

# Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council

Cllr Mary Harkness (Chair)

Clerk: Martin J French

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Mr Neil Henderson  
Planning Officer  
LDNPA  
Murley Moss  
Oxenholme Road  
KENDAL LA9 7RL

02 June 2021

Dear Mr Henderson

## Re : Planning Application 7/2021/5376

Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council met on Tuesday evening 01 June 2021 when the above application was considered, and Cllr Harkness (Chair) has drawn together the feelings of the Council reiterating those of parishioners that spoke at the meeting, and is as follows :-

Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds :-

**At 6** on the application form it states that the field is **currently** used for grazing. There have been no sheep on the field this year, even now, at the height of the growing season. A field and storage facility is only justified under LDNPA policies where there is **active farming and a demonstrable and verifiable farming need**.

**At 11** the applicant has ticked "sustainable drainage system". Where are the details of this? LDNPA policies require proper drainage plans. **Why does a sheep shelter need a "sustainable drainage system"?**

**At 13** the application form states "**other**" for **foul sewage**. **Why does a sheep shelter need a foul sewage system?** And what "**other**" service is proposed?

**At 25** there is no first name given for the owner of the land. **Planning regulations require the owners of any proposed planning development to be identifiable**. Is the owner the same as the applicant? A properly filled in certificate of ownership is a legal planning requirement. This must be the same as that on the Land Registry, or Tenancy agreement.

**The Parish Council further considers that the proposed detail plan of the "shelter" is not commensurate with a field/storage shelter for the following reasons;**

It is **over large** for the acreage available for grazing, being 6m x 4.5=27sq metres. The site plan includes the River Gilpin and part of the public Right of Way on the other side of the river. Therefore the maximum stocking rate given the available grassland would be for 20 sheep.

It includes a large "**sheep handling area**". Sheep farmers in our Parish Council point out that the shed/shelter **is on land that is extremely wet and sodden regularly**. Rivulets from the fells above

drain into this riverside field after rains. We have 5 Councillors with experience of sheep on our Parish Council, and we know that low lying land which is regularly sodden is not a place to handle sheep, due to exacerbating foot rot and damaging the grassland. There is **no activity taking place on this field that would justify the need for a shed.**

**What is the base of the shed and “sheep handling” area?** If, as seems likely, the base it is to be made of **concrete** then this has implications for biodiversity and brings into question its purpose. A genuine sheep shelter and handling area does not require a concrete base. Is it proposed to be mobile? On the grass? On hard core? This detail is important as LDNPA policies regarding field shelters are based on them being **low impact and essential for farming business.**

**It is not clear how the sheep are meant to access the shelter/shed?** There is **only a small side door on the shed** which it would be very hard for sheep to navigate. **A genuine field shelter has an open front or wide doors and a completely accessible canopy, so the sheep can access shelter whenever they wish.**

**Access to the large canopied area,** which sheep might have chosen to use in poor or very hot weather, **is also prevented by the large “sheep handling” enclosure.** How are the sheep meant to seek shelter given the fencing in their way? Sheep hurdles for handling sheep are usually brought to a grazing field when, and if, needed and stacked away when not in use. Is the “sheep handling” area permanent?. What is it’s foundation? **The applicant already has,** on the western bank of the River, **a quantity of metal sheep hurdles** which can easily be moved around and used in the event that he has any sheep to handle.

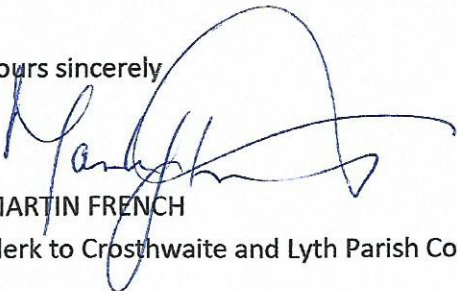
In conclusion the Parish Council does not consider that the plan proposed meets the tests for a sheep shelter and their related nuts/feed storage. **Therefore it falls outwith the LDNPA field shelter policies as it does not meet the criteria for Policy 25 or Policy 2 as it is an unnecessary intrusion into very visible open countryside, and must be refused.**

The design, siting and size, indicate an ignorance of sheep farming practice. **To the knowledge of the Parish Council the applicant is not farming the land, and currently has no tenant who is.**

The Parish Council looks favourably on genuine farming enterprise and businesses and if this were a genuine farming business we would expect the Park to ask for the Defra sheep tag numbers of the flock the applicant or tenant owns, and the registered RPA holding number for the land. This would provide some evidence of genuine farming and can be checked.

Although this application has to be dealt with on its own merits, the Parish Council note that the applicant has also applied for 5/6 large 3 bed lodges on the adjacent area only a week after submitting this application which purports to be for farming sheep.

Yours sincerely



MARTIN FRENCH

Clerk to Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council