

The Association of Rural Communities



The Licensing Team  
North Yorkshire County  
Civic Centre, Stone Cross  
Northallerton DL6 2UU

05/08/2025

Dear Sir/Madam

Re : Premises licence number 12/00568/PREM, Aysgarth Falls Hotel, Aysgarth

The application states:

The Applicant seeks to extend the existing Licence to include the grounds of the hotel in which the chalets will be located. Also, the Applicant seeks to: include the existing hotel accommodation with the Licence area, for the same purpose; to allow the sale of alcohol to residents and their bona fide guests 24/7 (commonly known as a resident's exemption); and to amend the child access restrictions to read - Children under the age of 16 shall not be permitted to enter the premises after 21:00 unless dining with an adult or attending a pre booked function or resident at the hotel or on-site accommodation.

Protecting children:

One of the objectives of the Licensing Act 2003 is to protect children from harm. The plans submitted to the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNPA) by Applicant show that there will be three family chalets in the grounds of the hotel. Families usually include children.

A 24/7 licence would allow alcohol to be sold throughout the site even when children are staying with their parents in those chalets. Surely it would be better if the Applicant applied for temporary event licences rather than having 'blanket' approval? And for such licences to be just for the existing hotel so that children staying in the chalets can be fully protected.

Prevention of public nuisance

In a planning statement the Applicant sent to the YDNPA in support of its application (which was approved in October 2023) it stated:

'Protecting residential amenity, particularly in respect of any noise created in association with the development, has been a key consideration throughout the development of the subject proposals. Furthermore, the current operating arrangements and opening hours associated with the profile of arrival and departure for the lodges and services times of the restaurant and public house, will remain as existing, containing all impacts within the current opening hours. Overall, it is concluded that the noise risks associated with the subject proposal will be minimal, such as to ensure no unreasonable adverse impact upon residential amenity.'

It continued: 'As highlighted within the [YDNPA] Management Plan, the beauty, grandeur and other less tangible qualities of the National Park help to create a unique "spirit of place". The National Park

benefits from extensive areas providing a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude, housing natural sounds, expansive views, seasonal change, dark night skies....'

Events with alcohol on sale throughout the site until 5am will greatly increase the impact on the amenity of neighbours and also wildlife not only in the woodland SSSI immediately to the north of the site but also to the ancient churchyard of St Andrew's Church immediately to the east. The gateway to this place of worship is a War Memorial. (*Below: the chalet site as seen from the War Memorial gates at the church*). The churchyard is a very special place to enjoy dark skies, and the peace and tranquillity of the dales. The concerts in the church from April to September each year always finish before 10.30pm – and we believe that the usual licensing hours for Aysgarth Falls Hotel should also be up to 10.30pm.

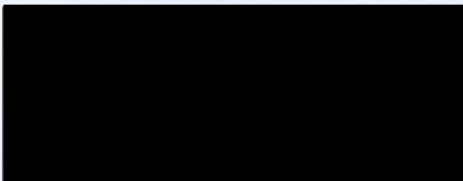
In the planning application it was emphasised that there would be a biodiversity gain due to the planting of a hedge and the provision of bat and bird boxes. Events continuing until 5am will disrupt all such wildlife both due to noise and light pollution.

#### Conclusion

We believe such an extension to the license would be completely unsuitable for such a rural location. As was stated when the application was made for planning permission – this should be an area of tranquillity and a place to enjoy the Dark Skies.

We also believe that children staying in the chalets should not be exposed to drinking and music events that can continue until 5am.

Yours faithfully



Administrative Officer  
Association of Rural Communities

