

RECORDED DELIVERY

West View Cottage,
West Lutton,
Near Malton,
North Yorkshire.
YO17 8TA

Mr D Bowe,
Corporate Director – Business and Environmental Services,
North Yorkshire County Council,
County Hall,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire.
DL7 8AD.

4th October 2011

Dear Mr Bowe,

Footway Improvements – The Great Wolds Valley

I understand you or your officers will have received letters on this subject in the past from members of The Luttons Parish Council and I know you have received information approximately 2 years ago, in the form of a bid for funding as part of the Malton and Norton Service Centre Transportation Strategy. We have heard nothing more about that bid, so I wish to reinforce the message and request your assistance in resolving the serious concerns of local residents in respect of the extremely poor condition of local roadside public footpaths.

The Luttons Parish Council consists of the rural villages of West Lutton, East Lutton and Helperthorpe along the course of the Great Wolds Valley and apart from the road links, those villages are connected by public footpaths which have become so neglected that in places they have virtually ceased to exist.

I am attaching a number of photographs to illustrate the serious deterioration in their condition which I hope will demonstrate better than mere words, why it is essential that urgent action is taken to improve them. I have, to assist you with perspective, used the simple expedient of a discarded cigarette packet on the ground which should illustrate just how narrow they have now become. In another a cyclist kindly rode along one to assist with the same perspective view.

In recent Council meetings, also at the Parish Open Day and when talking to local residents around the village, the most repeated and significant matter of local concern is and has been for a number of years, the appalling state of those footpaths. Whilst pedestrians can still use parts of them walking in single file, of serious concern is that they no longer allow parents with young children and pushchairs or wheelchair users to access them. They are instead now forced to walk along the road between the villages.

The connecting narrow, rural roads run roughly East/West along the valley and are largely straight, resulting in higher average vehicle speeds along the whole length of the valley so increasing the dangers to pedestrians. A considerable number of large farm vehicles and heavy goods vehicles use these small local roads as well as motorists avoiding the busier main routes to and from the coast.

Obviously there are no street lights, so the dangers during the hours of darkness are obvious, but additionally, the East/West nature of these roads mean that during the hours of sunrise and sunset, a drivers vision can be severely impaired by sunlight.

As we approach the time of year when the days grow shorter, it will not be long before parents, who are already braving the road walk bringing their children between homes and the village schools, will have the dangers increased with sunrise, sunset and darkness. Local wheelchair users being pushed by carers and users of mobility buggies, now have to brave the roads wearing high visibility clothing, but even then the experience is both frightening and dangerous.

I believe that unless action is taken soon to reinstate the footpaths to a decent and usable state, it is only a matter of time before there is a serious and most likely fatal accident.

In view of the above, I want to be sure we have done all that we can to acquaint you with the seriousness and high risk of allowing the present situation to continue and in writing this latest letter to place our concerns formally on record with you.

I will look forward to hearing from you with some positive information as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

John Wane
Chairman (The Luttons Parish Council)

CC.

Clerk – Luttons Parish Council.
Councillors – Luttons Parish Council.
Mrs Rachel Macdonald – Website Manager.















