

Michelle Clowes [via email]

Planning, YDNPA

19 March 2019

Comment on planning application: R/55/79C Aysgarth Station, Carperby

Full planning permission for the laying of railway track and the private use of the railway for storing/moving locomotives, carriages and goods vehicles

Dear Ms Clowes

Friends of the Dales supports the long term ambition of reinstating the Wensleydale Railway as a working line, providing a public transport route linking Redmire with the upper dale.

It is noted that Policy BE6 Railway related development in the Local Plan states: *Development that would prejudice the reinstatement of the Wensleydale Railway, including operational land and station facilities, will not be permitted.*

Therefore planning permission should not be granted should any aspect of the proposal jeopardise the future reinstatement of the Wensleydale line. This also applies to any leasing of YDNPA land; conditions must be included in that lease to enable termination should any future development jeopardise the reinstatement of the line, and for the land to be taken back into public ownership if need be. The integrity and high biodiversity value of the surrounding SSSI, Freeholders Wood, one of the finest limestone woodlands in north England, must also be protected.

It is understood that the applicant intends to hold an annual open day. The roads here are very narrow and winding, and lack pavements, but the Aysgarth Falls and other features of the area attract large numbers of visitors. This combination of pedestrians and vehicles can make access very difficult at peak times. Furthermore parking is limited, and the surrounding area is, as mentioned above, a prime Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is the view of Friends of the Dales that this is not an appropriate area in which to hold large public events. Should the Planning Committee be minded to grant permission, then conditions need to be included to ensure that the applicant keeps to the commitment of just one public open day per annum.

Yours sincerely



Dr Malcolm Petyt, Chair of Policy Committee



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