



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 8479

Mr Richard Johnson
112 Albion Road
New Mills
High Peak SK22 3EY

20 January 2015

Dear Mr. Johnson

As you will remember I agreed to write to Derbyshire County Council regarding the issue of the footpath work they were carrying out. In addition to this I have also spoken about the matter to the Peak District National Park Authority.

After a longer than acceptable delay, I have at last received a response from Dean Collins, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure, a copy of which is enclosed.

It appears from his letter, that the Council are now eventually taking advice from others who, may I dare to suggest, have greater knowledge on these matters than they do. I am pleased to see that this decision is following on from discussions with the Peak Park. From my conversation with them, I know that they also had concerns over the work and it appears that they are now being properly consulted over future actions.

I would be interested in your views on the contents of the letter and, naturally, I am interested in hearing about any developments over the coming weeks.

Thank you very much for taking the time to write and come to surgery to bring this matter to my attention.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AB' or similar initials.

Andrew Bingham MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Councillor Dean Collins
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport
and Infrastructure
County Hall
Matlock
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County Councillor for the Staveley North and
Whittington Electoral Division (Labour)

Our Ref: DC/AJA/LAB2199
12th January 2015

Dear Mr Bingham

Chapel Gate (Rushup Edge)
Chapel en le Frith – Byway Open to All Traffic 144

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 2014. The work being carried out on this Byway Open to All Traffic is in an effort to improve access for a greater range of users who are currently unable to use the route owing to the poor condition of the route which, in part, has been deemed as being in disrepair. The route is publicly maintainable and therefore its condition is of concern to the Council along with the associated risks that have to be considered as a part of the Council's duty to repair.

The work involves covering the stepped areas however we intend to retain as much of the exposed and level bedrock if practicable. We have suspended operations on site whilst Officers are in discussion with Peak District National Park Authority, Natural England and a range of user representative groups including the Peak District Local Access Forum. There are no plans to publicly consult on the repairs. We are, however, discussing the project with representatives of the appropriate bodies and engaging with relevant user groups including the Local Access Forum who we feel are best placed to advise the Council on such matters.

I hope you will seek some reassurance from my response that the Council is taking advice and will listen to all representations it has received.

If I may be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dean Collins
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Infrastructure
Cc
Councillor John Owen, Deputy Cabinet Member
Councillor Trevor Southerd, Deputy Cabinet Member
Local Member – Councillor Jocelyn Street, c/o Corporate Resources
Author – Peter J White

