

Burniston Parish Council gas drilling application.

Today Burniston Parish Council along with Cllr Derek Bastiman our North Yorkshire Councillor for Scalby and the Coast, have written to Mr Richard Flinton the Chief Executive of North Yorkshire Council (NYC), in relation to the planning process for the gas drilling application for Mill Yard at Burniston.

We have requested that North Yorkshire Council refer themselves for an immediate external review by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) or an equivalent independent body.

We have asked for this to happen owing to the numerous concerns that have been raised with us and by us, about the process that took place by the North Yorkshire Council Planning department and the Councils management. Public confidence in the process has been well and truly undermined.

From the very beginning of this application process, this community and the wider community, irrespective of their views, expected that every single submission to North Yorkshire Council would be treated equally, fairly and transparently by NYC, leading to a fair and measured recommendation to the Strategic Planning Committee.

From the beginning of the process, written submissions went missing and later submissions appear to have been little credibility or comment.

In at least one instance an important letter, pointing out that the applicant had failed to submit the correct forms, has gone unanswered for nearly a year, despite follow up requests for an answer.

The likely Government changes to both legislation and guidance in the planning process has been treated not as a material consideration but as a 'negligible' issue.

We have submitted our request with something of a heavy heart. NYC is made up of elected Councillors and paid employees as our Council at Burniston is.

The call for a review call has been made to try to ensure that this planning application process stands up to scrutiny and if errors have been made they are never repeated.

If you would like to read the letter in full, it is available on the Burniston Parish Council website which can be reached by the below link

<https://burnistonparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/to-Richard-Flinton-6-Feb-2026.pdf>