

ramblers
at the heart of walking

Ramblers
2nd Floor Camelford House
87-90 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7TW
Phone 020 7339 8500
Fax 020 7339 8501
Email ramblers@ramblers.org.uk
www.ramblers.org.uk

Councillor Pendleton
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leicestershire
LE3 8RA

30 June 2011

Dear Councillor

The Ramblers 'Dead End?' postcard petition: please ensure that your footpaths are protected

Please find enclosed campaigns postcards and emails completed by members of the public who enjoy walking in your area, on routes currently maintained by your Council staff. These cards physically demonstrate how important rights of way are to people who walk on them. We expect to receive more of these postcards and will forward them on to you to show the widespread support existing to protect public rights of way.

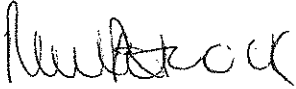
Please use these cards to champion your rights of way when budget cuts are being discussed as they are very personal examples of how important these routes are to those who use them.

As I am sure you are aware, maintaining rights of way is beneficial for the local community, and in uncertain economic times it is more important than ever. Clear well signposted paths encourage walkers to get out and explore their environment. This also helps boost local economies and secure livelihoods. Walkers in the British countryside spend around £6.14 billion a year, generating income in excess of £2 billion and supporting up to 245,000 full-time jobs.

We don't expect rights of way work to be immune to cuts, but we ask that reductions to these budgets are proportionate to cuts being made. We are keen that the specialist knowledge held by your Rights of Way Officers is protected. Our volunteers have already been playing their part in the Big Society by helping Councils keep paths open and accessible. However, in order to continue conducting this work our volunteers require the guidance and support of qualified and committed Rights of Way Officers. Please can you acknowledge receipt of these postcards and let us know when any decisions are made by your council on this issue.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Alcock', written in a cursive style.

Rachel Alcock
Campaigns Officer
The Ramblers
020 7339 8586