

Dear Councillor Illingworth

Thank you for your proposals.

I have discussed this matter with Dr Willison, who is happy for it to be considered as a strategic proposal seeking the endorsement of the Local Access Forum at the next LAF meeting on the 30th September.

As discussed at the last LAF meeting the City Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan has a number of strategic aims within it's Action Plan and unfortunately this proposal is not included in the Action Plan. However, the scheme can still be considered if it is feasible to do so.

With regard to the viability of the proposal this would appear to be dependent on the willingness of the relevant landowners to dedicate both the footpath / cycleway and any feasible links to enable it to be utilised as a through route for the public. This could be as a consequence of development works, such as the Kirkstall Forge site, where it may be possible for the Council to seek access improvements.

Where Footpath / Cycleway proposals are put forward there is a need for Public Rights of Way and Cycling Officers to work together to achieve stated aims. Clearly the views of Mark Robinson - the Cycling Officer in City Development - regarding the proposed cycleway will be very relevant here, especially in relation to the Council's Core Cycle Network Strategy.

The subject site lies in the old County Borough area of Leeds which was excluded from the original survey of public rights of way carried out under Part 4 of the National Parks & Access to the Countryside Act 1949. However this situation does not preclude the existence of public paths within this " Excluded Area " and the status of the route to and from Gotts Bridge, together with the bridge itself, will be considered in the future. In this connection the City Council will be surveying the excluded area and all relevant ways will be considered for inclusion as definitive public paths should sufficient evidence be available. This could be in the form of user evidence or by virtue of historic documentary evidence.

Much of the proposed route is likely to be affected by the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme. However, this may also offer opportunities for increased access for walking and cycling along the river corridor and in preparing the Council's Design Guide and Vision, Officers have been mindful to include suggestions which would lead to an enhanced path network.

We look forward to hearing your ideas at the forthcoming LAF meeting.

Regards,

Bob Buckenham
Assistant Countryside Access Manager
Countryside and Access
Parks and Countryside
Leeds City Council

Red Hall Estate

Tel : 0113 237 5264

Fax: 0113 232 9467