

Mark Williams [via email]

Planning Team

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

17 May 2022

**Objection to Planning Application S/03/518D
Birks Farm, Birks Lane, Sedbergh**

Full planning permission for use of agricultural field as a campsite for 5 months of the year and construction of new 3-bay building for stock, hay or tourist facilities according to the season

Dear Mr Williams

Friends of the Dales objects to this application for the following reasons:

Various aspects of this application make it unacceptable and not in line with the policies of the current Local Plan. The increased use of this site recently has clearly shown that, if the longer period and the increased use were to be made permanent, it would cause harm to the landscape character.

Furthermore, Friends of the Dales has seen this development in progress for quite a few years. The fields are crossed by a public footpath, and at camping times one has to walk right through the tents which significantly reduces the walker experience.

As the Local Highway Authority response notes, the increase of touring pitches from 12 to 60 would involve an intensification of use of the existing access. In addition, traffic along the narrow road is yet another problem. Local people have raised complaints on various occasions since about 2003 when the expansion of the depot led to large HGVs passing along the road.

All this taken together is clearly an overdevelopment of the site that will cause harm to the landscape and create further access difficulties.

Yours sincerely

Signed by Wilf Fenten, Chair, Policy and Planning 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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