

Annex 3: Pre-Order Consultation Responses

BHS Access Officer - *the BHS thoroughly supports this multi user solution to enable more people by all non motorised means of accessing the countryside on the outskirts of York. Thank you for all your efforts in this and we look forward to the finished results.*

Byways and Bridleways Trust - *I am delighted that there is now a chance of creating a safe bridleway link across the ring road, and hope you can bring it to pass. The specification is adequate. On behalf of the Byways and Bridleways Trust I give the scheme my full support.*

York Ramblers Footpath Secretary - *We had accepted this in principle at our last York ramblers Group Footpath sub-committee meeting in May.*

Not had chance to look at the details, but wish to point out that the current crossing point was constructed for cyclists and horse riders, not just pedestrians. If this refuge is considered dangerous for users, what about those footpath & bridleway crossings where there are no refuges? It is infinitely safer than no refuge and has certainly improved access to Poppleton and Moor Lane from Knapton and Acomb. Not everyone likes using underpasses and the existing refuge should be retained.

Officer comment: the current crossing is widely considered to be unsuitable, especially for horses and cyclists. The current refuge will remain in place.

Does it need fencing on both sides of the path? Hopefully there will be no hedging on the field side of the proposed route, to avoid a tunnel effect. Who looks after the existing roadside hedging, CYC or Mr Lancaster? We assume it is CYC, but may be wrong.

Officer comment: The current farmer maintains the hedge that runs along the road and it is understood, will be also maintain the new hedge and fencing; a decent width for the new bridleway has been allowed, to ensure this is possible. As well as providing additional valuable habitat for wildlife, the new boundary features will help prevent trespass on to adjacent land, which is a concern for the farmer.

We understand the field access from the Outer Ring Road is to be closed, as part of this scheme, with consequent changes to the ground levels hereabouts.

Officer comment: It is planned to remove the field access off the A1237 and change the levels so it is more suitable for the bridleway.

Where will the path go in relation to the electricity pole and tensioner(s)?

Officer comment: The bridleway will smoothly skirt round the telegraph pole straining wires. We did look at getting them moved but were advised that it would be too costly.

We believe part of the path from the Village Street towards the underpass is already a Definitive Bridleway, but not shown as such on the York Local View mapping.

Officer comment: There is no bridleway recorded on the Definitive Map and Statement at Knapton village. I am aware that it appeared on Ordnance Survey mapping and LocalView for a time. But it has been removed due to the fact that it was incorrect. It is not known why it was recorded by Ordnance Survey as no legal orders have been made and we have not informed them of any changes at this location. It was actually shown on a different alignment on both documents to the one that has always been proposed.

New House Covert resident - *As a resident of The Covert, located on the entry, we have a number of concerns and queries about the proposal.*

Barrier - We assume there will be no barrier at the entrance to The Covert, but that it will be positioned at the rear, after the block paving at the entrance to the field.

Officer comment: a barrier will be placed at the entrance to the field, after the block paving.

Safety - of residents and users of the bridleway is of paramount importance. There are still a large number of speeding drivers using Knapton Main Street as rat run, increasing activity at the entrance of The Covert, and the likelihood of a serious accident to users of the bridleway, exiting onto Main Street. Residents are aware of the danger and take extra precautions, but suitable signage and possibly a well positioned mirror may alleviate the risk. Open access to our drive is on both Main Street and near the entrance to The Covert. Currently, paperboys use our drive as a short cut. An increase in this activity is totally unacceptable as our safety and that of our pet dog is important. As a private development, children play in The Covert and dogs are allowed an element of freedom. Horses passing through The Covert may

be startled by the dogs, whilst dog owners will do their best to avoid this, they will not wish to enter into conflict with horse riders, after all, the dogs have been here longer than the bridleway. Nor would we expect to change our lifestyle and freedom of the children to accommodate increased activity from cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

Officer comment: The bridleway will be signed with a wooden finger post where it leaves Main Street. I understand that the request for a highway mirror would not be supported by the authority.

With regards to people using the drive as a short cut, the bridleway sign will clearly show users where the bridleway legally leaves the road. Any other route across private land is trespass against the owners of the land and is a civil matter ie between the landowner and whoever is committing trespass.

Bridleways often pass through farms yards and developments where there are dogs and children, and horse riders are aware of the possibility of their presence. There shouldn't be a problem in this regard, nor should there be a need for a change in lifestyle of residents as a result of the bridleway.

Definition of bridleway - It is important that access via The Covert is clearly defined, to avoid transit users passing close to houses and driveways where there may be reversing cars.

Officer comment: The route will have a directional signpost off Main Street and will be clearly way-marked. A condition of the original planning consent was the provision of a bridleway along the private New House Covert. The bridleway was delineated on the ground by different surface treatment (channel).

Dog/Horse fouling within The Covert - There is an ongoing issue with the recreation field at the rear of The Covert, particularly around the use by dogs and the depositing of dog mess. This will be compounded by dogs and horses, accessing through The Covert. What will be done to ensure cleanliness within The Covert (a private development) and who will be responsible for clearing up horse mess?

Officer comment: As the bridleway will be a public highway, it will be a criminal offence to allow a dog to defecate on it. As a public place, any incidents of dog-fouling may be reported to the Council. It is not known

what the arrangements are for the recreation field, but the parish council could be approached to have a look at installing a dog bin.

With regards to horse droppings, this isn't a criminal offence and there is no requirement for horse-riders to clear it away.

Parking - Public parking is not permitted within The Covert. We have concerns that dog walkers and building contractors will use The Covert as a public car park. Furthermore, if construction work is undertaken via The Covert, what consultation and consideration will there be for residents in terms of vehicular access, debris and mud deposited within The Covert and damage to block paving?

Officer comment: if access for construction vehicles is to be along The Covert a dilapidation survey will be carried out to ensure that should any damage be caused, it may be rectified to the original standard. There may be the opportunity to access the site across council owned land from the A1237. This possibility will be investigated.

Maintenance of The Covert - Who will be responsible for the maintenance of the block paving in The Covert when the bridleway is complete?

Officer comment: As the main use of The Covert will continue to be for private vehicular access, the maintenance of the block paving will remain the responsibility of whoever maintains it now. Use of The Covert by authorised users of the bridleway is very unlikely to cause any damage to the current block paved surface.

Public Liability - Who will be responsible in the event of accidents caused by users of the bridleway and/or residents of The Covert?

Officer comment: Any accidents caused by users of the bridleway and/or residents of The Covert will be a matter between the parties involved.