

17/02/25

Dear Mr Cheseldine

My ref no. 4692017

I am writing to planning to ask if _____ has been granted permission by Kirklees Council to alter the width and surface of a bridleway/public footpath SPEN164/20.

Where was the notice to inform the public that these works were taking place the week commencing 3rd February 2025? I did not see one. There was no official closure of SPEN164/20 while these works took place. Why not? This was a safety risk to the public.

_____ employed contractors to dig up the existing bridleway/footpath surface. Valuable green grass verges providing important rich vegetation and wild flowers for insects and wildlife have been removed from both sides of the bridleway/footpath. These works have changed and altered the bridleway/footpath dramatically. It has been widened as much possible and surfaced to look like a road for vehicle access. Wide enough for large building trucks/lorries.

As the council is responsible for the first 7 inches of any bridleway/public footpath has permission been given for these works to be carried out? These works are certainly not maintenance works they are total transformational works.

_____ has a planning application pending 2024/93325/E which states that access to the proposed domestic property will be via SPEN164/20. I saw no request for planning permission to change, alter and widen SPEN14/20 in her planning submission. It is an offence to carry out such works without Council permission. "It is an offence to interfere with the surface of a public right of way".

Therefore, I wish to escalate this issue and make a formal complaint. I request that the council enforce their policies rules and regulations and ask _____ to put the bridleway/footpath back to its intended state. Reinstating the grass verges, wild plants and flowers.

No decision has been made by planning so it seems _____ has ignored the law and council policies and legislation and committed an offence. She has tried to create a hypothetical access road that looks more suitable for vehicles at the risk of the safety to foot pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders while destroying a valuable green asset that was historically peaceful and safe.

There is also an environmental issue here as there could be oil leakage from the road scalplings that have been used to re surface the bridleway/public footpath. The bridleway/ public footpath runs alongside a stream. This stream feeds into the pond at Jo Cox wood which is rich with pondlife, insects and wildlife.