



Cantley with Branton Parish Council

Yorkshire Wildlife Park
Brockholes Lane
Branton
Doncaster

19th May 2025

BY EMAIL: info@yorkshirewildlifepark.com
cc: n.williams@yorkshirewildlifepark.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Request to Reconsider Access via Brockholes Lane for Local Residents

I am writing on behalf of Cantley with Branton Parish Council and local residents regarding the closure of the walk-in entrance off Brockholes Lane.

While we fully acknowledge the operational demands involved in managing a popular visitor attraction such as Yorkshire Wildlife Park, we respectfully ask that you urgently reconsider some form of managed access through the Brockholes Lane entrance—especially for local, walk-in residents.

At a recent meeting, a number of additional concerns were voiced by residents, particularly those with disabilities, which we feel merit your serious attention:

- **Accessibility:** Disabled and elderly residents are finding it especially difficult to access the park due to the increased distance and uneven terrain at the Hive entrance. The Brockholes Lane entrance, in contrast, is level and significantly easier for those with mobility impairments to navigate.
- **Public Transport and Walking:** Buses do not stop conveniently near the Hive entrance, meaning those who rely on public transport—often older or less mobile residents—face added barriers to visiting. The walk-in entrance was far more accessible for those travelling on foot or by bus.
- **Environmental Impact:** The extended travel required to use the Hive entrance has increased vehicle usage, counter to environmental goals and carbon reduction efforts. Promoting access for local walkers aligns better with the park's presumed commitment to sustainability.
- **Visitor Experience and Site Layout:** Many of the park's main animal attractions are closer to the walk-in entrance, making it a more desirable entry point for residents who wish to make short, frequent visits.
- **Schools Still Using It:** Residents noted that local schools are still using the Brockholes Lane entrance, prompting the question—why can't residents be offered similar consideration?
- **Community Sentiment and Communication:** Residents expressed disappointment in the way the closure was communicated, feeling the messaging was abrupt and lacking in community engagement. The level of feeling and obvious frustration felt by residents was surprisingly strong, with all residents stating they would not be renewing their annual passes unless the walk-in entrance is reopened.

Kilham Hall, Kilham Lane, Branton, Doncaster, DN3 3PF

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- **Practical Solutions:** Suggestions included a timed re-opening of the walk-in entrance for an hour in the morning or afternoon, and the installation of a turnstile system to facilitate secure but limited local access.

As a community that has supported and taken pride in the park for many years, we feel that these concerns deserve thoughtful attention. Reinstating limited access at Brockholes Lane would not only enhance inclusivity but also help maintain positive relationships with the very community in which the park is embedded.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss possible solutions and look forward to hearing your thoughts on how this matter might be addressed collaboratively.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

B. Walton

Bev Walton
Clerk/RFO on behalf of
Cantley with Branton Parish Council

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