



# HOLME VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Holmfirth Civic Hall

Deputy Clerk to the Council: Mr Rich McGill

Telephone number:

11 September 2020

Secretary of State for Transport,  
National Transport Casework Team,  
Tyneside House,  
Skinnerburn Road,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AR

Dear Sir,

Re NATTRAN/Y&H/S247/4337

**Proposed diversion of public footpath Footpath 60 (part) at Wolfstones Heights Farm, Holmfirth, Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees.  
Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Section 247**

I am writing to you on behalf of Holme Valley Parish Council to make an objection to the above proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the Town & Country Planning Act to authorise the stopping up and diversion of a length of Footpath Holmfirth 60, at the Wolfstones Heights Farm site, at Holmfirth in the Metropolitan Borough of Kirklees.

Objections to the proposal were raised over recent weeks to the Parish Council by a number of local community groups and concerned individuals including members of the Council.

Footpath 60 leads directly towards Wolfstones Heights which is an important viewing point, waypoint and landmark for local walkers. Wolfstones Heights, I should add, is land owned by the Holme Valley Land Charity for the benefit of the people of the Holme Valley. People walking to the Heights have for centuries been served perfectly well by this footpath, - a longstanding, direct route from Netherthong village whereby the only metalled road walkers have to cross presently is a brief traverse over Wolfstones Road at Wolfstones Farm.

Under the proposed amendment, this ancient byway would be blocked off; walkers would be forced to detour round the farm, then have to walk back some significant distance along a relatively busy country road where there is no adequate verge. This detour is significantly more unsafe in the Council's opinion than the established path. The proposal also ignores centuries of tradition and historical usage by the people of the Holme Valley. The Council cannot in good conscience support an amendment which is both less safe and detrimental to the enjoyment of large numbers of people of the Holme Valley even if it is advantageous to one.

Holme Valley Parish Council strongly urges the Secretary of State to protect the rights of way of the people of the Holme Valley and to allow the public to continue to make use of our historic footpath safely and freely.

Yours sincerely,

Richard McGill  
Deputy Clerk to Holme Valley Parish Council