

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 09 December 2021 13:10:53

Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0700 Site Address: Former Railway Line Barnfield Road Leek
Staffordshire Comments by: tracy mcmullen

From:

four winds, Cheddleton Road
leek
birchall
Leek

ST13 5qz

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: I am in the process of sending in a letter to add to this. The development by the railway at Leekbrook so far is an eyesore with high metal fencing. A large area has been cleared of trees with no thought for wildlife. Until recent times the railway track has been used as a lovely walk from Leek through to cheddleton and beyond avoiding the main road. Once work started upgrading at Leekbrook the site was locked off and the attitude of Railway employees was completely dismissive and downright threatening, ignoring the fact that it has been used as a footpath for over 30 years. With just threats to fine for trespass and as many obstacles put in the way with padlocked gates! Once a path has been used for such a long period of time is there not some precedent for a right of way? They tried to explain the locked gates and high fences away in the name of safety but a route through the existing station at Leekbrook could have been easily achieved. Again they were simply not interested in providing one. From a safety point of view it is flawed anyway, as towards the golf course at Leekbrook junction there is no protection from the open line. I am therefore very dubious about the intent to provide a suitable and pleasant path for walkers, cyclists, runners, families when such disregard has been shown to date. There is no doubt that lots more trees and bushes will be cleared in the process again with complete disregard for the countryside and wildlife. We are at a time when we should be planting trees, lowering our carbon footprint and getting more exercise to stay healthy. All this for (at the moment) a polluting steam train to travel another mile. I will be encouraging other like minded people to voice their concerns.

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