

**From:**  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Subject:** FAO Hilary Saunders - NYM/2018/0094/FL Additional Comments  
**Date:** 17 April 2018 22:27:57  
**Attachments:** [Additional Comments NYM\\_2018\\_0094\\_FL.pdf](#)

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Dear Hilary,

NYM/2018/0094/FL

Please see attached our additional comments on the revised plans submitted for the above planning application. These are supplementary to our comments submitted on 25th March 2018 which are still of relevance.

Regards,

Matthew and Jenneke Fitzgerald

10 Low Dalby

NYMNPA

18/04/2018

10 Low Dalby  
Pickering  
YO18 7LT

17<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Dear Hilary

**Comment on Applicant's Amendments to Application NYM/2018/0094/FL**

Thank you for informing us of the amendments the applicant has made to the above planning application. Our following comments are in addition to our previous submission which is still of relevance. The realignment of the accessible path further from our boundary has given us some peace of mind regarding the amount of negative impact the proposed development will have on our privacy, amenity and security and we thank the Forestry Commission for taking our concerns into consideration.

The obstruction of the track that runs behind the residents' properties is also a very welcome addition to the application. We would like to request that the track between the red hatched boxes on the revised plans be fully removed by landscaping to fit the contours of the hillside (rather than just the two small areas currently shown on the plans), and that this be an enforceable planning condition should the application be granted approval, to be carried out before the sculpture is open to the public.

Our remaining concern with this proposed new attraction is however still the fact that the applicant has seemingly done nothing whatsoever to acknowledge or mitigate the impact of ever increasing visitor numbers through the residential area of Low Dalby, which is a direct result of their continued drive to develop and promote this part of the forest. The development by the applicant's own admission is intended to increase visitors to Dalby Forest even further and they have chosen to site it where it will **be likely to detract from the experience of visitors and the quality of life of local residents** which is in contravention to the NYMNPA LDF Development Policy 14.

The Forestry Commission claim that 70,000 walkers and cyclists use the Ellerburn Trail every year. In order to access the trail from the visitor centre and car park it is necessary to pass *and return* through the largest residential area in Dalby Forest. At a conservative estimate this equates to 140,000 visitor journeys passing through Low Dalby every year as it does not allow for other users returning along the blue mountain bike route etc. Some of the residents took part in a people count on 05 April 2018 between 10am and 5pm. This was a week day albeit during the school holidays, but not a day we would consider particularly busy. We counted 1545 people passing through the village during these hours. This figure extrapolated to just 104 weekend days in a year (not allowing for anybody during the week, school holidays or bank holidays) still comes to 160,680.

In short, the trail and village has reached capacity at peak times, yet the applicant wants to increase this further. The Forestry Commission has stated that they do not know how many visitors are likely to come to see the sculpture, but in the words of Julian Rudd (Head of Economy and External Partnerships at Ryedale District Council, who wrote in support of the application) *'the quality of the*

*proposed artwork makes it of national, even international, note.*' So it can be safely assumed that the level of interest will be significant.

Our personal opinion is that if the Forestry Commission were to take measures that would offset the increase in number of visitors through the village as a result of the sculpture, (or ideally reduce them from the current numbers) the new development would be less problematic. An example might be by removing current and future promoted activities from the Ellerburn Trail thereby returning it to a normal multi-user trail. By reducing the current impact of the number of visitors on the residential area, we feel the proposed development would be much more acceptable, and we would urge the NYMNPA to refuse the application without such measures being compulsory.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Matthew and Jenneke Fitzgerald