

Wendy Strangeway

From: Planning
Sent: 14 December 2016 13:45
To: Planning
Subject: Comments on NYM/2016/0817/FL - Case Officer Mrs H Saunders - Received from Dr Mark Hayes at White Lodge Farm, White Lodge, Langdale End, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 0BN



We wish to register our objection to the planning application NYM/2016/0817/FL.

We purchased White Lodge in October 2015, a farm of 34 acres, and like Mr Walkers farm ours is also too small to be run as a successful agricultural unit. In this respect we understand his situation and his desire to diversify in order to make his farm sustainable into the future.

However we profoundly differ in our opinion as to how this sustainable future can be best achieved. In his application he has not offered a reasonable set of alternatives to the proposed runway. As far as we can make out the fundamental basis for the application is to diversify his farm and enhance his earnings from his bed and breakfast enterprise. He fails to make the case and within the application there are various conflicting figures about the volume of traffic this runway will generate on the road and in the air. For example he cites a maximum of 5 additional road visits per day but up to 20 flights per day, there seems to be a mismatch here unless the flights are simply to touch down and then go again. This hardly suggests people staying in his bed and breakfast nor does it suggest that his visitors will be spending money in the local economy. He talks about planning policy and supporting economic growth in rural areas but fails to articulate how his scheme will do this.

He talks about general aviation (GA) and how it supports "vital services" but none of these services would be supported by his scheme.

The issue of sustainability of South Moor Farm should be placed within the context of the sustainability of the National Park and the environment in general. I applaud his move into renewable energy generation but cannot support a plan that is designed to increase air traffic at a time when we should all be seeking more fuel-efficient modes of transport. I note a number of his fellow flyers from around the country have written in his support but I would suggest that we should be encouraging them to visit the North York Moors National Park by using public transport and electric vehicles.

He and his supporters try to argue that grass airfields enhance the environment for wildlife but the fundamental question is "enhanced compared to what?" He seems to be suggesting the only alternative to his airfield would be an intensive industrial agri-business in which case he may have a point. But the idea that there are only these two alternatives is clearly nonsense. We live in one of the most beautiful areas of the country and we have an obligation to maintain and enhance wildlife and the natural environment. There are numerous schemes, many of them funded, to help re-wild farms seeking to diversify. The Government has committed to planting millions of trees during this Parliament but, so far, there is a shortage of schemes coming forward. If Mr Walker's aim is to make his farm sustainable I suggest he looks at these schemes.

It would appear at face value that the only beneficiaries of the airstrip would be Mr Walker and his pilot friends and the cost would be borne by the local residents and wildlife.

We already know that this area supports Goshawks and Nightjars that would be placed at risk by the airstrip. The Bird Assessment by Quants Environmental Ltd was inadequate as by its own admission the field survey was only on one day and only covered a 1km radius of the site. It was also conducted outside the main bird-breeding season rendering any negative comments on the presence of Goshawks and Nightjars as meaningless.

We believe that the time has come to end this ongoing saga of applications and appeals once and for all. We suggest that the planners make a clear statement that they support "sustainable" development where this means sustainable for the whole community, both wildlife and residents.

Please refuse this appeal.

Yours sincerely

Mark & Jane Hayes

Comments made by Dr Mark Hayes of White Lodge Farm. White Lodge. Langdale End, Scarborough,
North Yorkshire, YO13 0BN Preferred Method of Contact is
Email

Comment Type is Comment

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