

Martin Fry

From: Catherine Inskip <inskipc@hotmail.com>
Sent: 09 January 2018 12:40
To: Martin Fry
Subject: Re: Footpath 44 Ducksbridge

9th January, 2018

Dear Mr. Fry

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

SECTION 53 WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

HIGHWORTH RURAL DISTRICT DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOOTPATH 44 WANBOROUGH MODIFICATION ORDER 2017

I am writing to you as a Wanborough resident firmly in support of the above.

And, I am writing to you to express my concern re the controversial decision of Wanborough Parish Council to oppose the granting of official status to the permissive footpath at what was formerly known as Ducksbridge, now described as Suter's Lane i.e. within the Bower Mapson development.

I believe that at least twenty witness statements verifying the long term (20 years plus) use of this sign posted permissive footpath has been recorded as evidence of its validity. I have walked the footpath for more than twenty years to cut off the dangerous double bend between my road, The Marsh and Burycroft and have also witnessed and experienced near accidents since it was closed by the developers.

I also have regularly attended WPC meetings and know that a Parish Councillor has an ownership interest in relation to footpaths in this location. I was present at a meeting in July last year when she withdrew, having a personal interest, but gave photographs and information to the Vice Chairman who presented them to councillors on her behalf. I questioned the appropriateness of this at the time and note that his advocacy wasn't recorded in the minutes of that meeting. The minutes were taken by the Chairman and another councillor as the Clerk was absent.

However, in light of the witness evidence and information given to WPC at meetings on numerous occasions; not least in objection to the Bower Mapson development, I thought the whole issue would have been resolved by now. Instead, it appears to have rumbled on and on and I am amazed that WPC seem to be ignoring all the health and safety issues around this subject and, it would seem, your input on this matter.

I am away from Wanborough at the moment so I am not able to attend the next meeting of Wanborough Parish Council but I have written to councillors via the Clerk to express my concerns and confusion as to the decision they took to oppose the modification order.

I understand that our local borough councillor, Gary Sumner, is aware of the situation and has been in touch with you.

I hope that parish councillors will listen to the clear arguments for this safe walking route and withdraw their objection. This once quiet lane is now a rat run; it's a commuter route; it's a narrow country road with two double bends, with no lighting, no towpath; rough verges that have drainage grips hacked out of them - often hidden by vegetation. It's a lane where two sizeable lorries grid lock the route unable to pass especially at the double bend and a lot more lorries use this route now. The permissible footpath afforded walkers a route very close to The Marsh which enabled the continuance of their journey safely.

I thank you for the work that you have undertaken in relation to this matter and hope that I have recorded my, and my husbands, support for the route. I would appreciate an acknowledgement of this email as I am sending it to you from Australia.

Yours sincerely,
Catherine Inskip
Robert Inskip
Farncombe
The Marsh
Swindon
SN4 0AR