

PDGLA
PO Box 7976
Great Longstone,
Bakewell,
Derbyshire, DE45 9AY
Web: www.pdgla.org.uk
Email: pdgla@hotmail.co.uk



Peak District
Green Lanes Alliance

Derbyshire County Council consultation on off-roading: please take part

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) has finally published its revised “Policy for the management of motorised vehicle use in the countryside” and has put it out for consultation. In our view the draft policy is very weak and we will be lobbying hard to get it improved. Here are some of the points we will be making:

- It ignores the existence of the Peak District National Park and the fact that DCC has a legal duty to help protect it.
- DCC is planning to spend taxpayer’s money on repairing routes so recreational motor vehicle users can go on using them. But there are no plans to invest in keeping people safe or making sure lanes can be used by other people.
- DCC is not owning up to the extent of its powers ban vehicles wherever recreational motor vehicle use is causing damage and danger and it shows little signs of wanting to use its powers.
- DCC plans to liaise directly with organisations representing recreational motor vehicle users, but not with organisations representing residents, walkers, riders, and cyclists.

If you can find time, please take part in the consultation. There is an online response form, but like us you may find the form doesn’t allow you to make the points you want to make. We suggest sending an email or a letter instead. You could write about your own experiences of vehicles on Derbyshire’s green lanes and what you are most concerned about. If you live outside Derbyshire, stress that you are regular visitor.

We think the key point to cover if you take part in the consultation is this: DCC should impose TROs (traffic regulation orders) on lanes where:

- Walkers, horse riders and pedal cyclists now fear to go
- A route is particularly suitable for walkers and horse riders
- The geology and the landscape mean it is not possible to maintain a route for use by 4x4s and trail motorcycles
- There is a need to preserve the character and beauty of a route or the area it runs through.

The closing date for responses is 14 March 2012. Please send your response to Cllr Simon Spencer, the Derbyshire County Councillor in charge of DCC highways policy. You can write to him at Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, DE4 3AG or you can email simon.spencer@derbyshire.gov.uk.

The draft policy is at http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/consultation_search/Consultation_search_index/management_of_motorised_vehicle_use_in_the_countryside.asp

And tell DCC to hurry up!

We are concerned about DCC's slow progress in completing proposed Traffic Regulation Orders on Washgate (near Hollinsclough), Bradley Lane (Pilsley) and School Lane (Great Hucklow).

The Peak District National Park Authority drew up a list of "green lanes" which they thought were a problem in Derbyshire back in 2008. The list is at http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/90370/lafbg080927-5a1.pdf Hurst Clough Lane, Bamford has since been added. DCC has taken very little action on most of these routes. If you live near one of them, why not write to your County Councillor saying why you are concerned about your local route and ask what DCC plans to do about it?

Chapel Gate, Edale –permanent TRO consultation



Photo: Grass regenerating on Chapel Gate. January 2012

When the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) made its temporary (18 month) Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) banning vehicles from Chapel Gate on environmental grounds, they said they would take into account all relevant information in considering whether to make a permanent TRO order or whether to vary or abandon the restriction. They asked for comments after 6 months of the TRO being in operation. So this is the moment to let PDNPA have your views. Send your comments by 29 February 2012 to Mike Rhodes (Access and Rights of Way Manager). His email is mike.rhodes@peakdistrict.gov.uk Stress the re-growth of vegetation and improvement to the surface and environment generally and the fact that it is once again pleasant and safe to use Chapel Gate.

Death of our Founding Vice chair

We are sorry to announce the death in January of John, the Founding Vice Chair of PDGLA. He had a wealth of experience to offer as a result of his involvement with Edale Mountain Rescue Team, his activities as a

voluntary Peak Park Ranger in his younger days and his wide knowledge of the Peak District. Even when unable to attend committee meetings because of chemotherapy, he stayed involved in the activities of PDGLA by email and managed to attend the December committee meeting. We will miss John very much and send our best wishes to his wife and family.

Repairs to Washgate Lane, near Hollinsclough



Photo: WashgateLane. Damaged cobbles in March 2011. This picture was taken before the repairs were done by volunteers

Volunteers working with the Peak Park have recently repaired the cobbled surface of Washgate Lane near Hollinsclough, an old packhorse way. The route starts at Leycote (SK056676) and ends at Tenterhill (SK050672). The lane is

unusual in having a pitched cobbled surface on the steep descent to the packhorse bridge over the River Dove on the Derbyshire side. There is a description of the repairs and photographs showing the work in progress at

http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/177844/News1111.pdf

Unless there is a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) banning all vehicles on Washgate Lane, the surface will soon be damaged again. A local farmer told us that the route had been repaired previously and that while vehicles were banned the route remained in good condition. However, when vehicles were allowed to re-use the route the cobbled surface was damaged once more. We understand that DCC is currently planning a TRO which would ban only vehicles above a certain width on the basis that these are too wide for the pack horse bridge and their weight would damage the cobbled surface. They intend to continue to permit motor bikes, despite the damage they do to the surface and the fact that they are a danger to other users on this lane which is steep and narrow in places.

E – petition on off-roading

A member who lives in the Peak District National Park has raised an e-petition on the Government to stop off-roading by motor vehicles in National Parks. This e-petition can be found at

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/9910>

Please sign it as soon as possible as it closes at the end of February.

Illegal activity- Moss Road



Photo: Moss Road: Damage caused by recreational motor vehicle use at the start of Moss Road near Totley. Trail bikes still use the route although it is illegal. (September 2011)

Moss Road is a bridleway crossing Totley Moor from Totley, on the outskirts of western Sheffield to the junction of the A625 and A6187. It crosses a SSSI. Derbyshire

County Council put a Traffic Regulation Order on it in 2001 banning vehicles from the Derbyshire section of the route. Locked gates at either end keep the 4x4s out, but trail bikes use it illegally. The damage caused by vehicles climbing out of Totley on Moss Road has still not healed as you can see from the photo. If you see trail bikes on Moss Road, please report them to Derbyshire Police by ringing the non emergency number, 101. Remember to ask for an incident number.

Adopt a Lane



Photo: Illegal activity in an old pit known locally as the "bomb hole" on Abney Moor, near Abney. January 2011

Illegal off-roading on footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways is a problem all over the Peak District. So is the removal of signs saying it is illegal for motor vehicles to use a route. Lack of signs or missing signs makes it harder for the Police to take

action. If you live near a route subject to illegal activity, you can help by monitoring it regularly. If there have never been signs saying it is illegal for motor vehicles to use the route, contact the highway authority and ask them to put up signs. If signs have been removed, report this as well. If you see vehicles on the route, please report them to the police using the non emergency number, 101. If you can, make a note of vehicle registration numbers. And always ask for an incident numbers. If you decide to adopt a route, please let us know at pdgla@hotmail.com so we know you are doing it and can keep in touch with you.

Minninglow Lane



Photo: Damage to Minninglow Lane.
January 2012

Minninglow Lane (also known as Gallowlow Lane at its eastern end) is part of a series of green lanes forming an old route leading south east from Hartington. The section between the High Peak Trail (SK 198586) and the farm buildings at SK218565 is across grass and is unsurfaced. It is badly affected by recreational

motor vehicle use. Currently, in parts of the section between walls, there are tracks across most of the width as vehicles try to avoid the worst of the ruts. We were told that the route is used by both 4x4s and trail bikes.

Contacting the Police to report illegal off-roading

All the Police forces covering the Peak District have now changed their non emergency contact number to 101.

It is important to report illegal use of recreational motor vehicles because the Police will not devote resources to a problem if they are unaware of its scale.

The Police will ask you for the location, type of vehicles involved, how many vehicles, and if there were any distinguishing marks. If you can do it safely, get registration numbers and photographs. Ask the Police for an incident number because if there is no incident number the incident won't get onto Police statistics. Don't expect any immediate action.

Peak Park needs a new Board Member

There is a vacancy on the PDNPA Board. The vacancy is for one of the eight Board Members appointed directly by the Secretary of State for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs on the basis of their specialist knowledge of national park issues. If you know anyone who would be a suitable Member of the Board, please draw the vacancy to their attention. Details are on the news page of the Peak Park website at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/news/current-news The closing date for applications is Monday 13 February.