Tom G James

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Jacqui Kedward 13 April 2023 19:11 EED Forward Planning LDP

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Hi

I would like to make the following comments in the LDP.

Since the creation of the Active Travel Act and the funding provided by Welsh Government for walking and (mainly) cycling, horse riders have lost informal access to our communities and the countryside because for some reason horse riders are not eligible for the funding.

I would therefore like to raise the point that the LDP should take account of this need for land to include horses and carriage drivers on routes for non motorised users.

This would ensure horse riders don't have to transport their horses in vehicles but instead can access our communities on hoof.

Where this isn't possible, horse riders need land for parking horse transport as if they can't ride to safe sites for riding then they need to be able to park.

It is just as unsafe for children on ponies to be on the road as it is for children on cycles and the incident statistics for Carmarthenshire from the BHS indicate these have doubled.

We are reminded that horse riders are not "transport" but are considered a leisure activity but there is no mention in the LDP specifically about equestrian sports or sites where we can go to to ride safely.

Horse riders appear in the Planning Policy technical advice for leisure activities with walking and cycling but there is provision for them embedded in other policy but not for horse riders.

The LDP needs to more robustly provide for horse riders as a leisure activity wanting countryside access, access to parks and green space, (not a menage or riding schools).

This requires land allocation in order to ensure horse riders are not discriminated against as is currently happening under the planning policies.

For health and well being and future generations of equestrians, we need to recover access we have lost and gain consideration alongside other vulnerable road users. By excluding horse riders under Active Travel as transport, they need provision as leisure users so at the very least, any leisure routes need to include equestrians.

Not all routes for walking are public footpaths, so not all routes for horses need to be bridleways. If horse riders can't share a route then an alternative should be provided for them.

Regards

Jacqui

Mrs JM Kedward



Sent from my iPhone