

Brian Diamond [via email]

Planning Officer

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

17 October 2024

**Objection to Planning Application: C/33/518A Grassington Campsite, Hebden Road, Grassington  
Full planning permission for change of use of agricultural field to a permanent campsite and  
erection of facilities building**

Dear Mr Diamond

Friends of the Dales wishes to **object** to this application.

We recognise that this planning application is to provide a permanent campsite in Grassington, in order to extend the use and season of operation over that available under the “60 day” temporary campsite rules.

In principle we support sustainable tourism that benefits local communities whilst providing for the needs of tourists, but without damaging the special qualities of the national park. Campsite facilities, if well planned and managed can help achieve that aim.

However, this application lacks clarity and detail which raises significant concerns.

- a) There is no information on the **number of pitches**, and whether these will be tents or small campervans for example. In our view this is essential information.
- b) Although the plans include a small area for short term parking whilst checking in at the reception, vehicles will then be **parked on the pitches** next to each tent. That will have a significant impact on the visual appearance of the site.
- c) Such a visible site on the edge of the village – particularly from the approach from Hebden but potentially also from the well-used footpaths along the riverside and lanes – should be addressed in a thorough **visual impact assessment**. Unfortunately that is missing from the application and comparison to a site elsewhere in Wharfedale is irrelevant in planning terms.
- d) We are concerned about **safety** for people walking into and out of the site, and for vehicles entering and leaving. There is no pavement and the entry point will be shared between people and vehicles. The entrance will be at the bottom of the hill on Hebden Road on significant bend in the road. No detailed plan has been provided to explain how these dangers will be addressed.

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- e) The applicant says in their document that "The Site will be managed by someone within the facilities building to ensure noise levels are kept to a minimum". This means that after hours, when most **noise disturbance** is likely, there will be no management on site to regulate noise.
- f) By allowing vehicles to drive across the site to park on the pitches, there is likely to be damage to the surface of the field which may lead to an application to put in **permanent trackways**, leading to further visual impact.
- g) The previous application C/33/518 (refused) included land to the west. A thorough appraisal of this application is essential as we are concerned that if this new application C/33/518A is approved, the applicant may apply to **extend the site in future**.

Chair, Policy and Planning Committee  
On behalf of Friends of the Dales

*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.*