Your name

Address line 1

Address line 2

Address line 3

Address line 4

**Postcode**

**Councillor [insert name]**

**Harrogate Council**

(via email **[insert email]**)

[insert date]

Dear [insert name]

**Re: Brimham Rocks Adventure Farm,**

**Fiddler’s Green Farm, Brimham Rocks Road, Harrogate HG3 3HB**

**Planning Application Number 6.66.205.J.FUL**

We are aware that Harrogate Council has a legal document called a *Scheme of Delegation*, which provides clarity about the circumstances in which applications will be dealt with using delegated powers or referred the Planning Committee. We note from that document (Constitution – Part 3 – Responsibility for Council Functions/Planning Committee/The Planning Scheme of Delegation) that

*“Any Member of the Council is able to request that applications are considered by Planning Committee. To aid this process there will be a standard form for Members to use to submit requests for items that they wish to be decided by Committee. This will require that planning grounds are given for such a request. The completed form will be added to the application file.”*

Therefore legally, and in accordance with your council’s own rules, there is nothing to prevent any councillor, whether they are ward members or substitutes, from referring the application to committee.

We understand that convention accepts that in most circumstances the ward member, in this case Councillor Tom Watson, is the person to refer the application - but in this instance he appears unwilling to do so [alter as appropriate] we feel strongly that you (as well as your council colleagues) should request that the new planning application [Planning Application Number 6.66.205.J.FUL] is referred to the Planning Committee for consideration. Under your own constitution, this needs to be done within the 21-day publicity period.

We believe there are several valid grounds for the planning application being referred to the Planning Committee:

1. The application is of a significant, controversial or sensitive nature – we understand from planning advisors that this would ordinarily require the Development Control Manager to refer the application to committee (and are aware that this did not happen when the first application was decided)

2. The scheme involves potential enforcement action, to close a well-known and popular educational facility, and could lead to the closure of an important Dales Hill Farm - the farm in question won the *Yorkshire Post* Farmer of the Year award in 2018!

3. The scheme involves the need to consider a possible departure from the Councils Development Plan policies to enable the continued operation of a well-known and highly popular education centre within a working farm

4. There are a significant number of the public who are interested in the outcome of this application and it is likely to generate significant media interest across all printed and broadcast platforms.

It is for these reasons that we request that you refer Planning Application Number 6.66.205.J.FUL to the Planning Committee for consideration in an open forum, with the benefit of a full discussion and debate, and a considered decision by elected members.

Please advise, by return, that you are willing to make this request in respect of Planning Application Number 6.66.205.J.FUL.

Yours sincerely

Your name