

Church Fenton Neighbourhood Plan. May 2019.

I am sending this letter to Sarah Chester, Chair of Church Fenton Parish Council as I do not have a copy of the questionnaire. I hope my comments can be considered. Thank you.

May 2019.

The aspirations for the environmental part of the neighbourhood plan are admirable especially the green corridor and River Wharfe corridor. We wonder if you are aware of the importance of the meadow fields either side of Rose Lane. The fields have never been ploughed and support a huge, diverse range of plants and animals. Some of the animals are rare. There is a family of white headed blackbirds that have survived many years. Red kites fly over and use the fields for soaring and feeding. Red crested newts lived in the middle of the field and probably still exist along the wetter boundaries.

The Oak trees on Rose Lane are old and support such a lot of wildlife. We have seen birds of all kinds. Wrens, tree creepers, mistle thrushes, song thrushes, redstarts, fieldfares, sparrows, bluetits, great tits, long tail tits, bullfinches and hawfinches, goldfinches, goldcrests, magpies, rooks and crows. Rose lane has even seen yellow hammers and warblers flitting along the vegetation. In summer swallows, swifts and house martins fly over the meadows and along Rose Lane catching the many insects. It is a joy to see them return.

Unfortunately in recent years cars have encroached onto the beautiful verges that once supported a host of celandines and bluebells to name just a few plants.

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Rose Lane still has a diverse range of plants that are full of insects and butterflies such as orange tipped, red admiral and peacock butterflies. Plants such as cow parsley, meadow sweet, buttercup and many more.

The drainage ditches provide water for all this wildlife also including frogs, toads, newts, voles, beetles, damsel flies, dragonflies, bats.

The hedgerow includes oak, ash, red hawthorn, buckthorn, hazel, elderberry, rowan, guelder rose, hornbeam.

The birds flit along these hedgerows and in Spring are so busy building their nests.

It is important that Rose Lane has protection as this landscape is so unique and enjoyed by those who live here and more importantly provides a habitat for wildlife that is all too often lost.

The Oak trees on Rose Lane are more than 200 years old. They line Rose Lane and are so beautiful through all the changes each season.

It is noticeable on your Neighbourhood plan that the Yorkshire Wharfe corridor covers the open land to the north of Common Lane and your plan mentions adjacent land affording protection too. This is vital to provide a wildlife corridor that is uninterrupted.

The fields that have been unploughed for probably more than 100 years to either side of Rose Lane should also be included in this wildlife corridor.

Not only is it important in its own right as it is so beautiful and has remained unploughed for so long but it also links the wildlife to the land beyond the main railway lines to Sheffield, York and Leeds.

It is vital for the conservation of the rich biodiversity in this area bearing in mind it has remained untouched for so long. The fields over the years have been grazed by horses, sheep and cattle.

It is a situation that cannot be lost not only in terms of preservation of surviving species including the plants such as meadowsweet, marsh marigold, lady's smock, buttercup, and many more meadow plants that I am unfamiliar with, but also for the wellbeing and health of the people who live here and enjoy this beautiful part of Church Fenton.

The threat of HS2 destroying Common Lane and this part of Church Fenton is dreadful. We must all try as a parish council to save the countryside we have left and all enjoy daily.

It is a joy to walk along Rose Lane each day and enjoy the unique Oak trees, hedgerows and pasture land either side of Rose Lane. It is uplifting to listen to the birds that flit from grass to trees and see the Oak trees and hedgerows develop through all the seasons.

Come and see it when the Oak is growing new lime green leaves and the cow parsley frames the lane or in autumn when the leaves of the oak trees turn copper orange and the hedgerow is deep yellow.

Rose Lane is beautiful and clings on through modern times supporting the wildlife that chose to live here with us. Help preserve what we have please.

