

YDNPA - Draft Conservation Area Appraisal for the Village of Askrigg

Comments by Friends of the Dales – submitted online 5/1/2022

The Draft Conservation Area Appraisal for Askrigg is a very thorough and comprehensive document for which the authors are to be congratulated. However, we feel the Management Proposal / Strategy is disappointing in its scope and represents a potential missed opportunity.

Whilst we fully support all of the proposed actions, we feel these could be developed further to help maintain and enhance the Conservation Area and could be extended to cover other aspects, for example:

- The issue of low occupancy buildings is highlighted, but no follow up actions are identified for tackling this within the Conservation Area.
- Similarly, other than acknowledging the problem, the challenge of generating local, sustainable employment in the Conservation Area is not addressed. However the HPB development represents an excellent example of bringing sustainable employment and income to the area. Perhaps more could be made of this and the lessons that can be drawn from it to the benefit of future possible developments.
- The importance of trees to the village environment is highlighted. It could therefore perhaps be helpful to consider greater use of TPOs within the Conservation Area
- We welcome the fact that the Conservation Area embraces so much of the village hinterland. However, we feel it would be helpful if the management plan included more actions to help protect and manage this element of the Conservation Area, for example:
 - Discouragement of the use of plastic tree guards
 - Management of grass verges
 - Greater emphasis on the protection / preservation of traditional farm buildings within the Conservation Area. We acknowledge that there are policies which cover this across the National Park, but feel that maybe the management plan could look at further tightening these within the Conservation Area
 - Whilst we acknowledge the critical need to engage and work with local landowners, we suggest it would be of value to highlight actions to encourage and enhance the species rich local meadows and pastures, given their acknowledged importance to the Conservation Area