

**Re: NYM/2017/0787/FL – Application for Erection of Manure Store at Church Farm, Kilburn.
Applicant: Mr H Thompson**

We are writing to register our strong opposition to this application.

It should be noted that there are two applications for manure sheds in the village from the same applicant. He and his brother own two farms both of which are situated within the village : Church Farm which comes under the jurisdiction of North York Moors National Park Authority and Village Farm which lies within the jurisdiction of Hambleton District Council to which a linked application has also been made, ref: 17/02328/FUL for the construction of a portal framed general purpose agricultural building for the storage of farm manure at Village Farm. We feel that North York Moors National Park Authority and Hambleton District Council should be coordinating consideration of these two applications together.

Background

Kilburn is a small rural village which is in the National Park and is part of a Conservation Area, which together form one of the “jewels in Yorkshire’s crown” and has featured on the covers of magazines and tourist publications. Kilburn attracts thousands of national and international visitors each year, eating and staying at The Forresters Arms Hotel, but in particular coming to visit the renowned Mouseman Museum and Café and their Furniture Workshops as well as the famous White Horse. Other visitors include cyclists, walkers, horse riders, vintage car rallies, tractor rallies, the annual ‘Race The Sun’ (Army).

With regard to the Manure Store at Church Farm: This farm is located alongside and behind five residential properties (some of which date back to the 1690s) and the Norman Grade II listed Church of St Mary. The residential properties are flanked on two sides by large open ended agricultural sheds, for the most part immediately bordering gardens and others less than 20 metres away, housing 100 plus beef cattle and around 2000 ‘bed & breakfast’ pigs, this part of the operation is spread between the two farms, thereby encircling the core centre of the village.

The constant squealing from the pigs in particular in these sheds is 24/7 all year round. Every 10 weeks or so, the noise increases substantially with the delivery and collection of pigs. The noise of several transporter lorries, constant shouting and yelling as the pigs are shovelled into the trucks can start as early as 4.30am and continue on for several hours. Noise from farm machinery also commences around 4.30am causing unacceptable disturbances to residents.

During the season through Spring to Autumn, we are inundated with flies, and the smell from the sheds is intolerable to the point that windows often have to be kept closed, being out in the garden is unbearable due to the foul odours emanating from the sheds. It has also been noted that the pungent odours and constant noise have discouraged visitors from staying and eating outside at both The Forresters Arms and also the T-Café at the Mouseman Visitor Centre during the summer.

The land belonging to Church Farm behind us has also been detrimentally changed from open fields with livestock living freely in the open, with a footpath connecting Low and High Kilburn and a track that crossed the footpath leading to and from the farm to their other fields, to a graveyard for various bits of disused and decaying farm equipment and other vehicles that have been present for several years.

Church Farm, along with Village Farm have joined forces with Mosey’s, who run a major operation of intensive pig farming. This has seen an increase in the frequency of large vehicle traffic to both farms on our small rural roads. These vehicles frequently exceed the speed limit and cause no end

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of nuisance to the residents, damaging road edge granite sets, damaging verges, collapsing roadsides and beck walls, and having little regard for any other road user.

This current state of affairs already impacts on tourists and our rights as residents to the peaceful enjoyment of our properties, and these will be further adversely affected should the application be allowed to progress.

We feel that this application, along with the linked application to Hambleton District Council should be refused on the following grounds:

The application states that the purpose of this manure store would be to stop manure, that is stored in the middle of the farm yard complex, from getting wet and causing phosphates to run off into water courses. We are given to understand that usual practice for storing of manure is to put it on land where it would be eventually ploughed in for crop planting. We are unaware of any other farm in the environs that have a covered farm manure store to make it “more aesthetically pleasing than an outdoor manure heap” when viewed from nearby footpaths (Heritage Statement).

The hand-drawn plan of the siting of the manure store does not, in our opinion, give a true representation of the proposed siting, inferring that it is on level ground, whereas we believe that if the location is as stated, it is in fact on rising ground towards River Lane (road to High Kilburn). We are given to believe that manure storage sheds should not be built on land with gradient due to potential issues with pollutants running off into watercourses.

Professional plans, along with topographical surveys should have been submitted with clear indication of height, scale and impact on the surrounding landscape and properties.

There is a small watercourse behind the residential properties adjacent to Church Farm, and run-off from the current sheds frequently works its way into it. However, more importantly, the main watercourse in Kilburn, Twattleton Beck, is extremely polluted – we have on numerous occasions seen chemical-based foam in the beck. Indigenous wildlife, fish, crayfish, water voles, frogs etc. have completely disappeared due to long-term chemical run-off. We feel that it should be imperative that a full ecological survey of the site and the surrounding watercourses be undertaken.

The application appears to state that drainage will be into an open drain, but we feel that more detail is required on the management of this, given the gradient of the land. We also are of the opinion that if existing drainage is to be used, then a thorough examination needs to be undertaken to ensure that it is suitable for purpose, and if not, what course of action will be taken to ensure that it meets environmental and ecological requirements.

There have been problems in the past with both vermin as well as the continuing increased numbers of flies from this farm. It is our opinion that having a covered, and potentially warm and dry, manure heap within close proximity to residential properties, would encourage further future increases in both vermin and flies, and as has happened in the past, an increased risk of infestation in these properties, along with a potential increased risk of transference of leptospirosis to family pets.

We are of the opinion that a covered manure store is not going to reduce in any great measure, the stench that currently pervades the village on a daily basis.

Kilburn and the surrounding area is well-known for its natural beauty and many of the residents rely on income from the tourist trade. The people that live in the village, the landscape, indigenous wildlife and ecology, infrastructure have all suffered from the impact of the introduction of large numbers of pigs being brought into the village environs. Kilburn, putting it simply, cannot cope with

any further expansion in this method of farming, and allowing this application to progress would contribute to the destruction of the beauty of this village and surrounding area.

We strongly urge you to refuse this application.

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