

Patron Her Majesty The Queen

The British Horse Society

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Bringing Horses and People Together

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The logo for The British Horse Society, featuring the text "The British Horse Society" in white serif font on a dark red square background.

Reply by e-mail only.

30/11/2023

Objection.

Dear Lucy Taylor,

Re: Planning application 2023/62/92960/W Moor Ford Barn,146, Red Lane Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 5ND.

Thank you for the consultation with the British Horse Society (BHS) on the above proposal which directly affects the amenity and safety value of a public bridleway Meltham 69/20, this is in fact a public bridleway not a footpath.

Public Bridleways have no right of access on motorised vehicles by the public. The use of the public bridleway for motor vehicle traffic to use in exactly the same way as a road is totally unacceptable and against national planning guidance. Public bridleways are precious vehicle free public resources for the public to obtain air and exercise in peace and safety in the countryside away from motorised vehicular traffic. Public Bridleways are a resource under increasing pressure from development in the countryside and their unique and beneficial nature should be protected at all costs for the public. Further this proposal does not recognise the fact that this will allow vehicles to drive along and turn on an unsurfaced public bridleway which will cause extensive surface damage.

This proposal will change the rural open nature of this public route to the greatest detriment in a green belt area. I can find no meaningful mitigating or compensating proposals put forward in the application to safeguard the public bridleway for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. The importance and amenity value of the public bridleway has been completely ignored. At all times in law public rights take precedence over private rights of access and development.

This bridleway surface has already had an area leading from Red Lane junction with New Bridge Road along the bridleway to the entrance to Moor Ford Barn Tarmacked illegally. This is resulting in the general public driving along the entire length of the bridleway illegally, believing it to be a road, this work was undertaken without planning permission or consultation with users.

We would ask that this bridleway be reinstated in character with its surroundings exactly as it was prior to the unauthorised works taking place. We seek the removal of the illegal tarmac as soon as possible returning it to its roughly metalled state as described in the definitive statement. The meaning of metalled is small pieces of stone.

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May I draw your attention to National Planning Policy Framework.

Para 100: Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.

Para 92: Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which...enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

This bridleway is effectively being made into a road, due to progressive tarmacking, the increased use of vehicular traffic is spoiling the enjoyment of this bridleway for all users.

Because of the complete disregard for the amenity and safety value of the public on bridleway Meltham/69/20 in this planning application and the serious detrimental impact it will have on the safety and amenity of the public bridleway for the reasons given above the British Horse Society OBJECTS to this planning application.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Corrigan.

Access Field Officer, Yorkshire.