

PEOPLE FOR
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TREATMENT
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Kevin Bentley
Leader, Essex County Council**15 October 2025**

Dear Councillor:

Following the deadly blaze that engulfed a lorry carrying chickens on the A12, claiming the lives of hundreds of birds, I'm writing to ask you to permit People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) to place a [memorial plaque](#) near the site to commemorate the lives lost.

Chickens are sensitive individuals, no different to the animals with whom many of us share our homes and admire from afar. They have memories to rival elephants', enjoy complex communication like parrots, are playful like puppies, and, most importantly, they feel joy, fear and pain, just like we do. But chickens are among the world's most abused animals. [Those farmed for their flesh and eggs](#) are confined by the millions to dirty cages and sheds, manipulated to grow too quickly or lay too many eggs, and slaughtered when still just babies.

Even on disingenuously named "high welfare" farms, animals suffer immensely, with RSPCA Assured standards allowing each chicken no more space than a piece of A4 paper in which to live.

A memorial would encourage people to reconsider eating the dead bodies of birds who have suffered, and remind everyone that the best way to avoid tragedies like this fire – which likely happened as gentle birds were trucked to their deaths at an abattoir – is to go vegan, sparing animals such terrifying journeys in the first place.

A memorial can't bring back the poor chickens who perished. But, it can help empower the public to choose delicious vegan foods that spare birds and *all* animals from miserable lives and risky journeys toward painful deaths.

I appreciate your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Elisa Allen
Vice President of Programmes

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
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