

Email re possible footpath/right of way

Hello

I am making enquiries as to a social media input which advised that the public didn't have access to a track in between footpath's 32, 33, 34.

In various communications people have noted that the access of the track is over 20 years. Others advise that they continue to walk along the edge, as people have used the track for over 20 years. Whereas others state to clarify the status to public access needs to be a process of adding a right of way to the Definitive Map, which does not occur automatically after a route is used for 20 years. There needs to be evidence of this use having taken place. Members of the public will need to apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO). Anyone can make a formal application to the County Council for a route that they believe to be a public right of way to be added to the definitive map using a DMMO under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

In this respect could the Parish Council clarify as to whether they are going to consider this course of action.

It has been suggested that to approach the landowner whether they would consider allowing public access to walk along the edge of the field next to the hedge.

One of my experiences of walking along a bridal way in the village, a long long time ago with my young daughter, was that the width of the track was only just wide enough for a tractor. We could hear a tractor coming at speed, we ran to an opening and waited at the side for the tractor to pass. The tractor driver stopped and spoke to us in an angry tone. After this I walked a slightly different route as I didn't want to go through the same experience. It took me 20 years to pluck up courage to walk the same route again. To my surprise I could see from the undergrowth that the path was now overgrown making access difficult for a tractor. Having enjoyable walks in a beautiful area is all that people want. I await your response