

Aysgarth & District Parish Council

1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Representation/Objection to Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence Under the Licensing Act 2003 12/00568/PREM**

I write on behalf of the Aysgarth & District Parish Council to formally object to the proposed variation of the premises licence for the Aysgarth Falls Hotel, under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003.

When representatives of the hotel presented their plans to develop new lodge-style accommodation in the grounds, they gave clear and unequivocal assurances to this Council and to local residents that they would not be seeking to amend or extend their alcohol licence. This commitment was made in recognition of the unique character of Aysgarth and the potential for disruption that such changes could bring to a small rural village.

This new application represents a direct reversal of that commitment. The proposals to permit 24-hour alcohol sales, extended late-night refreshment, and broadened licensable areas - including outdoor grounds - constitute a fundamental and, in our view, unacceptable change to the nature of this establishment's operations.

We wish to place on record the following serious concerns:

**1. Breach of Trust and Good Faith**

The application has caused considerable anger among residents, who feel they have been deliberately misled. Assurances were given in good faith; those assurances have now been disregarded. This has undermined the trust between the community and the hotel's management.

**2. Public Nuisance and Amenity Impact**

The proposed changes will allow alcohol to be served at all hours, creating the very real possibility of noise, disruption, and anti-social behaviour during times currently considered quiet and restful. This is particularly inappropriate in a village of Aysgarth's size and character, and completely incompatible with its setting in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

**3. Traffic and Safety Pressures**

Increased late-night use of the premises will place greater strain on local roads and parking, neither of which are suited to high volumes of traffic or activity at unsociable hours. Residents already report difficulties with visitor traffic during the day; this application could extend those problems into the night.

#### **4. Precedent**

Granting this application risks setting a precedent that others may follow. Currently, no other establishment in the area operates under such a licence, except possibly the Tan Hill Inn (a unique, isolated case). The notion of 24-hour alcohol sales may be appropriate in urban centres, but it is entirely out of place in a rural setting such as this.

#### **5. Licensing Objectives**

We believe this application undermines several of the Licensing Act's key objectives:

- The prevention of public nuisance, through the likely increase in late-night noise and disturbance;
- Public safety, due to potential increased footfall and traffic during night hours on narrow village roads;
- The protection of children from harm, particularly with more unrestricted access to alcohol on site and extended operating hours.

#### **Conclusion**

In light of the above, the Parish Council opposes this application in the strongest possible terms. We call on the Licensing Authority to uphold the values of consistency, community protection, and good governance by rejecting this proposal in full.

If the applicant still intends to pursue changes to their licence, we would expect them to return to this Council and to the local community with a new proposal - one that is modest, respectful, and fully transparent.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]

On behalf of Aysgarth & District Parish Council

[Redacted contact information]