherton Works, in Leamore Lane, to commemorate the gentle animals who suffered for the leather that transited through this site.

The more than 1 billion cows and other animals exploited each year for their skin by the global leather trade suffer from the day they're born until the day they're flayed. Cows raised in India, one of the largest suppliers to the industry, are forced on lengthy death marches to slaughterhouses, often collapsing from thirst, exhaustion, injury, hunger, or despair. To force them back in line, handlers break the animals' tails or rub tobacco, chilli, or salt into their eyes. At abattoirs, cows' feet are bound and they're slaughtered in full view of each other. Sometimes, their legs are hacked off while they're still conscious and they endure the agony of being skinned alive.

The story is no better for animals skinned in the UK. As leather is a valuable co-product of the meat industry, leather sales directly fund filthy factory farms, where cows – who form lifelong bonds and even have best friends – are denied crucial companionship and even the opportunity ever to feel the sun on their backs. In this country, too, they are sometimes slaughtered while conscious, kicking after their throats are slit.

The media's description of Hatherton Works as "decaying" is fitting for a leather factory, given that – as someone's skin – that's exactly what leather would do if not for the witches' brew of chemicals used to preserve it. The toxins used in tanneries, including mineral salts, formaldehyde, coal-tar derivatives, and cyanide-based dyes, pollute the soil and waterways around them and cause serious illness among workers.

Each animal used for their skin is a thinking, feeling individual with a unique personality. Please honour those whose delicate skins have passed through Hatherton Works with this memorial plaque.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Taylor

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