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Footpaths Section
The Planning Inspectorate
3G Hawk Wing
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Sir,

I wish to confirm my family's objection to the above proposed dedication and confirm that I would like to speak at the Public Enquiry.

My objection is based on the following points, some of which I realise may be discounted, as the legislation used for this process is very constrained in its terms.

However as the implications of this new path being created are considerable for those of us who adjoin it, so we will continue to make all the pertinent points we can to try and ensure there is some balance, common sense and reality brought to the discussion in relation to what is undoubtedly the first step in a series of changes designed to make future development in the surrounding land more acceptable without rights of way. My points are targeted at the section of the diversion through the new housing developed at Suters Lane.

- 1) The application is vexatious and is simply a means to get footpath 25 extinguished to allow new development on adjacent property
- 2) Substantial and documented evidence exists to show that over the past two years only 6 people have actually walked the proposed route of the path. The need for a new dedicated route so close to Footpath 25 is not addressed and only adds to the sense that this is a tool to then seek the closure of footpath 25.
- 3) The continuous, uninterrupted use of a single defined route has not been proven to a reasonable degree

- 4) The statements of those claiming to have used various section at various times do not appear to add to a complete uninterrupted history over the relevant timeframe.
- 5) The statements are redacted to hide personal details therefore it is not possible to be certain that they are genuine residents who would have had reason to use the path in the ways stated
- 6) The line of the path though the new housing development was never a defined route ,but was a moving feast as it wined its way through a caravan site and consequently caravans and buildings were put up across the route shown and alternative routes were walked as a general shortcut over multiple routes was used to cut the corner off the public highway towards footpath 25. A defined route is an essential part of any footpath permissive or otherwise.
- 7) The various owners of the land over the period of use claimed did not intended to dedicate a right of way over the route in question.
- 8) The owner of the route is objecting to its use.
- 9) Adequate provision exists and could be formally dedicated to allow people to use the existing footpath and still cut the corner off the public highway. The owners of the land are willing to allow access along the line shown A-B on the attached plan so resident can effectively cut the corner.
- 10) The new path would provide very close access to the houses and therefore attract an increased risk of theft, trespass and vandalism at those properties.
- 11) The only reason the proposed route exists is because the developers were pressurised to include it to appease two individuals, and not be a barrier to obtain planning permission for the site.
- 12) There is no public benefit to the creation of a new path and there is indeed a disbenefit, in that there will be a further footpath to upkeep at an additional cost to the public purse

Yours faithfully

Michael R Webster

FRICS, MCIWM, FIQ, CEnv, BSc



Please acknowledge receipt.