

APPLETON ROEBUCK and ACASTER SELBY Neighbourhood Development Plan

2017 - 2027

Thank you for the opportunity to comment further on the Appleton Roebuck and Acaster Selby Neighbourhood Development Plan. I write in the capacity of local representative of the National Farmers' Union in the North East Region with particular interest in planning and economic development in rural areas.

In order to encourage growth and enterprise within the village suitable conditions should be placed on occupancy of a proportion of residential dwellings. Such conditions should be used to ensure accommodation is available within the community for local businesses, such as agricultural enterprise. Not only to ensure a reliable source of labour it also encourages workers to integrate into the community within which they work.

3.1 Vision for the Future

Whilst small enterprises may flourish in the parish it is important that high speed broadband coverage is uniform across the parish and rural businesses are able to diversify utilising high speed communications. As highlighted by your survey, adequate broadband and mobile phone coverage were highlighted as major constraints on businesses, alongside transport, premises and planning policy.

Farm Diversification

We welcome the objective to support farm diversification as this helps improve the long term viability of agricultural businesses whilst also having wider benefits for the local economy. Furthermore, through allowing re-use of existing farm buildings as part of diversification it enables preservation of the rural landscape avoiding the new for new build. However, modern farming practices necessitate a certain amount of new development which should be looked upon favourably if justified as part of the existing business.

Green Infrastructure

With regards to flood alleviation strategies, natural flood management can be incorporated into wider schemes to help reduce flood risk though this should be seen as a method of supplementing more traditional hard engineering structures. If Natural Flood Management methods are to be used, early engagement with relevant land owners is to be encouraged. The long term implications also need to be considered in terms of maintenance and liabilities.

The voice of British farming

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Maintaining Agricultural Land

We note the importance placed on Best and Most Versatile agricultural land. We would hope that this is of paramount importance when assessing the feasibility of any development. The preservation of rural land is vital in ensuring the sustainability of the rural economy and therefore the economy of the area as a whole. Great importance should be placed on securing the long term security of best and most versatile agricultural land as such land is not only an asset for the landowner but also the wider economy in meeting food production needs.