

Item 8b - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 s.53 ("the 1981 Act") - The Wiltshire Council Grafton 29 (Part), 29A, 30 and 31, Burbage 1 (Part) and Collingbourne Kingston 34 Definitive Map Modification Order 2019

Statements of Objection

Lewis Ballin – Objection – Received on 02/07 at 21:16

We understand that if the proposed rights of way as shown in the Order are upgraded to a restricted byway the owners of the old railway line will seek to close the permissive route that we have enjoyed walking for a number of years. This is the only direct link from Aughton and Collingbourne Kingston without having to walk along the public highway and should this route no longer be made available to walkers it will greatly affect the enjoyment of many local residents who enjoy walking this route on a daily basis.

We would draw your attention to the fact that when the River Bourne is in full flow, the Footpath route up to Spicey Buildings is inaccessible as there is not a bridge across the Bourne following the Environment Agency's decision to remove the stepon stones

Your faithful lewis ballin

Jack Edwards – Objection – Received on 03/07 at 16:20

Chairman, Members of the Planning Committee

My name is Jack Edwards and I speak as Agent for and on behalf of the owners of Southgrove Farm, WR Curick Ltd in relation to the proposed Modification Order seeking to upgrade the footpaths and bridleway to restricted byways and to raise a strong objection to this Order on their behalf.

I would like to use this opportunity to outline the impact that the proposed upgrade would have on the environment, the farming operations and the impact on this successful farming business.

Part of Grafton 29A crosses an arable field and the proposal to increase the width on this stretch would result in 1.35ha (3.34 acres) of productive arable land being taken out of production. We accept that currently there is a footpath however the width of this is much less than the proposed route outlined within the Order and therefore has a much lesser impact upon the farming activities.

In a previous bid to mitigate the impact of the footpath on the arable land the owners and Esther Daly (a previous rights of way officer) agreed that a permissive path would be made available to walkers along the old railway line. This is now a well-used right on foot that a significant proportion of local residents of Aughton and Collingbourne Kingston make use of on a daily basis. This is a permissive right which offers a much easier and improved experience for walkers and signs have always been in place explaining that this is a permissive right and only walkers are permitted to use it.

If the proposed upgrade to a restricted byway is enforced it will become a route for cyclists, horse riders and potentially horse and cart. If this is the case the owners will be forced to reconsider the use of the permissive route going forward.

The permissive footpath that the owners (and their neighbours) have allowed the public to use is the only direct link to both Aughton and Collingbourne Kingston. This well used footpath prevents walkers from having to walk along the public highway. The owners do not want to allow the permissive use to extend to anything beyond walking and therefore will be forced to remove the permissive footpath which follows the route of the old railway line meaning that Wiltshire Council will have to construct two bridges to allow access over the River Bourne.

The owners are very concerned that if the upgrade were to be approved albeit to a restricted byway it may be misinterpreted as being a Byway Open to All Traffic. BOATs are present on other land within their ownership and the presence of these already has a large impact on the farming business. There is serious concern that the restricted byway may be incorrectly identified as a BOAT for some users and this could lead to 4x4 vehicles and motorcycles attempting to use the route to take vehicular access. The owners have been forced to take steps to prevent this from happening to date through the installation of electric gates to prevent vehicular access at considerable expense.

To date the owners have respected all rights of way crossing their property and go above the requirements to ensure that the public are able to use these routes at all times. They top the grass to keep it at a length which is suitable for walkers, maintain and ensure that there are no obstructions. They diligently clear any fallen timber in a timely manner and have always supported and respected the public's right to enjoy these routes. However if the Order is enforced and the widths increased as outlined with the application assistance will have to be sought from the Council to ensure that this continues. The good will that they have shown in managing these routes to such an exemplary standard for the benefit of the public will be unmanageable as the proposed areas are set to increase so dramatically. As landowners they will have to ensure that access is permitted but they are unlikely to be able to undertake all of the additional beneficial works that they have done to date.

The owners face a constant and ongoing battle of people taking unlawful access over their land to partake in illegal activities. Hare coursing is a very real issue on this farm and the wider area with increasing frequency. There is significant concern that the creation of a restricted byway along the proposed route will lead to additional areas on the farm being targeted. Reports have been made to the police however a lack of prosecutions or appetite from the police to enforce the problem has now resulted in this becoming a real threat to the owners who have faced physical intimidation and actual bodily harm in approaching the people partaking in this illegal activity.

I urge you Chairman and Members of the Planning Committee to please take these points into account and consider the impact it will have upon my clients holding if the proposed upgrade comes into effect.

Amy Richards – Objection – Received on 04/07 at 18:38

It's been brought to my attention that the old railway footpath in Aughton is under threat of closure, I am writing to you in the hope that this does not happen. If the track is upgraded to a restrictive byway the lady who owns it says she will close this as a permissive footpath.

The track is a valuable part of the community, I and many others use it every day, it would be very upsetting to not have this safe and convenient place available to all of us.

I have been walking the track for 30yrs, some in Aughton have enjoyed it much longer than that. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Many thanks,
Amy

Joanne Thorne – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 12:22

I am a resident of Aughton, in Wiltshire and have seen a notice today regarding the old railway track that runs along Collingbourne Kington and Aughton and that restrictions of its use may be put in place.

I, as do many residents in the village, use this track on a daily basis to walk my dog and run, it is a beautiful safe walk, surrounded by countryside and wild life and one that would be Very much missed.

There are very few walks of this nature in the village and I would like to put forward my objection of its closure.

regards

Mrs Joanne Thorne

Kory Thorne – Objection – received on 05/07 at 13:06

I am a resident of Aughton and have seen a notice regarding the old railway track that runs along Collingbourne Kingston and Aughton. I understand that restrictions of use are being considered.

I, as do many residents of Aughton use this track on a daily basis to walk my dog. I use the walk responsibly always cleaning up after my dog.

The walk is beautiful and safe and it would be a real shame to lose the ability to walk this route.

Kind regards

Kory Thorne

Alison Banyard – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 13:07

I have recently been made aware of this application to upgrade the existing public Rights of Way, which are currently defined as footpaths and a section of bridleway, to a Restricted Byway. I understand this is in order to facilitate local horse riders wishing to increase their access to the local bridleway network. However, if permission for this Restricted Byway is granted the landowner has stated they will close public access to the disused railway line track, which runs from Aughton towards Grafton.

The use of the privately owned railway track by the general public has been a valuable and generous asset to the villagers of Aughton and Collingbourne Kingston for a number of years; being a vital link to Grafton and beyond for those anxious to avoid the perils of walking along busy A338, where in the section concerned, pavements are too narrow or non-existent. As the railway track is accessible only to pedestrians, it remains transversable year round and is a safe, well-maintained (by the landowner), regular walking route for many dog walkers, families and ramblers. Its loss would impact greatly on many members of the local community.

I am therefore anxious to avoid any modifications to local existing Public Rights of Way that would put the use of the railway track in jeopardy.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Kind regards

Mrs Alison Banyard

Mark Harris – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 17:04

I read with interest that if the proposed rights of way as shown in the Order are upgraded to a restricted byway, then the owners of the old railway line will seek to close the permissive route, which I think is unfair to the walkers that enjoy this route.

I have regularly walked this with my family for the past 16 years, not only is it a joy to be away from the main road, it is one of the only flat country walks that is suitable for disabled access, due to it being wide and flat.

It is also a direct link to the footpath running up to Spicey Dairy.

I would therefore like to raise my objection to this proposal, or open a discussion to enable the footpath to remain open in its current form

Best wishes

Mark Harris

Dave Cummings – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 17:56

We heard a rumour today that the old railway line at Collingbourne Kingston to Burbage which is currently a permissive route is to be upgraded. If that is correct the owner would seek to close the old railway line which lots of people have enjoyed walking along for many years.

The old railway line allows people to walk in the countryside without the fear and noise of vehicles and to utilise various rights of ways to reach Burbage, Grafton, Collingbourne Woods etc etc.

During lockdown because of Covid-19 the railway line was a release for people as they could go for a walk along a wide space without the fear of catching Covid from other people that were passing.

Without the use of the old railway line people would have to risk their lives on the highway where vehicles are constantly racing through the village.

Therefore the old railway line should stay a permissive route.

Yours sincerely,
Dave Cummings

Gillian and Stephen Foster – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 17:59

It has come to our attention that a proposed upgrade of a right of way to a restricted byway is likely to result in the section of old railway running from Aughton being closed.

Having lived in Aughton for 35 years, we have always been grateful for the use of this permissive path by the owners. We both enjoy walking and, having always had dogs, it is such a privilege to have such a facility on our doorstep, particularly as it leads to so many other footpaths in the area. I think this was highlighted in the recent Covid-19 lockdown, when the footpath became an invaluable place for local people to get some exercise.

We, therefore, oppose the proposal of the footpath becoming a restricted byway as it would have the knock on effect of depriving the community of an invaluable resource in the form of the permissive footpath, which we would all be devastated to lose.

Gillian and Stephen Foster

Wendy Brown – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 18:36

I am extremely shocked and very surprised at the council ! I'm very disappointed with your proposals, everyone enjoys walking the permissive path all year round and if your proposal goes through it will be stopped. I STRONGLY disagree with the council proposal and why on earth wasn't the villagers consulted?? It would be a huge loss to everyone!

Regards

Wendy Brown

Mark & Sarah Gregory – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 18:42

Wiltshire Council Grafton 29 (part), 29A, 30 and 61 Burbage 1 (part) and Collingbourne Kingston 34 Definitive Map Modification Order 2019.

We understand that if the proposed rights of way shown in the Order above are upgraded to a restricted byways the owners of the old railway line will seek to close the permissive route that we have enjoyed walking for over 20 years. This is the only direct link from Aughton and Collingbourne Kingston without having to walk along the public highway and should this route no longer be made available to walkers it will greatly affect the enjoyment of many local residents who enjoy walking this route on a daily basis.

We would draw your attention to the fact that when the River Bourne is in full flow, the Footpath route up to Spicey Buildings is inaccessible as there is not a bridge across the Bourne following the Environment Agency's decision to remove the Stepping Stones.

This is why we wish to object to this footpath being turned in to a restricted byway.

Yours faithfully,

Mark & Sarah Gregory

Dave & Sue Richards – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 19:19

As regular walkers of the permissive path along the old rail track from Aughton, we were devastated to read that there is a possibility that this lovely path may be closed to us. It is a beautiful wide, level path that the old and young and every age between can enjoy, with or without their dogs, safely and peacefully away from the busy A338. Full of old meadow grasses, beautiful wild flowers and an abundance of minibeasts, birds and other wildlife, it is a treasured amenity, walked by many of the residents of Aughton, Brunton and Collingbourne and it would be very sadly missed if it was closed to us. It provides a natural link for people travelling northwards to Burbage and Grafton to walk in safety away from busy main roads thereby reducing car emissions, as well as being good for mental and physical health. We realise that it is a privilege to walk a permissive path and appreciate it greatly as do the other villagers and visitors who use it.

We hope very much that you will be able to preserve this lovely permissive path used and appreciated by so many in the area.

Yours sincerely

Dave and Sue Richards

Michael Oldfield – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 19:23

I have been informed that there are plans to change the status of some paths/bridleways that are associated to the "old railway line"
If this happens we may lose its permissive access as the owners do not support this action. Please review this or organise a meeting for the villagers to discuss with you their concerns.

Thank you, kind regards

M Oldfield

Becky Oldfield – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 19:26

> I have been told that part of the old railway line in Aughton may be changed to include a byway.

> If this happens we may lose its permissive access as the owners do not support this action. This would be a real shame as thanks to their kindness many of us have enjoyed this for many years now. Please review this or organise a meeting for the villagers to discuss with you their concerns.

>

> Thank you, kind regards

>

> Becky Oldfield

Amanda Rogers – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 20:00

It is understood that if the proposed rights of way as shown in the Order are upgraded to a restricted byway, the owners of the old railway line will seek to close the permissive route.

This will be a massive shame if this were to happen as this route is used and enjoyed by many dog walkers such as myself, as one of the only walks in Collingbourne Kingston where you do not have to use walk alongside a main road. If this route is closed by the owner, we will be very limited as to where we are able to enjoy our walks.

I respectfully object to the proposed rights of way being turned into a restricted byway and urge you to consider my views when you are making your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Rogers

Frances Rogers – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 20:09

I am the daughter of Amanda Rogers who I understand has contacted you regarding this.

I would like to reiterate her thoughts. It is understood that if the proposed rights of way as shown in the Order are upgraded to a restricted byway, the owners of the old railway line will seek to close the permissive route.

This will be a massive shame if this were to happen as this route is used and enjoyed by many dog walkers such as myself, as one of the only walks in Collingbourne Kingston where you do not have to use walk alongside a main road. If this route is closed by the owner, we will be very limited as to where we are able to enjoy our walks.

I respectfully object to the proposed rights of way being turned into a restricted byway and urge you to consider my views when you are making your decision.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Rogers

Todd O'Malley – Objection – Received on 05/07 at 21:35

It's been brought to my attention that the old railway footpath in Aughton is under threat of closure, I am writing to you in the hope that this does not happen. If the track is upgraded to a restrictive byway the lady who owns it says she will close this as a permissive footpath.

It saddens me that someone would threaten the closure of this path as a means of getting their own way. However, the track is used by many in the village, and I can't stress enough just how much it would be missed if the closure were to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Todd O'Malley

Theresa & David Pointer – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 08:39

Ref- Wiltshire Grafton 29(Part), 29A, 30 and 31, Burbage 1 (Part) and Collingbourne Kingston 34 Definitive Map Modification Order 2019

We understand that if the proposed rights of way as shown in the Order are upgraded to a restricted byway the owners of the old railway will seek to close the permissive route that we have enjoyed walking for a number of years.

This is the only direct link between Aughton and Collingbourne Kingston without having to walk along the busy main road A338.

Should this route be no longer available to walkers it will affect the enjoyment of many of the local residents who enjoy walking this permissive route every day.

Also when the River Bourne is in full flow the footpath route up to Spicey Buildings is inaccessible as there is not a bridge across the Bourne following the Environment Agency's decision to remove the stepping stones.

We wish to object to this footpath being turned into a restricted byway.

With kind regards,

Theresa & David Pointer

Steve Clements – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 09:41

As far as I understand, the council wish to change the use of the pathway to allow vehicle such as motorbikes to access the pathway. I also believe that if such a use is permitted, then the owners of the land on which the pathway is found will over rule the decision and close the pathway to all.

This pathway is used daily by dog walkers, joggers and hikers and is an important route for many people – especially in the current climate. To have the pathway opened up to motorbikes will set a precedent for vehicular access and potentially destroy the peace and quiet enjoyed by many on the path in question. To have the pathway closed to all would be an even bigger catastrophe and we need to do all we can to ensure the pathway is left just as it is with the rights of use not changed from the current status quo.

If you could confirm the situation and any further action we need to take as residents that would be great.

Philip Palmer – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 09:53

I find out with little notice to make my representations that there is a Council proposal to convert the said footpath from a permissive footpath to a restricted bridleway to allow off road motorcyclists to use the route; with the consequence that if this is done then the land owner will withdraw permission for anyone to use the pathway. I understand that there is a deadline of 5pm today for objections to be voiced.

In my view this proposal is simply unacceptable. I use this path almost daily to walk my dog as part of several circular walks, which without such access would not be possible. I have moved from London on retirement to enjoy the beautiful Wiltshire countryside and skyline and would not be keen therefore to share this route with the off road motorcycle 'hooligan' element that frequently plagues Salisbury Plain. It is bad enough that this peaceful environment is bisected by the A338 with all the thunderous traffic that pounds Collingbourne Ducis and Collingbourne Kingston relentlessly day and night, about which no one in authority seems to care. In the two years that I have lived here I have had numerous close brushes with a fatal accident involving that road as a road user (one of which was subject of a BBC news report), and know of two incidents where vehicles have collided with houses with no other vehicular parties involved. It is simply not proportionate or acceptable to open up this permissive footpath route unnecessarily to motorised traffic albeit off road

motorcycles, thereby exposing people quietly enjoying the countryside to risks from motorised traffic also. I have no problem with motorcycles, and own one myself but strictly for road use.

I would like to be kept informed of how this proposal proceeds please especially in view of the way that this proposal has been muted by stealth rather than open public consultation.

Furthermore I neglected to mention that the said permissive footpath is a haven for wildlife, particularly butterflies, which can be seen in perfusion along the route, such as the Marbled White, Peacock, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Orange Tip, Meadow Brown, and moths, Cinnabar Moth and Cream Spotted Tiger Moth to mention just a few that I have seen along there. These insects are supported by a plethora of wild flowers including some quiet scare ones, most notably Common Spotted Orchid. All this will be severely disrupted by the churning up of the ground by off road motorcycle tyres and the depreciation of the air quality by vehicular exhaust, and the inevitable detritus that will be discarded on route. What would be a more laudable proposal would be to turn the route into a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for future generations and the preservation of the resident wildlife.

I add this into the mix for consideration.

Yours faithfully,
Philip M. PALMER

Evelyn Harman – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 09:55

It has been brought to my attention that Wiltshire Council are intending to upgrade the rights of way in the order at the above reference to a Restricted Byway and that if this happens the owners of the Old Railway Line are intending to seek permission to close the Permissive Route.

I have lived in Collingbourne Kingston for 40 years, I use the old railway line on a daily basis and during these tough times it has been a godsend to be able to walk for miles in a safe environment.

I wish to object to this footpath being turned in to a Restricted Byway.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Evelyn Harman

David & Helen May – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 11:01

The above proposal to Modify the above Right of Way from a Footpath to Restricted Byway has come to our attention.

We note that the Collingbourne Kingston 34 section lies within the Flood Plain of the River Bourne and that area is under water for 4 to 5 months of the year when the Water Table rises annually. This would render the proposed Restricted Byway impassable and therefore inaccessible.

There would also be a Health and Safety Risk to users.

We object to the proposed modification for the reasons stated.

Yours faithfully

Mr and Mrs D B May

Steve Latham – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 12:12

I understand that the footpath from Aughton which follows the old railway line is under threat of closure. This is very disappointing and actually extremely inconsiderate under the current circumstances.

This is a regularly used footpath by mainly locals from Aughton, Brunton and the Collingbournes and is an extremely safe environment away from main roads for taking exercise both personally and for my dog. I live in Brunton and can easily access this from Spicey Dairy and have enjoyed the using the footpath for the last 5 years to walk with my family and friends. I currently use it on an almost daily basis to follow the lockdown rules of exercising close to home and not travelling further afield for this.

I would like to take this opportunity as a Parish Councillor, on behalf of the whole community, to strongly object to the proposed closure on the basis that this will affect many local residents by taking away an excellent and easily accessible means of enjoying the countryside and the health benefits associated with using the footpath.

Yours

Steve Latham

Jack Edwards (Agent for Aughton Farm)

Chairman, Members of the Planning Committee

My name is Jack Edwards and I speak as Agent for and on behalf of the owner of Aughton Farm, in relation to the proposed Modification Order seeking to upgrade the footpaths and bridleway to restricted byways and to raise a strong objection to this Order on their behalf.

Footpath CKIN34 runs alongside the River Bourne and when an inspection was carried out in January 2020 the river was not passable. It was too high to cross by foot and could certainly not have been crossed on a bicycle or horse. The photographs shown below confirm this.



If the proposed upgrade to a restricted byway is enforced it will become a route for cyclists, horse riders and potentially horse and cart. From the photographic evidence shown above it would clearly not be possible for this to happen given the very high levels of the river. If the Order is enforced clearly in the interests of safety there would have to be a responsibility on Wiltshire Council to create a bridge or some form of crossing point over the river (to the specified width) to allow users access across the deep river.

CKIN6A is a restricted byway that directly adjoins CKIN34 and there is concern that if the upgrade were to be approved albeit to a restricted byway it may be misinterpreted as being a Byway Open to All Traffic and vehicles/motorcycles may attempt to use the route.

The owner of the farm has no recollection of any use of the route apart from walkers on foot. He is not aware of any other users and an upgrade of the route to a restricted byway seems unnecessary and unmanageable given the proximity of the route to the river.

I urge you Chairman and Members of the Planning Committee to please take these points into account and consider the impact it will have upon my clients holding if the proposed upgrade comes into effect.

Mr and Mrs Ward-Webb – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 14:25

I am writing to you in relation to the attached notice to remove the footpath from Grafton 29, 29A, 30 & 31 to Collingbourne Kingston 43 as per the map modification order 2019.

I understand that the proposal is to close the footpath that residents have long used. This path is the ONLY way to walk from Aughton to Kingston. The path follows the main road which is used by 7.5 tonne articulated lorries day and night.

We absolutely need to keep this footpath and not close it as per the request of the owners of the old railway line. As a rural community we need to have safe access to surrounding villages.

I wish to formally object to turning the footpath into a restricted byway.

Sandra Fisher – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 15:39

We have heard about the proposed changes to Public Rights of Way in Burbage and Grafton which will impact Rights of Way, and a Permissive Footpath on the old railway line, in the Parish of Collingbourne Kingston. Apparently if this alteration goes through the owners of the old railway line will withdraw permission for walkers. We would ask that you consider this impact on the residents of Collingbourne Kingston before making this change, which would mostly benefit non-residents.

The old railway line is regularly walked because it is such a quiet pleasant place to be. The A338 through the village is a very busy road with much heavy traffic, and even where there is a pavement it is rather overgrown meaning that walking is only single file. There are some lovely Rights of Way either side of the village, which is in the valley of the Bourne, but they go up on to the downs and necessitate walking up fairly steep hills, which can be a bit much for we older residents, whereas the old railway line only has a gentle gradient. Where the route may need to cross the winter Bourne it should be appreciated that in a 'normal' winter it does have water in it for several months once the springs come up.

We are not against progress and feel very strongly that Rights of Way must be preserved and conserved, or it would be possible to live in the countryside but have no access to it. However, we ask if it is really necessary to have cross-country motorcycles using this area as a place to churn up the surface with revving engines, rather than it being a quiet countryside walk with a fairly firm base underfoot and birdsong and wildflowers in season on the banks of the cutting. It may be that it will never be used by traffic with noisy engines, but it seems that the possibility would be there once these changes have been made, and there has been a recent policed motorcycle problem on the Everleigh edge of Salisbury Plain.

Thank you for your consideration,

John and Sandra Fisher

Dominic Jackson – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 16:17

Regards the above notice to change the use of the path commonly known as the old Railway Line. This path is a necessity for the population of Aughton, Brunton, Collingbourne Kingston. It is used daily by myself to walk my dogs and to give myself the vital relaxation and calmness this pathway gives. I also notice it is regularly used by many other local residents and others.

The present Pandemic has highlighted the desperate need for a safe and relaxing area to exercise in these very difficult and challenging times. This area and the ability to walk it freely has helped with reducing anxiety and given me the ability to think clearly and positively during this time after having lost my job. There is nowhere safe and peaceful to walk in the village. There are limited paths and I remind you of the fact the A 338 is a major road used by heavy trucks as a rat run between the M4 and A303 with one every minute driving through the village. The old railway is the only place to walk in the village without the fear of these lorries.

These are my reasons for objecting to turning the footpath into a restricted byway.

Best Regards
Dominic Jackson

Fiona Allen – Objector – Received on 06/07 at 16:34

I read with dismay today that there is a chance the walkway along the old railway line in Aughton is to be closed to walkers.

This walk is used daily by myself and others locally. It is a communal meeting place to chat and it has been a life-line to me and many others during this ongoing pandemic.

Young and old enjoy this resource and have been doing so for many years. It must not be denied to people. We have tourists to the area for the walking and views, when the Bourne is in full flow where are people going to walk from village to village?

I recently had to walk along the A338. No pavements, thundering lorries, cars and indeed a Police car hurled past me. It was a completely frightening and potentially dangerous situation.

Please take this as plea not to restrict our access to this vital and necessary footpath. If you do, it will have a major impact on the health and well-being of residents and to our tourist and visitor friends.

Kind Regards

Fiona Allen

Kate Gore – Objection – Received on 06/07 at 16:41

I understand that the above proposed rights of way amendment has been requested, meaning that the current permissive byway will be changed to a restricted byway.

It is my belief that this change will have significant health and safety impacts should it go ahead, both within Aughton itself (due to increased potential traffic using two blind bends in the village) and also on the footpath itself.

The footpath is used extensively by families with young children- such as ourselves - and elderly residents; both would be placed at risk should anything other than recreational walkers be allowed.

We would like to state our desire for the footpath to remain a permissive one.

Statements of Support

Rosie Park – Support – Received on 01/07 at 19:14

I have lived near East Grafton for over 30 years and am desperate to improve the off road network here for riders and cyclists.

If successful this new path would link with byway CKIN6A, which would be a great addition for riders in the East Grafton/Burbage/West Grafton area, where I live and ride. As someone who has ridden in this area for over 30 years, I can assure you that the roads are increasingly busy and dangerous for all user groups, not just horse riders.

If this route was upgraded, it would create a safe route for riders and cyclists, enabling them to link up with the byway networks of GRAF20 and GRAF2, 15 and CKIN2 to the east and CKIN1A, CKIN20, BURB33 and EROY14 to the west. At the moment there is no safe, rideable network and consequently cyclists and horseriders are at risk as the local roads are very narrow and often busy-even crossing the A338 can be very hazardous. I was nearly hit by a bin lorry at East Grafton last week, and my horse jumped up a bank into a garden to avoid it.

A horse was killed on the roundabout at Burbage not long ago, and the rider will never regain full use of one of her hands.

I would urge the landowners to re-think their objections; there would be no need for any additional gates or infrastructure, assuming that the arable nature of the farms around continue as they are.

kind regards

ROSIE PACK

Annabelle Roycroft – Support – received on 02/07 at 14:51

Please find below my submission to the Eastern Planning Committee Meeting on 9th July, in support of the application to upgrade footpath CKIN34 and GRAFTON30 into restricted byways.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 s.53

The Wiltshire Council Grafton 29 (part), 29A, 30 & 31, Burbage 1 (part) and Collingbourne Kingston 34 Definitive Map Modification Order 2019

For background, I live at Kinwardstone Farm, Burbage SN8 3BU so this application is very relevant to me. I keep horses and ride with my young children - we also have dogs and like to cycle so we are active users of the footpath and bridleway network.

I feel there is a strong safety argument in favour of this application given that the roads around here are both busy and fast. The A338 from the Burbage roundabout towards East Grafton and south from to Collingbourne are essentially unrideable so having a parallel bridleway is really important.

Currently, the bridleway BURB1 suddenly stops and becomes a footpath so anyone riding has to turn around. If this application were to go through, it would create a safe route for riders and cyclists, enabling them to loop into the byway networks of GRAF20 and GRAF2, 15 and CKIN2 to the east and CKIN1A, CKIN20, BURB33 and EROY14 to the west. At the moment there is no safe, rideable network and so we are putting cyclists, riders and horses at risk because the roads around here are so busy.

Yesterday I walked the path that is under consideration and at the moment, because the landowner has rerouted it along a dirt road and then onto the disused railway line, the route would be absolutely perfect for horses and bicycles with no need for gates or any other costly infrastructure.

I urge the Committee to support this application, not least because in June Wiltshire Council appealed for suggestions to road layouts to make more space for pedestrians and cyclists. Approving this application would therefore complement the Council's own policy to make travel greener and safer.

Many thanks,
Annabel Roycroft

Bill Riley – Support (Applicant) – received on 02/07 at 15:36

To Members of the Eastern Area Planning Committee

Dear Members,

The Wiltshire Council Grafton 29 (part), 29A, 30 & 31, Burbage 1 (part) and

Collingbourne Kingston 34 Definitive Map Modification Order 2019

As the applicant for this Order, it will come as no surprise to learn that I support its confirmation.

I urge Members of the Committee to be guided by the evidence, and the public interest. Private interests have served this ancient highway ill. Roadside boundaries that I remember have been removed, and significant lengths of the road ploughed out and not reinstated, contrary to law.

When confirmed as a Restricted Byway, it will no longer be lawful to plough the right of way; and walkers, horse riders, cyclists and carriage drivers will all be able to enjoy it once the surface has been restored.

I am too old to reap any benefit from my application, but the next generations will be able to appreciate it; and I still have fond memories of past use before parts of the road were despoiled by uncaring landowners.

Please resolve to support the Order as made.

Kind regards,

Bill Riley

Chiara Staples – Support – Received on 02/07 at 15:55

I have heard about an initiative to convert a Burbage footpath into a restricted byway to increase options of riding/cycling between Burbage and Easton Royal. I am a horse rider as well as an occasional cyclist and I whole-heartedly support this initiative. I look forward to further updates on this front.

Hannah Sykes – Support – Received on 02/07 at 15:57

Hello I am a local horserider, and the upgrade from footpath would make a difference to my riding, as I often ride through Easton Royal, and it would make a circular route for us to use. Our roads make many of our routes inaccessible due to the speed some drivers go at.

Deborah Leighfield – Support – Received on 02/07 at 17:23

I'm a local rider and resident in Burbage, Wiltshire and completely support the proposed upgrade.

I'm happy to offer any help and assistance if needed.

Eileen Devenish – Support – Received on 03/07 at 15:03

I am writing in regard to the current application to upgrade footpaths CKIN34 and GRAFTON30 to restricted byways which would connect with byway CKIN6A.

I would like to support the application sent in by Mrs Ryecroft requesting that horse riders, cyclist and walkers would benefit hugely by having this footpath upgraded and linked in to the restricted byway.

I ride regularly at Suddene Park Farm, Burbage and use the bridleway at West Grafton on a regular basis but in order to do so I have to ride along the A338 for a short distance where the traffic travels at excessive speeds. It would however be so much safer and enjoyable to have a bridleway that linked up so that we didn't have to ride along the very busy road at all.

Peter Gallagher on behalf of The Ramblers Swindon and North East Wiltshire Group – Support – received on 04/07 at 16:39

This order, if confirmed, would offer little benefit to walkers as they are already able to use the whole of the route. However, as a general principle, we support the rights of other non-motorised user groups to be able to use routes where the historical evidence shows that they would previously have had access. We have not ourselves researched the history of this route but the Council's officers have done so and there is very strong evidence to support the making of the Order. We therefore support the Order.

I would respectfully disagree with Mr Edwards' statement in his email objection on behalf of the landowners dated 3 February that *"To date the owners have respected all rights of way crossing their property and go above the requirements to ensure that the public are able to use these routes at all times"*. In my experience, footpaths GRAF29A and GRAF30 which cross the arable field are not always reinstated after ploughing or sowing of crops. However, I agree that the provision of the permissive route as an alternative is very helpful and I understand the landowners' concerns about the impact of the Order on their farming operations.

I see that, in her letter to Mr Edwards, Ms Madgwick has referred to the possibility of diverting the right of way along the permissive route. It seems to me that the old railway line is likely to be ideally suited for use by cyclists, horse-riders and carriage drivers as well as by walkers and it is disappointing to be told that the landowner would not agree to this. Were an application to be made to divert the path onto this route I would be willing to recommend to my Ramblers colleagues that we should support it.

Norman Beardsley (Wiltshire Bridleways Association) – Support – Received on 05/07 at 20:13

Members of the Eastern Area Planning Committee.

Your Ref:- SAM 2004/07

Dear Councillors.

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 sec 53. The Wiltshire Council Grafton 29 (part), 29A, 30 &31, Burbage 1 (part) and Collingbourne Kingston 34 Definitive Map Modification Order 2019.

The Committee Members of The Wiltshire Bridleways Association wish to confirm their strong support for the Order as made dated 06 December 2019.

Confirmation of the Order will provide safer access to these, and additional Public Rights of Way as already recorded of the Definitive Map and Statement within the parishes of Collingbourne Kingston, Grafton, Burbage and beyond, without the necessity to navigate the obvious dangers of travelling along the busy A338 road. Not only will this enhance the safety of riders, their horses and cyclist, but also users of motor vehicles as it will no longer be necessary to navigate around this vulnerable group of users.

The Committee of The Wiltshire Bridleways Association therefore urge the Members of the Eastern Area Planning Committee to consider the historical evidence, coupled with the enhanced safety aspect, and vote in favour of confirming the Order.

The Wiltshire Bridleways Association Committee also urge the objectors to this Order to seriously consider the safety issues and withdraw accordingly.

Yours sincerely
Norman Beardsley

Mr and Mrs Darman – Support – Received on 06/07 at 14:29

Link to CKIN 2001/01 in RoW Section 31 Deposits
http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/row/sect31deposits/getdeposit.php?sect31_id=62

I have been a resident in Aughton for 34 yrs, and amazed to here the dis-used railway line is to be changed to a by-way, no longer being a foot path. I think this is a bad move as there is no where else to walk without going up huge hills out off the village, it is a place well walked path by all ages please keep this path open as a foot path

A Perritt – Support – Received on 06/07 at 14:52

I'm sending this e-mail in regards to the proposed bridleway in Burbage. My Dad and Step-Mum have a DIY Livery Yard in Burbage and regularly ride out with the horses. I think the bridleway would be a great asset and would get use on a daily basis. I'm all for the bridleway.

J Russett – Support – Received on 06/07 at 14:54

Wiltshire Bridleways Association have applied to upgrade a footpath to a Restricted Byway that will make a round route between Spicey Buildings and Burbage, then across to Easton Royal and beyond.

I am a local horse rider with two horses kept within the village of Burbage. This new bridle way would be very much appreciated and used by myself as well as many others due to a very limited number of off road routes available for use.

The roads around our village are becoming more and more dangerous due to the amount of traffic, so a round route off road will help prevent accident occurring in the future.

I wish you all the success with the application.

E Dunton – Support – Received on 06/07 at 14:57

Please take this email as support for the proposed new bridleway.

S Wearing – Support – Received on 06/07 at 14:59

I write regarding the current application to upgrade footpaths CKIN34 and GRAFTON30 to restricted byways which would connect with byway CKIN6A which both Annabel Roycroft and Rosie Pack have brought to my attention.

I live locally and daily ride horses in and around the network of roads and local rights of way in Burbage. I agree with Annabel & Rosie that there is a strong riding safety argument in favour of the application given that the roads around here are both busy and fast. Both the A338 from the Burbage roundabout towards East Grafton and the road south from the roundabout to Collingbourne are essentially unrideable so having a parallel bridleway is really important. Currently, the bridleway BURB1 suddenly stops and becomes a footpath so anyone riding has to turn around. If this application were to go through, it would create a safe route for riders and cyclists, enabling them to loop into the byway networks of GRAF20 and GRAF2, 15 and CKIN2 to the east and CKIN1A, CKIN20, BURB33 and EROY14 to the west. At the moment there is no safe, rideable network and so we are putting cyclists, riders and horses at risk because the roads around here are so busy.

So I would like to add my support to the upgrade to this route which would offer considerable safety benefits along with increased leisure opportunities for local people.

H Greenwood – Support – Received on 06/07 at 15:04

Hi I am a local horse rider (based in Collingbourne Kingston) who has event horses who needs lots of hacking and we may be losing our access to the farm at the back of our land as it is up for sale so the proposal in place to open up Burbage footpath as a byway would be fantastic as we can hack there already on a byway.

Would be interested to attend the meeting on the 9 th July if it open to the public If you require any more information

E Goodman - Support – Received on 06/07 at 15:10

I am a rider living in Wilton would very much welcome The upgrading of the footpath to a Bridleways suggested by Wiltshire Bridleways. It would enable us to take A circular route which is so much more satisfying.

R Hope - Support – Received on 06/07 at 15:17

I was sent an email from Rosie Pack & Mel Cooper regarding the possible opening up of this bridleway. I am a local (Burbage) rider who would much appreciate this to happen. Only last Wednesday I was thrown off my horse by a tractor coming up the road & incurred severe bruising so I urge you to action this....it would make such a difference to us local riders.

Melanie Cooper - Support – Received on 06/07 at 15:17

I run a diy grass livery in Burbage and would welcome more off road riding in the local area This is some thing personal to me as in 2018 myself and my horse got hit on the A338 at Burbage by a lorry so opening up more off road is essential for horse and riders safety

D Jopling - Support – Received on 06/07 at 15:15

I fully support this upgrade as a horse rider I would find this most useful

Parish Council Statements

Nigel Baybrook - COLLINGBOURNE KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL – received on 06/07 at 15:11

The Collingbourne Kingston Parish Council are familiar with the proposals of Wiltshire Council as set out in their report and recommendations dated November 2019.

The proposed modifications affect land owned by W R Curnick Ltd who are also the owners of the disused railway track which runs north/south to the east of the modification route.

If the proposed modifications are approved, it is the stated intention of that landowner to close the Permissive Way that currently runs along this railway track north of Aughton.

The disused railway track, which is on an embankment for part of its route, has, for many years, been used by residents of Collingbourne Kingston and, more particularly Aughton for running, general exercise and walking dogs. It can also be used as pedestrian access to West Grafton and Burbage, there being no footpaths adjacent to the A338.

For a part of the year the valley of the River Bourns becomes flooded, particularly to the west of the old railway track and the Collingbourne Kingston right of way 34 becomes unusable for pedestrians and horse riders. Other parts of the modification route are likely to be affected from time to time.

Whilst it is accepted that the procedural issues that emerge from this legislation must be followed and that its prime purpose is to confirm the existence of ancient rights, the practical effects cannot be disregarded.

The Parish Council therefore request that a decision might be deferred for a short period to give the opportunity to resolve conflicting issues.