

Sunnyside, Blind Lane, Chew Stoke, Bristol BS40 8UA

Tel: 01275 333825

31 December 2008

Public Rights of Way Team
Floor 2, Riverside
Temple Street
Keynsham
Bristol
BS31 1LA

RECEIVED

- 5 JAN 2009

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed Diversion of Public Right of Way CL4/19 at Long House Farm, Church Lane
Chew Stoke

I am writing to object to the proposed diversion of the above footpath.

The proposed diversion follows several others in the vicinity that may be viewed as individually small, but are having a cumulative significant and detrimental effect on access to the countryside around this corner of the village.

In this particular instance the diversion will have a detrimental impact on access the countryside and will impair the views on the village obtained from the existing path.

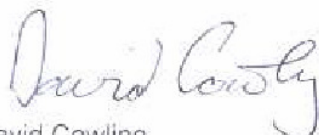
The diversion will route the path along another path that frequently floods and can be difficult to traverse on such occasions. The diversion then proceeds up an existing rough and uneven path shrouded by trees and often difficult to negotiate especially when wet. Finally the diversion breaks away onto a proposed new line that is significantly to the west of the existing path before merging in the line of the existing path.

The sections of the new route along the existing track to the west and up the shrouded and rough track to the north will significantly impair access to the path for many people in wet weather.

The sections new route along the tree shrouded track and along the new line is partly shrouded by trees and below a curve in the landscape that will restrict the attractive and historical view of the village and church from walkers along the path significantly reducing the amenity of the path to walkers.

Finally I would like to note that the existing path is no longer accessible being fenced off and no longer marked properly. I would like to see this corrected as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,



David Cowling

Dear Graeme

Having had previous experience of promised replies not arriving by the published final day for objections I write to confirm (with just two days to go) that I will be objecting to this application on the grounds that the reasons for the application have not been stated, investigated and commented upon.

As you are aware before progressing any S119 application the OMA is required to appraise the validity of the application.

At this stage the main concern and consideration for a good and alert order making authority is "would this proposal be likely to be found to be popular with or at least acceptable to the public".

If the OMA believes there is a reasonable chance that overall the proposal would be found to be acceptable to the public the proposal is most usually put out to pre-order consultation.

As you are aware one of the three legal tests to determine whether the application is able to be confirmed is whether the application is deemed to be expedient in the interests of the landowner. Previously this test seems to have been given little weight in the acceptance and order making procedure and the mere fact that an application has been made has tended to generate a tick in the box.

I believe that this is fundamentally wrong and that the reasons for any application must be clearly stated and supported by evidence. In this case there seems to be no reason stated.

Also in the absence of any comments about the apparent deliberate obstruction of the legal line I confirm that I intend to speak along the lines suggested at the confirmation stage.

Regards
John Ives
19/01/2009