

Woodside
Grosmont
Whitby
YO22 5PF

Dear Mrs Saunders,

Re planning NYM/2011/0275/FL

I wish to register my objections to the planning proposed for the Methodist church and hall in Grosmont, for the following reasons:-

Not all affected properties which will loose privacy have been consulted for comment by the National Park Authority. The placing of patio areas for these holiday makers will take away the privacy of my back garden and could make our lives hell.

My back garden is used on a regular basis by my grandchildren, the eldest being 6 years old. They have had the freedom of leaving the house and crossing to the garden without any traffic worries. These plans propose to have constant use of this pathway by two vehicles daily which I find totally unacceptable. The children have had this right as no vehicles have used this access since before they were born.

I own the road between my house and garage /back garden and in the past have given access to vehicles. The plans propose a significant intensification of traffic on this road, and if this were to go ahead then I feel it should be maintained by the owners of proposed 'dwelling 2', and would hope this is written into any permission agreed.

I would welcome all proposed parking for this development to be off the road to Ings Terrace, which has constant traffic use, which my grandchildren are aware of and have been taught not to go to this road unless accompanied by ourselves. I value their safety.

The entrance road to Ings Terrace off Front Street is a single carriageway blind entrance, which is pothole ridden and in a crumbling state, the intensification of traffic on this road will cause further damage. There is very poor visibility out of this junction which is DANGEROUS the safety of the intensification of traffic would need to be addressed. Highways have been approached in the past and refused to place mirrors at this junction.

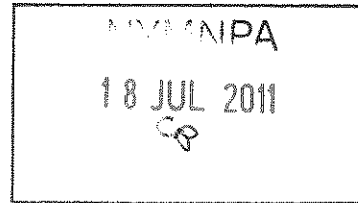
I welcome that these building can be brought back into use, but think having 4 holiday lets on this site is too much. It does not promote the need for affordable housing as the forward sale to local occupancies would be unobtainable as I believe they would be small for full time occupation. The village has an abundance of holiday lets which are not full to capacity and bring no benefit to the village. We need no more.

Yours faithfully
Margaret Beesley.



Revd Stuart Gunson
88 Coach Road, Sleights, Whitby, N Yorks. YO22 5EQ

The Planning Department,
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York YO62 5BP



15 July 2011

Dear Sir,

Re application NYM/2011/0275/FL: Grosmont Methodist Chapel

I am not certain whether any comment from myself is appropriate in relation to this planning application, however, I feel moved to write to you.

I am the Methodist Minister who has pastoral charge of Grosmont Methodist Church and have been closely involved in matters related to the sale of the Chapel, the Schoolroom buildings and the site. The views expressed here are personal and do not represent any official view of the Methodist Church.

You may be aware that the history to closure and sale of the Chapel goes back before 2004 when the congregation chose to discontinue worshipping in the Church building and consolidate its activities in the Schoolroom. This was principally on the ground of economy. Subsequently the Chapel building was deregistered as a place of worship and the schoolroom was registered.

A detailed survey of the Schoolroom was undertaken. The resources were not available to put into place the full recommendations of that survey, but the Whitby Methodist Circuit provided the resources to make the exterior of the premises watertight and in a good state of repair, and to provide access for the disabled to the schoolroom; this also provided an independent access to the Schoolroom. This work enabled us to offer the Chapel part of the premises for sale. At that point I was able to consult with Mrs. Ailsa Teasdale; this was a very helpful conversation.

The Whitby Methodist Circuit Meeting was always aware that the continued presence in the Grosmont community would not be dependent on the material resources that might be generated by a sale of part of the property. The financial revenue resources generated by local use was insufficient to service and insure the buildings, and this would not be reversible by an injection of capital money to improve the premises; therefore the presence would continue to be at risk into the foreseeable future.

At the Church Council meeting of November 2009, the decision was taken to put into process the cessation of worship at Grosmont Methodist Chapel and to seek permission to advertise the two buildings and the whole site for sale; to that end the sale of the Chapel by itself was no longer pursued. Approval was given and the property was marketed in the Spring of 2010.

The decision to cease worship at Grosmont was not taken lightly at any stage in the process. Locally, the associations of members with buildings in which they worship are spiritual and emotional associations. The making of such decisions are accompanied by feelings of having betrayed those who have sustained the presence over more than a century. The local members confronted the situation responsibly; part of that confrontation recognised that

- over the interim years the buildings had survived the elements well and that to delay further would risk them falling into a state of disrepair, that in itself would be painful.
- the local community had not sought the use of the premises to make the continued presence a material possibility, in fact the local Parish Plan had not considered the premises in its reporting and had advised the establishment of community premises on a different site altogether; the feeling of not being needed is one of rejection.

The checks imposed by the Church through the Whitby Methodist Circuit meeting and the York and Hull District Synod were thorough.

The final acts of worship at Grosmont Methodist Chapel were held on the 31st July and 1st August 2010.

You will be aware that Mr and Mrs Hodgson are the only potential purchasers of these premises, and that we have entered into a contract to sell to them, but that the sale is provisional on them obtaining planning permission. However it is not out of self interest that I choose to comment that

- I have been grateful that Mr and Mrs Hodgson have kept the Church (through myself) aware of the progress of their conversations with yourselves about the potential use of the premises.
- That Mr and Mrs Hodgson invited me to comment on their proposals before they were submitted to you.

I find that

- the proposals preserve the character of the premises and that would certainly please those who have made that difficult decision to vacate them.
- the proposals (as far as my 'non-professional' eye can discern) for the plans of the property preserve the privacy of the adjacent properties.
- the parking provision addresses the needs of the properties (we have always been sensitive to parking issues near to the Chapel since we had no parking areas of our own)
- aesthetically the development would be an improvement on what the Methodist Church would be able to sustain
- Mr and Mrs Hodgson's suggestion as to how the development would be carried out (nothing to do with the plans but to do with the convenience of the neighbourhood) in relation to access and delivery to the site during development is sensitive to the needs of those living in the area.

It is out of self interest that I choose to add that approval at this point in time would bring to closure the work that I have been doing to support and to inform those who took the decision to close and sell the premises.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Gunson

