

I am considering proposals under the above provisions to divert a number of Public Rights of Way at the above location.

I'd be obliged if you would refer to the attached map **Blue House Existing** which shows the current routes of paths South of Blue House Farm, the path numbers being indicated in red. Suggestions for diverting these paths are as follows:-

1. Footpath 77 Spennymoor to be extinguished; footpaths 71 and 76 already provide a walking route around the field to road C113 to the West and to the footpath network South of Blue House Farm.
2. Footpath 71 currently crosses diagonally the paddock to the front of Blue House and then again continues diagonally across a field to a stream. Whilst there used to be a crossing over the stream to access the former sewage works and Chilton Branch Railway, this crossing point no longer exists and is therefore currently a dead-end path. Where footpath 71 diagonally crosses the paddock to the front of Blue House it meets footpath 72. This path runs south to a footbridge and continues through the domestic garden of Railway Cottage. This path continues along the track and then crosses south-west through a paddock to the same track and then returns south-east to cross an arable field and continues due east to Windlestone Lane. The route of the path, in part, crosses a large pond.
3. To the North of Railway Cottage is registered footpath 74. This path ran parallel with the former Chilton Branch Railway and exited onto Windlestone Lane. This railway served the former Leasingthorne Colliery which closed in the late 1960's and the former line is now part of an arable field.

The extract **Blue House Proposed** indicates what the new arrangement could be

4. It is suggested that footpath 72 follows a southerly route from footpath 71 at Blue House and follows the field edge to the existing bridge, south past Railway Cottage, then generally eastwards, passing to the north of the pond area. Where it meets Windlestone Lane an opening will be provided onto the road.
5. Footpath 74 will follow a new route beside the stream, east to Windlestone Lane.
6. A new footpath, shown black, will be created to run west from Footpath 72 to the C113 road at Eden Terrace.

I realise there is a lot of information to consider but would be pleased to receive your comments in respect of this application and if it's possible could let me have these by the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017. If you need longer than this or consider discussions would be of benefit please let me know.

If there are no objections, the application may be determined by the Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services, and if there are objections, it will be determined by the Highways Committee. Please note that if you do make representations, then by virtue of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the County Council may make them available for public inspection. Additionally they may also be disclosable under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards, Peter.

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