

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Town Hall
Blackburn
BBI 7DY

Arkwright Fold

Blackburn
BB2 4LZ

9 February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Objection from the residents of Arkwright Fold, Blackburn regarding proposed clearing of Footpath 106.

We, the residents of Arkwright Fold, object to the proposed clearing of Footpath 106 (letter reference PROW 106 Blackburn dated 27.01.2020).

Footpath 106 has been neglected for some 30 years, the Council have not had resources to maintain it and the public have not used it throughout that time. It does not traverse open fields, farmland or an area of beauty, it is in an urban environment in an area adequately served by roads and pavements.

Our objections to clearing Footpath 106 are:

- i) Security risk - the footpath has become severely overgrown over the past 30 years with undergrowth and trees which has provided an element of security to the adjoining properties, reducing the likelihood of intruders in an area with well documented problems including break-ins and burglaries. Clearing the undergrowth will present more opportunities for burglary and trespassing. The Council closed an adjoining footpath 12 years ago due to security concerns.
- ii) Clearing the footpath would give rise to social nuisance - it would be unlit giving rise to a 'back-alley' situation that can be abused by those wishing to do so. The drugs problems and anti-social behaviour associated with the footpath between Arkwright Fold and Brotherston Drive are already well documented by the Police. We do not wish to give the opportunity for more.
- iii) Destruction of wildlife - the clearance of the path would necessitate the cutting down of established trees and the clearance of undergrowth which would destroy the habitat of wildlife - hedgehogs and foxes inhabit this area.
- iv) Maintenance costs - the Council have admitted that they do not have the resources to maintain the footpath. It would become a dumping ground for fly tippers if not regularly maintained.
- v) Redundant - the footpath has not been used for 30 years. With the building of Brotherston Drive and adjoining roads the footpath is not needed. Alternative routes are easy to find.
- vi) Waste of Council resources - to spend several thousands of pounds on a project that nobody wants and nobody would use is a flagrant dereliction of the Council's duty. The money would be better spent on the many projects desperately in need of finance that would benefit the community as a whole.

Yours faithfully

Footpath 106 objection

We, the undersigned residents of Arkwright Fold, Blackburn, object to the clearing of footpath 106 on grounds of security, social nuisance, maintenance & drainage issues and flagrant waste of Council resources.

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