

REPLY TO CHIDEOCK PARISH COUNCIL, THE CLERK REGARDING
BRIDLEWAY MEETING OF JULY 2015

Dear Clerk,

Having discussed this matter with [REDACTED] and run this email past them we would like to point out the following:

The original request to Oliver Letwin to help resolve the issue of Mill Lane/Bridleway was made by us. He agreed to visit the site and we walked along the lane and bridlepath together. His first reaction was to suggest to Mr. Cox that he ask his park visitors to use the 'adjacent' road running through the park which would leave the bridleway safe for pedestrians on foot and horseback. He arranged a meeting between himself and Mr. Cox at which time he put forward his suggestion. Mr. Cox refused his request. At a further meeting Mr. Letwin then reviewed all the evidence that we had accumulated and appeared convinced that between the List of Streets, Grid References, Public Path Creation Order and the Dorset Explorer Map that there was a case to challenge the assertion that the northern section of the bridleway was also part of the County Road. He agreed to take away the papers for further reading by himself and we arranged another meeting with him when a decision would be made as to how to take the case forward. Mr. Letwin had done some research of his own and had also contacted Ordnance Survey for advice. At our next meeting he agreed that the matter should be taken forward with the Chief Executive of DCC as he felt there was a 'case to answer'. He suggested that we draft a letter to be sent to him but suggested that the letter should in fact be sent by the PC to give it more gravitas. We duly drafted the letter which the PC forwarded to him. This was done in October of 2013. Following further exchange of correspondence between Oliver Letwin and Debbie Ward (Chief Executive) in which she actually agreed with us with regard to The List of Streets being 'reliable evidence' and the mileage shown by the blue line on the Dorset Explorer Map was correct she then did a complete U Turn and handed it over to Mike Harries for a comprehensive investigation. The Report was eventually completed and sent to us on 14th April 2015. This is an extremely long report that will take some time to digest and comment on. Our intention is to issue a rebuttal on a point by point basis using additional information and paperwork that has yet not been raised. We feel extra work is needed to study the 1952 Sale Documents which could be very pertinent to this case.

We feel strongly that prior to any meeting with DCC that we have a meeting with Oliver Letwin, partly as a courtesy to the fact that he has driven this difficult matter forward but mostly as we would like to gauge his opinion with how we should proceed. He may also wish to be present at any meeting with DCC. A meeting has been arranged with Oliver Letwin for mid June and [REDACTED] and I will not attend any meetings with DCC prior to that date. Having waited over a year for their report we do not feel there is any urgency in this matter.

[REDACTED]