

From: [Caroline Woolfe](#)
To: [NATIONALCASEWORK](#)
Subject: Holmfirth public footpath 60 at Wolfstones Road NATTRAN/Y&H/S247/4337
Date: 25 September 2020 11:55:10

Dear Mr Shapps,

I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed Stopping Up Order on this footpath near my home, which I have used regularly for almost forty years.

I consider the applicant's assertion that the new path provides greater safety to be spurious. My own experience, supported by the observations of walkers' groups and the data submitted last year by the applicant, is that most walkers on this path are either going towards or coming from the direction of Upperthong or the trig point at Wolfstones. Few people use it as a link towards Moor lane. This means that most walkers would exit the new path and have to walk on Wolfstones Road towards a dangerous bend to reach the point where the existing path emerges before continuing their journeys. Drivers on this part of the road cannot see pedestrians clearly enough, and those travelling downhill often do so at speed, despite the limited visibility and narrowness of the road.

At present, the path emerges at a high point from which walkers can see the road in both directions. For those going straight onwards to the trig point, it's a quick matter of crossing the road to reach another footpath. Those walking towards Upperthong will do so on a wider, straight stretch of road before reaching the next footpath at Carr Farm.

In his submission last year, the applicant suggested that the new path would protect walkers from the danger of moving vehicles on site. He underestimates walkers' ability to deal with what are likely to be occasional, clearly visible and slow-moving vehicles around his home. The risk from vehicles when walking on the extra stretch of road is, however, much more concerning.

I also consider the question of amenity to be relevant here. Number 60 is an ancient footpath, reflecting the heritage of this area in which paths connect local settlements and closely skirt the dwellings on their routes. Such heritage is appreciated by users of these paths and deserves to be protected. Furthermore, much of the enjoyment of Footpath 60 lies in its almost straight, grassy, gently sloping line towards / from Wolfstones and the views it provides. The proposed new route is longer and would require walkers to regain the height they lose in taking it by walking on a tarmac road.

The developer has recently narrowed the path to what I imagine is the minimum width allowed. Walkers accept this, as they do the many perfectly workable, narrow stiles and paths that occur widely in our area. In last year's unsuccessful application, the developer asserted the merits of the wider new path he proposed to provide, but this should not influence the current decision.

In case the developer has suggested that this path should be rerouted for reasons of security and privacy, I wish to point out that it passes only blank walls on his property and outside the driveways leading directly to those buildings. Many homes are adjacent to more intrusive public footpaths.

I attended the Holme Valley parish Council Committee meeting that discussed this matter on 7th September, and was pleased that councillors overturned their earlier decision to support the re-routing of this path in light of strong public opposition to the proposal. Kirkless Council, of course, rejected the proposal following extensive consultation last year. I would urge you to respect the views of local people expressed throughout this long process by upholding the decisions of our locally elected councillors who rejected this proposal, and protect the path for future generations to enjoy.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,
Caroline Woolfe