

Marsh Community Forum

3 October 2017

28 Cleveland Road
Huddersfield
HD1 4PW

Giles Cheetham
Definitive Map Officer
Public Rights of Way
Kirklees Council
Flint Street
Huddersfield
HD1 6LB

Dear Giles Cheetham

Proposed development at Clayton Fields and retention of footpaths

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2017. You attached a letter received from Seddon Homes dated 11 September 2017. You invite observations from those receiving your email.

I write in response to your email but also following a meeting of the Marsh Community Forum which took place on 19 September 2017. The meeting was attended by Councillors Pattison [REDACTED] Councillor Ullah sent his apologies. The meeting discussed the Clayton Fields development but did so before your email of 29 September.

The focus of the meeting was on claimed Public Right of Way 183. This is the footpath that runs adjacent to the embankment that borders Clayton Dike and within the existing woodland that borders the dike. As previously stated in letters sent to you, most recently on 29 June 2017, the footpath was recognised and used by those present at the meeting. The meeting called upon the council to give priority to maintaining the footpath, the existing woodland and the habitat that the woodland provides.

There was discussion about a request for Town and Village Green registration of an area of land that would include CPROW 183. It was felt that if the registration was made that this would provide greater protection for the footpath and the associated woodland. A proposal was made that Marsh Community Forum should support the request for Town and Village Green status. A vote in favour of the proposal was carried and I was asked to write to the Council to make the views of the Forum known.

Subsequently, I received your email together with the letter from Seddon Homes. The letter does not address the concerns of Marsh Community Forum with respects to CPROW 183. In particular it

seeks to reduce the width of the existing footpath and to move it to the top of the embankment with runs alongside the dike. This is not where the current footpath is located. If the footpath was relocated to the top of the banked area, as proposed by Seddon Homes, it would become very narrow and challenging for people to use, particularly when the ground was wet and slippery. It might become so little used that it would eventually be forgotten. One wonders if this not the intention. Additionally, the wooded area which runs along the dike and which provides a valuable habitat for local wildlife would be very significantly reduced in size. In sum, a footpath would be lost along with existing woodland habitat.

To conclude, The Marsh Community Forum calls upon the Council to recognise that CPROW 183 should be fully retained in its present form together with the existing woodland. The Forum requests that the council seeks Town and Village Green registration of an area of land that includes CPROW 183 as it considers this to be the best way to provide protection for both the footpath and the woodland.

I look forward to hearing the response of the council.

Mike Woodward

Chair, Marsh Community Forum



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<https://marshcommunityforum.wordpress.com/>