

DCAdmin

From:
Sent: 06 March 2024 00:34
To: DCAdmin
Subject: Regarding Planning application 2023/93805

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to comment on the above application specifically in regard to the effect on the public footpath which crosses the proposed application area.

An additional planning notice dated the 22nd of February 2024 has been posted which states the works will affect a public right of way. (No. DEN/13/10, DEN/div13/10, DEN/15/40, DEN/15/30, DEN/13/20. DEN/15/20) Reviewing the proposed plans, none of them indicate any provision for the footpath which forms part of the Dearne Way.

This footpath must be maintained and kept open even throughout any planned works.

It is a much used route for local residents and visitors, providing a link from Clayton West through the historic mining landscape, which has shaped the area, to Bretton Park and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

It provides the only safe route along the River Dearne, the only alternative being the roadside footpath on the northwestern side of Wakefield Road. This road is extremely busy with all sizes of vehicles including agricultural machinery and class 1 Heavy goods vehicles.

To continue on the Dearne Way, pedestrians will be forced to cross this road with no crossing provisions with many drivers exceeding the legal limit as well as many accidents a year on that stretch of road , some resulting in fatalities (although I'm thankfully not aware of pedestrians being involved).

Only one of the published plans shows the current route of the footpath it is then never mentioned again even as a proposed closure.

This is a blatant disregard of a historic right of way that must be actioned upon. Any closure will severely limit all users especially in relation to personal wellbeing and prevent the community from connecting to our natural environment and cultural heritage.

Walking is proven to be beneficial for mental and physical wellbeing and is free to all. Any footpath closure is therefore extremely detrimental to the community and must be strongly discouraged.

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