

**From:** [Planning](#)  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on NYM/2017/0787/FL - Case Officer Mrs H Saunders - Received from Mrs Sara Cussons at West View, High Kilburn, YO61 4AJ  
**Date:** 09 January 2018 12:07:05

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To whom it may concern

I write in connection with the two applications made by Messrs Thompson. Firstly, I think it is very important to point out that Hambleton District Council and North Yorkshire Moors National Parks Authority should look at these plans as a joint application and not in isolation.

Kilburn was once a quiet rural village, with two moderately sized dairy farms at its heart. Since the introduction of an intensive B&B pig operation which is spread out between the two farms: Village Farm and Church Farm, the landscape and the right to enjoy our properties has diminished.

In summer and early autumn, no longer can we sleep with our windows open to enjoy the fresh country air. Noise from pig collections, machinery and people shouting often cause us to wake in the small hours of the morning. Just the other day machinery was switched on at 4.30am – this is unacceptable and annoyingly it is now common place.

It is rare that you can venture out and eat dinner or enjoy the garden on return from a hard day's work. The mixture of the diabolical smell that wafts up the hill and the sound of screaming pigs from the farms below can on occasion be so overwhelming that we are forced to retreat.

The landscape around both farms is also changing with the back of Church Farm now looking like a scrapheap with disused and decaying equipment that has not been moved in several years. This land used to be fields with a footpath that connected High Kilburn to Low. The only sign of the farm was the mud track that crossed the footpath and led to the farm.

Village Farm now has an obnoxious yellow coloured shipping container perched on the hillside amongst other random scrap, visible for all to see for miles around – such a shame for the tourists who come to visit Kilburn. All this is at odds with this wonderful village that sits within a conservation area.

Kilburn is not a farm. Kilburn is a village that has farms in it and before it became a pig farm the animals were kept in the open and not in sheds their entire lives. The farms have become part of a major operation that produces 350k pigs per annum. It is my opinion that the roads, the tourism and our human right to quiet enjoyment of our properties are all been adversely affected by the ongoing development of these farms.

I therefore object strongly to the plans on the following grounds:

1. I believe that the plans are sketchy, poorly produced and unprofessional.
2. There should be topographical surveys in respect of both applications. As it is impossible to appreciate from the plans the height and scale impact on the surrounding area.
3. The drainage proposals lack in any detail, particularly given the lay of the land.
4. It is my understanding that manure storage sheds should not be placed on areas with too much of a gradient, as this can cause problems with pollutants washing out and into watercourses. Both applications are sited on hillsides.
5. The village stinks, how will erecting two large sheds in the centre of the village to hold manure help this situation?
6. We have problems with flies that we didn't have before the pigs arrived...how will this be managed if the plans are passed?
7. Currently the beck in Kilburn is terribly polluted – this should be investigated urgently by the Environment Agency. Once there were fish, water voles and other wildlife etc. I would urge both authorities to request ecological surveys of the sites and the surrounding watercourses.
8. I also believe that the existing drains the applicant is proposing to utilise need examining to establish their exact routes and suitability.
9. My biggest reservation about both planning applications is the future scope to change these agricultural sheds into additional sheds to hold more pigs. The applicant has declared that there are 2000 pigs in total. The strain on the roads the Mosey lorries cause is obvious and given the frequency of their visits to the farms, it is

only a matter of time before an accident occurs. Large vehicles are regularly ploughing through the village and we have seen damage to curbing stones. On 8th January I was run into a hedge in my car by a Mosey lorry who couldn't put his breaks on because of the weather conditions (their words not mine). The lorry took up 80% - I had to get out of the way. The village is straining under the impact of these farms that are becoming second fiddle to a faceless major industrial sized company.

These plans need to be considered very carefully by both authorities as the impact on the lives of the people that live in the village, the landscape, ecology and the safety of road users is already been put under great strain. Kilburn is simply not an ideal model for this scale of farming and whilst I support diversification, I cannot support an application that will change the face of Kilburn for the worst.

Yours sincerely

Sara Cussons

Comments made by Mrs Sara Cussons of West View, High Kilburn, YO61 4AJ

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