

Date: 10th September 2020

To: The Secretary of State

From: Sqn.Ldr. Thomas Michael Dyson, RAF (Ret'd)

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Ref: Footpath diversion Holmfirth 60, Wolfstones Road, Upperthong.

To whom it may concern,

Comments on social media, about the above mentioned footpath diversion, compelled me to visit the footpath on the 9th September to help me decide whether to support the application or not. I am an 85 year old man born and brought up in nearby Holmfirth and have used the footpath on numerous occasions in the past. The current footpath culminates in a steep energy sapping slope before ending at the junction with Wolfstones Road which is something of a road safety hazard because traffic approaching from the left is cresting over a hill with little warning and the grass verge is not very wide. The down hill walk in the reverse direction has, initially, poor views of the country side as it is restricted by property and trees and has little to commend it.

I proceeded to the start of the proposed alternative footpath and began to walk the entire length. I found it to be less of a physical effort because it largely follows a contour line to the Wolfstones Road junction and the provision of two sturdy wooden seats gives respite to the elderly which is not a facility available on the current route. The extensive views across and beyond the Holme Valley are superior to those on the existing footpath with a duck pond thrown in for good measure. I feel this alternative route will be welcomed by most and the improved road safety aspect of a wide left and right view at it's junction with Wolfstones Road will be an added bonus.

Hikers who normally turn right on the existing footpath, at the Wolfstones Road junction, will appreciate the simplicity and improved road safety of the alternative footpath whereas those who need to turn left, or cross the road, will have a detour to contend with but an improved road access.

In my opinion the proposed footpath diversion is a far better option than retention of the existing one and I am pleased to support it.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Michael Dyson