

CHESTERFIELD AND DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY  
[www.chesterfieldcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.chesterfieldcivicsociety.org.uk)

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Executive Director Place  
Derbyshire County Council  
County Hall  
Matlock  
DE4 3AG

3 December 2021

Dear Sir,

**Crow Lane, Chesterfield**

I refer to my letter of yesterday's date concerning the continued closure of the above road, and to the receipt of a generic email over the name of Mr S. Tranter of your department, which is presumably intended to be a 'reply' to that letter.

Although I see no reason why I should, I will allow the county council until the close of business on Friday next (10 December) to comply with the law and reopen Crow Lane to all traffic. If at 5 p.m. that afternoon the road remains closed, I shall make a complaint to the Secretary of State and the Local Government Ombudsman stating that Derbyshire County Council is either unable or unwilling to meet its statutory obligation to maintain the highway.

This road should have been reopened as soon as practicable after midnight on 1-2 December, as you are perfectly well aware. I can only assume that you had hoped that no-one would notice your surreptitious attempt to break the law and close the road permanently without statutory authority.

The final paragraph of Tranter's email is a marvellous (and eminently quotable) example of the innate arrogance of the highway engineer. It makes clear that the county council intends to close Crow Lane permanently and assumes that any form of public consultation is simply a minor inconvenience, the outcome of which can safely be ignored. You may care to recall that 711 local residents have recently signed a petition strongly objecting to what the county council proposes to do.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Riden