

11 December 2015

Ms Charlotte Bogg  
Forward Planning  
Ryedale House  
MALTON  
YO17 7HH

Dear Ms Bogg

**Ryedale Local Plan: Site 643 (Hovingham)**

We are requesting the Council to reconsider the inclusion of site 643 in the Local Plan and, if they do decide on inclusion, to change the category of that site to 2. Our reasons are given below.

1. The only exit must be on to the B1257 opposite the York Road junction. To form an exit from a sharp hill on to a major corner is unwise and from the highway aspect dangerous. We live on the High Street and notice heavier lorry traffic than ever. There are daily movements of trucks moving feed and livestock as well as local delivery trucks, often heavy and slow especially rounding the top corner and turning left or right towards York. Further heavy access on to this road is just not sensible for the proposals suggested.

2. Site 643 will directly affect the viability of Worsley Arms Farm, the last in-village farm in Hovingham, which is small (about 350 acres) and currently worked by one tenant farmer. The usual access from the farm is directly on to High Street by an entrance 12 foot wide, shared by the hotel, the surgery and commercial premises. It exits on to a busy junction, is not marked by highway signage and requires farm machinery to drive out square. It is not possible to take the combine harvester out this way and the exit eastwards to the fields would be closed off by the proposed development. The plan would further remove the farm buildings, currently bedding livestock and providing secure storage for machinery. Without the buildings and rear access the farm is not viable.

The farming family concerned have farmed in the village for over a century. The current farmer was born in the house and he has children at school. We are concerned that by making the farm unworkable there is a great loss to Hovingham as an agricultural village.

3. The proposal would destroy an orchard and allotments. The orchard, part of the farm garden, has pruned fruit trees of mature age, which are harvested each year. Many orchards have gone from our countryside and this is one of the last of its kind in the village. The allotments would be impossible to replace at any site within the village, and cultivation would have to start from scratch. It would also destroy a small nursery, truncate gardens of estate cottages, remove some mature trees and give parking problems to existing properties. This is environmental damage by increment and Hovingham should have protection for its environment.

4. Rain water is at present absorbed into the ground. Development would mean that it would have to be carried away in drains to the beck, which is already near capacity.

5. There are concerns about the type of development proposed. It was always suggested that the Pasture Lane extension would bring a mixed group of people into the village. Of all the houses built none have any children in the village school.

We stress that we are not opposed to any development in the village, but are very concerned about this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Jill Knight

Martin Knight