

Ride Sheffield
c/o 153 Providence Road
Sheffield
S6 5BG

Peter J White
Environmental Services Department
Shand House
Dale Road South
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 3RY

Dear Mr White

Thank you for your response to our original letter and the points contained within it. Please allow us to comment on the points contained in it below and to, again, request to be consulted with on future works.

While we understand that repairs to the rights of way network can be a complex matter other Councils in the area do consult on such works that they carry out, especially in the case of major or sensitive works like that of Long Causeway, and in working with us we have been able to create solutions to issues which better meet the needs of all users (not just mountain bikers) while still achieving the requirements of the duty of maintenance placed on the Council. I note your comment on the loss of technical challenge and that was indeed the content of a number of comments however a far greater number of comments received from our members were around the inappropriate use of materials and the excessive nature of the work carried out. The purpose of our group is not solely to protect trails technicality and keep mountain bikers happy but to try and ensure the right balance of the desires of all users and that of the Councils. As an example the work done to resurface Porters Clough leading out of Sheffield was supported as although it made the route less challenging for mountain bikers given how the path fits in to the rights of way network and it's high use as an easy access route to the Peak District for families etc it was the right course of action in this case. All works are assessed on their merits and not on a blanket objection to changes approach.

Please do not be concerned that involving us in the planning stages of works will be a costly exercise for you, in many cases after discussions with us and other parties the scale of planned works has actually been reduced. We generally support the minimum approach required to achieve the required

maintenance of Rights of Way in order to best retain them in keeping with their surroundings. Again I emphasise that we assess each case on its merits to achieve the best overall solution.

Thank you for the information on your Local Access Forum. I note that you have a member leading cycling interests and another couple who mention the same in their other interests. I would kindly ask if these members are mountain bikers or leisure cyclists as the distinction between the two is significant. Mountain bikers are one of the biggest user groups of the rights of way networks of the country and especially so within the Peak District and surrounding areas. They bring substantial tourism to the area with mountain bikers from all over the UK beyond travelling to Derbyshire to ride the well known high quality trails. I feel that as such a significant user group the views of mountain bikers need to be covered in your LAF.

I look forward to your reply and hope that in future we are able to work with you on all matters relating to the rights of way network you care for on the behalf of all users. We work closely with Sheffield City Council and after initial reluctance they now see the substantial benefits of working with us.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Hardcastle, on behalf of Ride Sheffield

Contact Details

By post at the address above

By email to ridesheffield@gmail.com

By telephone to Stephen Hardcastle on 07941 528580