



Colton Parish Council

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Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane
Lilac Cottage
Oxen Park
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8th November 2010

Ms Jill Stannard
Chief Executive
Cumbria County Council
Headquarters
The Courts
Carlisle
CA3 8NA

Dear Ms Stannard,

Bouthrey Bridge

(over the River Crake between Nibthwaite and Water Yeat in South Lakeland)

We are writing to express our dismay that one year on from the 2009 floods, Bouthrey Bridge has still not be repaired, and remains closed to all traffic and pedestrians. The recent rains mean that further damage to this historic bridge is likely. Despite our many representations to County to make progress with the bridge, we now understand that the Environment Agency 'window' for works on the bridge is closed until the spring.

We find it completely unacceptable that a year has gone by and re-building works have not even started.

The inability to use this bridge has caused severe difficulties for the community, especially at Nibthwaite where residents depend on it for access to public transport to Ulverston and Coniston and access to their village hall. The detour is some nine miles. In particular, we have serious concerns for Mr Hodgson who farms at Arkliid Farm. He is facing another winter of severe difficulty as he farms (sheep and a dairy herd) both sides of this bridge and depends on it daily for moving his stock. He has suffered substantial financial losses as a direct result of the lack of progress on repairs.

We would appreciate your comment on:

- i) Why there has been no progress with Bouthrey Bridge and, specifically, what plans are in place to ensure that building work starts immediately when the EA window 'opens' again in spring 2011.
- ii) What compensation you will be offering to Mr Hodgson of Arkliid Farm for the severe difficulties caused by the failure of Cumbria County Council to complete repairs.
- iii) Our request for urgent action to install a temporary footbridge strong enough to carry farm stock until the bridge can be repaired.

Yours sincerely,

Mandy Lane
Clerk, Colton Parish Council

CC: Cllr Rod Wilson, Cllr Claire Salisbury, Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council, Mr Hodgson