

The D&S Times understands the incident did not happen during an official hunt ride.

A statement from Bedale Hunt said: "We can confirm that a tragic accident happened on Wednesday, September 15, when a two-year-old girl fell from her pony and subsequently lost her life.

"As a community we are all completely devastated but are pulling together to support the family involved.

"Our sincere condolences go to all those affected and we urge that everybody respects the family's privacy during what is a very distressing time."

North Yorkshire Police officers are now preparing a report for the coroner.

A force spokesperson said: "Police are compiling a report on behalf of the coroner following the tragic death of a two-year-old girl who was involved in a horse riding-related incident on land at Kirkby Fleetham, near Northallerton.

"The girl's family are receiving specialist support while enquiries are ongoing into the incident."

Green light for extension of leading industrial estate

By Stuart Minting

Local Democracy Reporter

A MAJOR expansion of one of the region's leading industrial estates which could see about 850 jobs created has been approved despite concerns it could worsen traffic issues in nearby villages.

Hambleton District Council's planning committee heard the proposal for development on an 18-hectare greenfield site on the former RAF Dalton airfield, south of Thirsk, would attract large-scale firms to Dalton Airfield Industrial Estate, which is already home to such firms as steel fabricators

Severfield and pet food company Wag.

Councillors were told the proposal had been well received in terms of the benefits it would bring to the local economy, with Thirsk and Malton MP Kevin Hollinrake, MP, describing it as "just the kind of development we need in North Yorkshire as we start to rebuild the economy post-Covid".

The industrial estate has been marketed as among the most connected locations in North Yorkshire and a cost-effective alternative to other Yorkshire industrial hubs.

An agent for the developers told the meeting they wanted

to create bespoke premises up to 18m high for large-scale occupier alongside buildings for small and medium size businesses.

Developers said the largest plot on the site extension would accommodate buildings with a combined internal area of 48,030sq m, the equivalent area to nine football pitches.

However, residents of the nearby villages of Asenby and Topcliffe told the meeting over the course of several months they had recorded more than 1,000 HGVs ignoring the 7.5-tonne weight restriction ban and the new development was highly likely to exacerbate the situation.

Councillors heard the situation with lorries taking the wrong route to the industrial estate along narrow roads was so severe that historic houses and structures in Topcliffe, which is known for its part in the Magna Carta, had been damaged and residents could struggle to cross the road.

Jamie Moores, chairman of Topcliffe Parish Council, said residents were concerned "it would make a traffic problem that is already bad worse" and the bridge over the River Swale was being "attacked" by HGVs despite the designated HGV exclusion zone. He said: "High-

ways and Trading Standards have shown a complete failure to enforce the exclusion zone and therefore the law."

Councillor Bridget Fortune said companies should be penalised for repeated incidents.

She said: "It is really important for people's quality of life. If you balance that quality of life against business that quality of life comes first."

However, the meeting was told the developers had agreed to fund measures to deter HGVs from travelling through the villages and that HGV routes would be specified and warning signs would be installed.

Information service

latest traffic/schools/health information at dst.co.uk/localinfo

ADVICE

CAB Bishop Auckland: The Four Clocks Centre, Newgate Street 01388 606661; Darlington: Horsemarket 01325 256999; Northallerton: 277 High Street 01609 776551; Richmond: 23 Newbiggin, 01748 823978; Barnard Castle: Woodleigh Flatts Lane, 01833 631486; Ripon: 5 Duck Hill, 01765 603297; Stockton District: Bath Lane 01642 607445. Samaritans Darlington: 13 Woodland Road, 01325 465465; North Yorkshire: 7 Crosby Road, Northallerton, 01609 776161; Harrogate: 5, Mount Parade, (01423) 525352

VOLUNTARY COUNCILS OR CENTRAL ORGANISATIONS

Organisations: Darlington: Church Row, Darlington, 01325 268888; Co Durham: Old School House, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, 0191 384 9266; Durham Community Action, St Stephens Court, Low Willington, 01833 742040, durhamcommunityaction.org.uk; Cleveland: 2nd/3rd floor, New Exchange Building.



Weather Watch

TODAY'S OUTLOOK

Summary: Rather cloudy and windy with some further outbreaks of light rain and drizzle, predominantly across western hills.

Maximum temperature: 22°C
Sunrise time: 6:55am
Sunset time: 7:01pm

TEMPERATURES

09:00		16
12:00		19

5 DAY FORECAST

		MAX	MIN
Friday		22	12
Saturday		22	14
Sunday		22	14