

HARBOROUGH D.C.

22 OCT 2003

Leicestershire
County Council

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Harborough District Council
Council Offices
Adam and Eve Street
Market Harborough
Leicestershire
LE16 7AG

Date: 20th October 2003
My ref: KT/PTEPO/751
Your ref:
Contact: Kelly Taggart
Phone: 0116 265 6291
Email: ktaggart@leics.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

**PROPOSED DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH Z94, WESTERBY FARM, SMEETON
WESTERBY.**

An application has been received for the diversion of Footpath Z94 at Westerby Farm, Smeeton Westerby as shown on Plan No. 1915/P attached hereto.

The diversion has been requested in the interest of the applicant to:-

- Re-route the public footpath to follow the "habitual route" that has been used by walkers for the last 30 years.
- Provide a safer route for pedestrians.
- Improve security at the farmhouse entrance.
- Improve the amenity value and privacy of the garden.

I have consulted with the Director of Community Services, who has no objection to the proposal, subject to .

- The new path should have a minimum width of 1.8 metres between points B and E on the plan.
- The new path should have a minimum width of 1.3 metres between points E and C on the plan to allow for the safe passage of motor vehicles.

Continued.....

Chief Executive's Department
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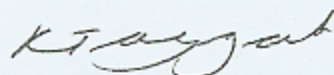
- The culvert at point D on the plan is not of a construction that would allow adoption by the Highway Authority, but it is fit for purpose. The culvert's future maintenance shall remain the responsibility of the landowner.

In addition to the above conditions the Director of Community Services has requested that the following points should be considered:-

- Some form of all weather surface between points C and E. This may take the form of granite chipping or pebbles, no bigger than 20 millimetres, or a weed inhibiting bark. The remainder of the path is adequate.
- When renewing the fencing which runs along the western side of the alternative route. It has been recommended that it should not be furnished with barbed wire.
- There is an existing section of fencing on the eastern side of the proposed footpath between points E and D on the plan. This fencing has a strand of barbed wire stapled to it which faces into the proposed footpath. It has been recommended that arrangements should be made at the earliest opportunity to remove the barbed wire.
- The existing stiles at Westerby Lane and at the bridge where the existing footpath crosses Langton Brook are somewhat narrow and may be awkward for less mobile members of the public to use. It has been recommended that arrangements should be made for replacements of these stiles with suitable handgates, if and when it is convenient, in accordance with the County Council's practice of encouraging improved access to the rights of way network for those with disabilities.
- The existing stile at the point where the footpath crosses Langton Brook is positioned close to the bank of the brook. It has been recommended that a fence should be provided at this point as a safety measure to reduce the possibility of anyone falling off the stile into the stream.

I should be pleased if you would let me have your Council's observations on this proposal by Monday 12th January 2003.

Yours faithfully,



Kelly Taggart
Legal Assistant

