

Emma Heron [via email]

Planning, YDNPA

1 April 2019

Objection to planning application: C/33/29J Pletts Barn, Pletts Fold, Grassington

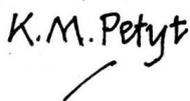
Full planning permission for conversion of former shop to local occupancy dwelling

Dear Ms Heron

Friends of the Dales particularly concerned by this application. Permitting the creation of dwellings for local occupancy is a cornerstone of the Park Authority's housing policy. It is a key tool for tackling the maintenance of active and sustainable communities, by making properties available for local people, and thus not turned into second homes. Whilst we have some sympathy for the applicant, it is not for a planning authority to abandon its policies in order to address the economic benefits anticipated by an individual. Friends of the Dales considers that sale of the property to a local occupant should be possible, but at a more reasonable price.

Friends of the Dales does not believe that there are exceptional circumstances that would justify a departure from policy. It would set a very unfortunate precedent if any application for removal of a local occupancy condition was accepted simply on the basis of an individual's stated financial hardship, so Friends of the Dales would ask that this application is turned down. However, there could be scope for adopting the current definitions of 'local' in the Local Plan, which are somewhat more flexible, and marketing the property again to see if a buyer can be found.

Yours sincerely



Dr Malcolm Petyt, Chair of Policy Committee

Friends of the Dales is a working name of the Yorkshire Dales Society which was founded in 1981 and is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Friends of the Dales is free of political and financial affiliations. We work to ensure that the Government, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and other relevant agencies deliver their obligations to care for the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales, an internationally important area. We do this by considering major planning applications and policy development affecting the Yorkshire Dales and adjacent areas. We offer a year round programme of walks and talks so that everyone can enjoy and learn more about this beautiful area and why it needs protection. We have a membership of around 1,300 individuals, families, businesses and organisations.



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