



PAINSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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PAINSWICK

STROUD

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Martine Tyler
Rights of Way Officer
Shire Hall
Gloucester
GL1 2TH

21st April 2017

Dear Mrs Tyler

Response to a consultation to divert MPA 135 on the Painswick Golf Course.

The Parish Council does not support the proposal. The Council reasons for the objecting to the proposal are as follows:

- a. That the bridleway (MPA 135) lies on the Cotswold Way which is a path of national importance.
- b. The designated footpaths and bridleways on the Painswick Beacon Common have no relevance in law, given the right of unfettered access accorded to the general public by the Painswick Manorship. Any diversion could create the misleading impression that walkers and other users are required to stick to using only the paths.
- c. The current path is wide and in the open and popular with riders. The diversion to the lower bridleway (MPA 133) would be both disadvantageous and less attractive because it is narrow, muddy and in a wooded area.
- d. The issues regarding safety for users of the common are not isolated to this one area, it is an issue for much of the common which shares the space with the golfers.

The Council would like to suggest that instead of a diversion, if all users were encouraged to be more tolerant and give each other some mutual respect, this would be a far better outcome for everyone. To address this particular issue, the Council recommends that signage is installed to warn 'Golfers' that walkers and other uses could be in the area, so take care. Plus, an installation of steps, similar to those already used at the 17th tee, could assist the golfers with their visibility.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Irena Litton
Deputy Clerk

Copy to: Selina Blow
Mr Terry Parker, Chairman of the Painswick Beacon Conservation Society
Mr Paul Hackman, Natural England
Cotswold Conservation Board
Mid Cotswold Tracks and Trails
Sarah Macaulay-Lowe – Rights of Way Officer