

Lake District National Park Authority
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Your ref: CB
Date: 23 September 2009

Dear Colin

Green Roads and Recreational Users in Colton Parish

Thank you for your letter of 2 September. It was also good to see you at the Parish Tour event on 17 September.

Richard Leafe has asked me to reply on his behalf and I have discussed the matter with David Robinson, our access and recreation developer (and former Trails Management Adviser). He in turn has been liaising with other officers directly involved in this work and with Cumbria County Council.

In your letter you ask for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) "to restrict access until such time as the green road is effectively repaired." But you also mention John Robinson's (Cumbria County Council's Network Manager) comment that from the County Council's point of view, "there was no chance of any funding in the near future". If that is so then I'm afraid we have no basis for a temporary TRO as these can only succeed where there is a clear commitment to address the circumstances that make it an appropriate short term solution. Also, having talked to David Robinson and Tony Hill, the Area Ranger, both feel that restricting vehicles alone will make little difference to the condition of the road – active remedial work would be required.

But while I am not convinced that a TRO without associated repair would be an effective use of resources, we would support it if the County Council could be persuaded to undertake some work. Getting support from the County Council will be essential however; apart from one Byway Open to All Traffic in Colton, the rest of the routes are unclassified county roads (UCRs) and therefore are their responsibility, not ours.

That said, it is worth bearing in mind that the discretionary TRO is still in place, which we introduced in 2002 and enforced until 2006. At that point responsibility for the routes transferred to that the County Council so we no longer administer or enforce the TRO. But if a programme of repairs was drawn up it is likely the TRO could be re-activated with a minimum of fuss. The signs at High Nibthwaite would need some refurbishment and a commitment would be required from either the County Council or your proposed co-operative to inspect the route on a regular basis. On that basis we would be happy to assist.

Richard Leafe, Chief Executive



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If the County Council can be persuaded to repair the route, they already have a detailed work specification, which was drawn up by David Robinson and Richard Fox (our Fix the Fells Project Officer) almost three years ago. In fact there were three options for repair, which are annexed to this letter. I would suggest you use these as a basis for further discussions with the County Council, though we continue to prefer option 1. Unfortunately we have not retained detailed work specifications but the County Council may have them. If not, I suggest another site visit to draw up a specification which accurately reflects the current condition of the route. I am happy for David, Richard Fox or Tony Hill to be involved in this and I suggest you contact Tony in the first instance.

I fully support a co-operative scheme to address UCR maintenance issues in your Parish and applaud your positive approach. We will help where we can through our involvement in the Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership and through Tony's local presence in the area.

I am copying this letter to those officers mentioned in the letter, including John Robinson at Cumbria County Council.

Yours sincerely

Bob Cartwright
Director of Park Services

cc Richard Leafe, Mark Eccles, David Robinson, Richard Fox, Tony Hill (NPA)
John Robinson (CCC)