



c/o The Clerk
Aberford & District Parish Council
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10th January 2018

Highways Asset Management
Highways and Transportation
Selectapost 6
Ring Road
Middleton
Leeds
LS10 4AX

Dear Mr Molyneux,

**Re: Highways and Transportation Planned Maintenance Programme of Local Roads for 2018-19 –
Comments from Aberford & District Parish Council**

The members of Aberford & District Parish Council discussed the Highways and Transportation Planned Maintenance Programme of Local Roads for 2018-19 schedule and the lists for 2019/20 and 2020/21 at their December 2017 parish council meeting. As a result of the discussion, the members have asked me in my role as Clerk to the Parish Council, to submit the following comments on behalf of Aberford & District Parish Council, in response to the proposed works schedule:

Aberford & District Parish Council is disappointed to note there is no work scheduled to be undertaken during the next three years within the parish. Notably, members are concerned the path to Lotherton Hall (along Lotherton Lane) is not listed, given the concerns they have raised previously that the path is dangerous and unfit for use.

You may be aware some members met Ward Cllr Matthew Robinson, Mr Russell Martin of the Highways Department, Ms Beverley Kirk an LCC Environmental Action Officer, and Ms Maria Akers, Estate Manager at Lotherton Hall, on site on 15.08.17 to discuss the parish council's concerns. Members asked those present to walk the path so they could better understand and see for themselves why the parish council is so concerned. The path is only eight inches wide in places and wheelchair users and those with pushchairs/prams are simply unable to use it. Instead they must use the road which is winding and in parts carries the national speed limit of 60mph for a single carriageway. During the meeting various options for improving the path were suggested and discussed, and members were under the impression something would be done to make the path safe to walk along, and came away feeling positive.

Following the new facilities that have opened at Lotherton Hall, it is anticipated an additional 70,000 people will visit the hall each year, many of which are families with children. Leeds City Council is keen to encourage green living and lowering emissions and, whilst the parish council generally wishes to do the same, members do not feel they can promote this by encouraging people from the village to leave their cars at home and walk to the hall along this dangerous path which they deem to be unsafe and not fit for purpose. A frightening incident was brought to the attention of the parish council in November 2017 where a parishioner who uses a wheelchair was nearly hit by a car when using the road where the path is too narrow for her to use.

The parish council members feel very strongly about this issue and are keen to prevent any serious accidents from happening, rather than the authorities being forced to react after the seemingly inevitable has occurred.

The ideal resolution from the parish council's point of view would be as follows:

- To widen and resurface the path at the sections where it is impassable
- To install a crossing point to Lotherton Hall
- To cut back the verge creep along the full length of the path both initially and periodically as required.

They do realise the resurfacing work would be a rather large project with considerable costs involved, so scraping back the overgrowth which impedes the path along the entire length would provide space for people to walk along it. It was indicated at the meeting on 15.08.17 that this would be done at the very least, and the members are keen for this to be done as soon as possible if no resurfacing works can be carried out in the short/medium term.

Your consideration of these comments and concerns is greatly appreciated and I await your response with anticipation that something will be done to improve the path in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Goonesinghe
Clerk/ Responsible Financial Officer
On behalf of Aberford & District Parish Council

cc: Ms Maria Akers, Lotherton Hall Estate Manager
Ms Beverley Kirk, LCC Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team
Mr Russell Martin, LCC Highways Department
Cllr Matthew Robinson
Alec Shelbrooke MP
Cllr Ryan Stephenson