



28<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Mr. D.N. Ayre,  
Head of Countryside and Business Development,  
County Hall,  
Colliton Park,  
Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Dear Mr. Ayre,

Re: Bridleway 18 – Mill Lane, Chideock.

Further to a Complaint made by Chideock Parish Council to the Chief Executive Ms. D. Ward I am disgusted to learn that as far as Ms. Ward is concerned there is no case to answer and merely a suggestion to contact the Ombudsman. As a council tax payer which in turn pays the wages of all Council employees I feel extremely aggrieved by the conduct of all County Council employees who have treated both myself and Chideock Parish Council in such a dismissive way over the course of the last 8 months. It appears that everyone is colluding to dismiss complaints of rudeness and refuse to discuss this matter properly in the detail that it deserves.

Apart from the fact that Ms. Wilkinson was both rude and hostile in her behaviour you are quite happy to believe her outrageous version of events. You state in your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> February that she had allotted one hour to myself and Ms [REDACTED] – her time spent with us was approximately 10 minutes. She was unpleasant and kept re-iterating that she was very busy. She then left us and returned some 25 minutes later and asked us to leave. She showed us nothing on a computer and shoved the List of Streets at us and told us that ‘the county road extended along the bridleway’ as detailed on the map that she had printed off.

I have read in the local press recently that a R.O.W case that was taken to appeal by an Off Road Organisation ended with the council paying costs of £20,000 again, presumably taken from the council tax payers of West Dorset. The inspector commented ‘he had never seen so many mistakes made by a ROW Department’.

As I have given up ever receiving any acknowledgement or apology for the disgraceful way I was treated by Ms. Wilkinson I have concentrated my efforts with others (some professional) in requesting under the Freedom of Information more details in connection with this issue. Working simply with a Grid Reference Finder website I suggest, as I have always done, that Ms. Wilkinson is wrong in her assumptions and the Mill Lane County Road ends at Roadstead Farm where the Bridleway 18 joins it.

I attach a simple Map of the area in question with the appropriate Grid References from The List of Streets and The Bridlepath Order on 1997 which I would like you to look at and explain to me how the County Road extends as far as Ms. Wilkinson

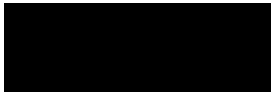
claims. Whilst as a paper exercise it may seem unimportant to you Ms. Wilkinson's evidence was paramount in the granting of planning permission to make this an 'alternative access' from a large caravan park putting a lot of traffic onto a bridleway which has partial private rights but NO private rights over this particular northern stretch. The applicant himself does not claim to have a private right over this stretch.

I had previously liaised with Suzie Ricketts of the Legal Department who was also concerned that the Bridleway Order appeared to give different information than Ms. Wilkinson and she requested that Ms. Wilkinson checked the Grid References once more. Ms. Wilkinson replied that she had checked the Grid References again and she was correct. Ms. Ricketts advised me that she had no alternative but to accept the findings of the Officer and Ms. Wilkinson's comments that it was indeed part of the County Road were fed through to the Planning Officer leading to this 'alternative access' being approved.

As Head of the Department could you please look at this matter personally and explain to me why the Grid References as detailed by myself on the attached map differ so significantly from the calculations made by Ms. Wilkinson.

I thank you in anticipation of some clarification in this matter.

Yours sincerely



c.c. Ms. D. Ward, Chief Executive

c.c. Dr Oliver Letwin

c.c. Ms. Suzie Ricketts.

cc. Chideock Parish Council

c.c. 