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From: Hazel Dawe - Cowley Area Transport Group – [www.catg.org.uk](http://www.catg.org.uk)

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23rd February 2021

**OBJECTION RE: Oxford Footpath No. 153 Notice of Modification Order 2021. Ref: 03557**

The Cowley Area Transport Group objects to the removal of this footpath from the County’s Public Rights of Way list. We feel this is not consistent with claimed County concern about Active Travel. We are also concerned more generally that walking and cycling routes be joined up, and made into best quality available networks in Oxford and elsewhere.

The Cowley Area Transport Group notes with concern that development has been allowed to proceed on the William Morris Recreation site, despite the obvious traffic problems in this area which previous discussion about this area have tended to downplay. Having made the mistake of allowing development here, and neglecting the opportunity to seek home building around, above and over private and public car parks, we are disturbed that the need for access for walkers is potentially to be compromised by failing to recognise Footpath 153 as a Public Right of Way. The risk of it becoming an area of neglect, lacking regular cleaning and repair, would be an abdication of duty to the public.

We note that the County’s rather extraordinary explanatory statement on this matter says:

“The Council has made a modification order under section 53 of the Act to delete a public footpath from the definitive map and statement running from William Morris Close, Cowley at grid reference SP 5469 0476 (point A on the order plan), south-south-east for approximately 90 metres to SP 5467 0468 (point B) at Beresford Place. Oxfordshire County Council has made this Order because there is sufficient evidence to indicate that public rights have been recorded on its Definitive Map and Statement in error and, therefore, should be removed.”

Clearly, maintenance of the footpath should have been taken on the County Council when Beresford Place was created. Failure to do this, and to adopt the footpath consequently as a Public Right of Way must not be allowed as a basis for the County to compound its error and neglect this footpath. The County Council must correct its failings in this matter and maintain the Footpath properly as a Public Right of Way.

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