

Mike Ogden

From: Mike Ogden
Sent: 17 October 2018 15:39
To: 'Jo Bird'
Subject: RE: Proposed changes to public rights of way - Teesdale School and former railway line, Barnard Castle
Attachments: DraftPlan20171207.pdf

Hi Jo,

The School feel that your suggestion would still compromise the overall security of their site, and therefore are sticking with the original proposal, as attached.

We now have a date when this will be considered by the Highways Committee; it is Friday 23 November. The meeting will be held in Barnard Castle and will probably be late morning. You will get formal notification in due course and will of course have an opportunity to speak to the Committee in support of your objection.

Regards

Mike

From: Jo Bird [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 October 2018 18:07
To: Mike Ogden <Mike.Ogden@durham.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Proposed changes to public rights of way - Teesdale School and former railway line, Barnard Castle

Hi Mike

Many thanks.

Clearly there is some text missing from my second long paragraph. I can't recall precisely what text I intended, (and possibly deleted by mistake) but it was probably something like:

"The path beyond the trees would be outside the proposed fence" and/or
" a practical solution and far preferable to the route proposed on the consultation plan as well as preferable to the route initially suggested by Gordon Selley".

But I don't think whatever I missed out from that para makes it hard to understand what I meant.

Regards

Jo

From: Mike Ogden
Sent: Tuesday, October 2, 2018 4:32 PM
To: Jo Bird
Subject: RE: Proposed changes to public rights of way - Teesdale School and former railway line, Barnard Castle

Hi Jo,

Thanks for your email. I have asked the School for their thoughts on your proposal.

Regards

Mike

Mike Ogden

Access and Rights of Way Team Leader

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From: Jo Bird [REDACTED]

Sent: 24 September 2018 11:53

To: Mike Ogden <Mike.Ogden@durham.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Proposed changes to public rights of way - Teesdale School and former railway line, Barnard Castle

Dear Mike

Thank you for your email in response to my queries and following your enquiries.

I am very sorry that the school is not willing to consider further the proposal to route FP 10 within their boundary. Safety was not the only consideration regarding this route in preference to use of the pavement. In a nutshell, walking on grass with a view over grassland and trees is far more enjoyable than walking on a tarmac pavement beside a noisy smelly road with only a mere glimpse of countryside ahead if walking out of town, and if walking into town no relevant view of countryside at all. Walking beside this road is not just 'less pleasant' but distinctly unpleasant.

If the school is not prepared to consider this proposal, then the Open Spaces Society has no option other than to maintain its objection. I should point out that the proposal could also have included (instead of the diversion joining The Hub road close to where it joins the main road), continuing along the hedge-line from that point to beyond the belt of trees crossing the playing fields, and turning left beside that belt of trees to join Marwood FP 21. This would be less circuitous than the present proposal, and would provide a path on grass the whole way. The school representatives told me that they were not planning to retain use of the land beyond the belt of trees, so this would be.

Do you consider there might be anything to be gained from making this request to the school?

Regards

Jo

From: Mike Ogden
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 4:52 PM
To: Jo Bird
Subject: RE: Proposed changes to public rights of way - Teesdale School and former railway line, Barnard Castle

Dear Jo,

Excellent timing. I have just had a meeting with a representative from the School to discuss the proposals, so I was about to email you anyway.

I have now received the report from my Highways colleagues, and they are satisfied that in their professional opinion the footway alongside the A688 is of a suitable standard, and could accommodate additional pedestrian use. It has no defects but if the Orders are confirmed it would be monitored, in addition to its standard inspections.

On that basis the School are not minded to pursue the alternative route around the edge of the playing fields at the back of the houses, as the only purpose behind that was to avoid use of the A688 footway. Given that we now have the assessment of the footway safety, there is no value in pursuing a route that doesn't meet all the School's objectives, and costs more to construct.

If the Orders proceed and are eventually confirmed, FP 10 will be retained as a private access for the pupils during school hours, and be closed off at other times.

I am therefore proposing the original proposal, as shown on the attached plan (note this shows the proposed footpath following the existing tarmac path near the Hub rather than a section across a current grass area) is the one to be considered. Can you let me know if you wish to object to that proposal?

If there are objections, a meeting of the Highways Committee will be arranged to hear all parties and decide whether or not the Orders should be made.

I'm sorry you weren't well enough to attend the Highways Committee at Toft Hill last week – as you may be aware the Committee resolved that the Order should be made and I hope that it will be published in the next few weeks.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Mike

Mike Ogden
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From: Jo Bird [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2018 16:18
To: Mike Ogden <Mike.Ogden@durham.gov.uk>
Subject: Fw: Proposed changes to public rights of way - Teesdale School and former railway line, Barnard Castle

Dear Mike

Re my email of 16th Sept (below), since I've not yet had your response, please advise if this is because, re
1. discussions are still on-going, and
re 2. if the inspection has taken place.

It is now some time since your last communication on proposals for FP 10.

Regards

Jo

From: Jo Bird
Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2018 5:32 PM
To: mike.ogden@durham.gov.uk
Subject: Proposed changes to public rights of way - Teesdale School and former railway line, Barnard Castle

Dear Mike

With reference to our previous correspondence on this proposal I would be pleased to know progress on various matters.

1. In particular please may I know the outcome of your discussions with the school on the idea of diverting part of FP 10 around the outside edge of the playing fields but within the school boundaries, which I described in detail to you early in August.
2. Please advise the outcome of the inspection by the Highways people of the pavement between the start of FP 10 and the entrance to The Hub.
3. Depending on your response to point 2. would you have concerns about pupils no longer having access to the school via the present FP 10 if that were to be completely closed off, and do you know if this has been the intention of the school?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Jo