

52

From: Dave Askew [mailto:k]
Sent: 23 September 2020 16:29
To: NATIONALCASEWORK <NATIONALCASEWORK@dft.gov.uk>
Subject: The Secretary of State Ref Footpath Diversion Footpath 60 Holmfirth

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write in support of the proposed diversion of Footpath 60 where it passes Wolfstone Heights Farm in Uppershong.

I have lived in the Holme Valley area since my youth, my wife was born and raised here and her family have been farming here for centuries. Together we have brought our family up in the area, and founded and operated businesses here, and have lived in Uppershong for the last 20 years, so I think it is fair to say that I have good knowledge of the area.

My family and I are regular users of the Footpath 60 route, usually joining the route in Uppershong, and walking through to Netherthong, or up towards Wood Nook Lane at Honley, where my wife keeps horses. I believe that the new / hopefully to be diverted route is hugely beneficial to all who actually know this route and use it regularly, with a quantum improvement in scenery and views over the whole valley, and we now often sit on the bench provided and soak in the scenery and even use this as a picnic point and break up our walk, compared to rushing past the best views when walking down the old driveway.

The path no longer has to share walking with cars, and it takes away the embarrassment of walking directly past the entrance into the house at the bottom of the drive. If we do use the route in reverse, and exit onto Wolfstones Road, we no longer have to rush to leave the driveway to avoid cars, and more to the point when joining at the new path entry point, we can see traffic in both direction instead of rushing the children across the road on a blind bend.

As a separate point, there seems to be a social media campaign being led by the likes of Path Watch, inciting users to object to the diversion, this is unfair and ignores the views of people like me, encouraging spurious objections that deliver no benefit to those of us who actually know the area and benefit from this new route!

I also object the ill-founded vote grabbing article in the Huddersfield Examiner last Friday, again a personal opinion with no real knowledge. Is this part of a game being played by Kirklees who in January recommended the making of an order, and then re-visit the issue visit the issue recently at our expense to have another go at getting the Labour majority up? It was seeing that article that prompted me to send in my views and hope that sense is seen when this issue is properly considered without political interference!

I really hope you take my views into account and we can once and for all benefit from a hugely improved route that adds so much to our enjoyment of the area.

Yours Sincerely
Dave Askew