**Response to the DCC Consultation Surface and Drainage Work to Hurstclough Lane from Hathersage Parish Council**

Hathersage Parish Council objects strongly to the method of repair to Hurstclough Lane, as currently proposed. It is an important link from Hathersage to Bamford for walkers and cyclists and the use of tarmac would be totally inappropriate - it would become extremely slippery for horse riders and make the route more attractive for motorists. Use by motorised vehicles will create difficulties for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, as there are no refuges for them to avoid vehicles at any part of the lane.

Hurstclough Lane is very important to the local community, who wish its history to be preserved, not buried. It is not an anonymous eroded footpath; its history as an ancient track (a salters’ way) goes back to medieval times or earlier. It is the only remaining section of the Long Causeway, the surface of which would have been lined with grit stone slabs - hence the name 'Long Causey(stone)way' It is also quite possible that it is the longest continuous stone causey route in Derbyshire. By contrast, the route from Dennis Knoll to Redmires via Stanage Pole (repaired and subsequently given a TRO) was built in the 1820s and known as the Stanage Road. It is referred to as the ‘Long Causeway’ but its history is relatively modern.

Any work to be done on Hurstclough Lane should be carefully crafted with its history not a 'repair with tarmac’ job. The causey stones should be exposed and restored, not buried. There is no acknowledgement of the history in the DCC submission for the repair, and Hathersage Parish Council feel that, at the very least, there should be an archaeological assessment, before any work is agreed, in order to avoid potential damage to any of the archaeological features. The Parish Council also feel very strongly that a TRO should be imposed immediately on this route, to stop further loss of local history, and every effort should be given to record and save the cultural history which in other areas would be protected by either being listed or in a conservation area.

An early meeting with DCC Officers, to discuss how the restoration work should be carried out, would be appreciated.