

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed removal of this hedge. This hedge forms part of a peaceful and beautiful alternative travel route between Kingstown and Stanwix allowing walking and cycling away from the increasingly busy and dangerous main road. During the pandemic it has offered solace to many local people being quiet, free of noisy and polluting traffic easing pressures on mental health.

It also offers access points to footpaths to Houghton and Tarraby and should be protected from damage as part of our efforts to find alternative walking and cycling routes to help meet the increasing challenges of the climate crisis and destruction of our biodiversity.

The UK's governments' own review of its progress towards meeting its biodiversity goals show these targets are falling short of being met. It argues that we must place a duty on local authorities to do what they can to conserve and enhance biodiversity and that we must establish a "nature recovery network".

Allowing this proposal to go ahead is contrary to these goals and part of the gradual death of our environment by a thousand cuts.

The area of Kingstown has already lost much green space through housing and other developments (and these pressures will only continue to be felt with further developments) and there must come a time when we say no more and work to enhance our localities and communities.

The destruction of this hedge will make it even more difficult to improve the route, destroy wildflowers and wildlife and show a general contempt for the efforts we all must make in protecting our planet, from hedgerows to oceans. I strongly oppose this needless destruction on behalf of myself as a local resident and on behalf of Sustainable Carlisle of which I am a director. I also question why these kinds of proposals are so difficult to find out about and tucked away on council websites instead of being better made public to the local Communities they affect.