



Eastleigh

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Eastleigh, Hampshire
SO50 7PS

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18 August 2024

Dear Ms. Errington,

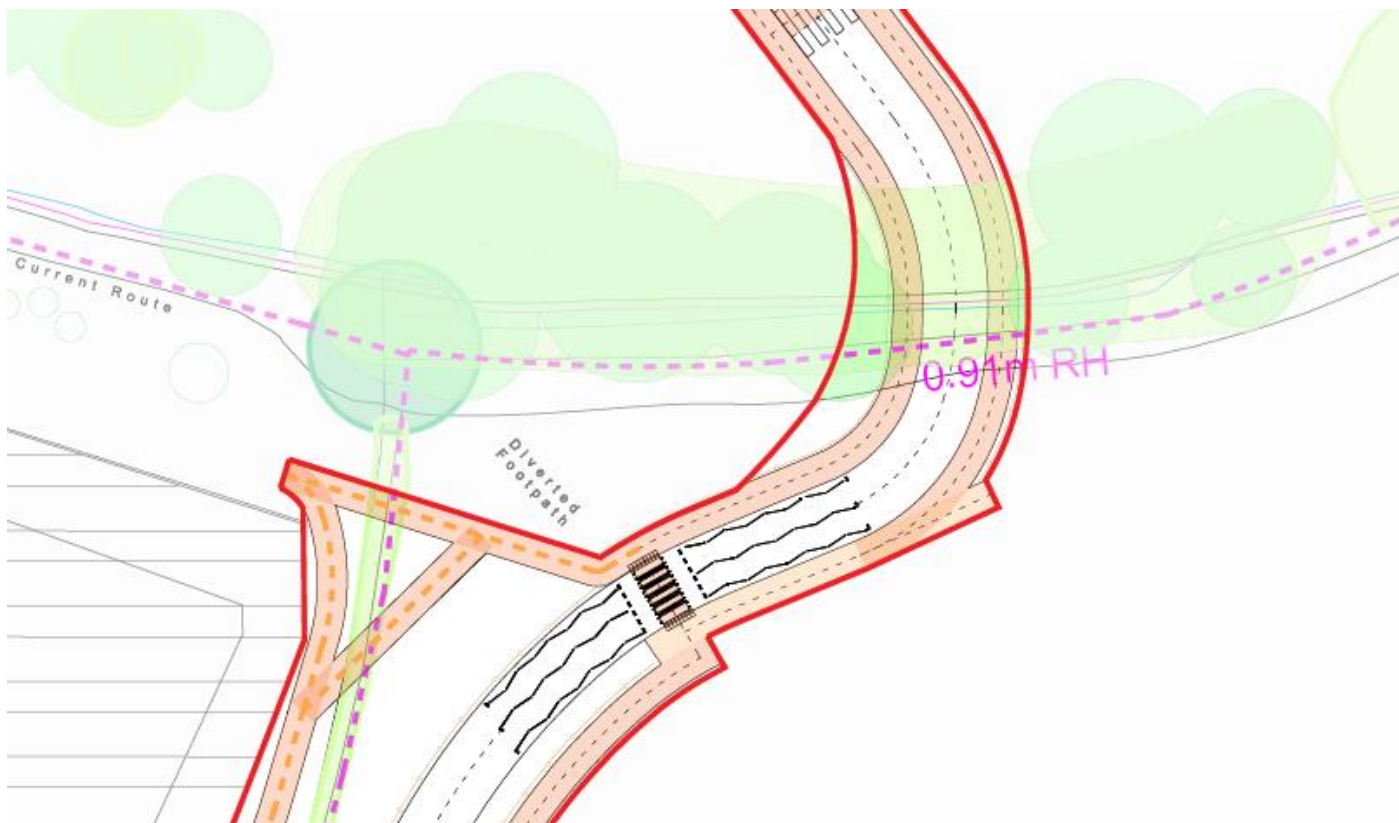
RE PLANNING APPLICATION F/23/93631 Construction of an internal distributor road and associated footways, cycleways, lighting, landscaping and SuDS basins, and diversion of Public Rights of Way footpaths FOHHF 701 and 702 as part of the One Horton Heath development (proposal constitutes EIA development)

Thank you for your Council's email of 14 August 2024 consulting the Eastleigh Ramblers on the amendments made to the above planning application. We have already commented on this application on 9 January 2024 and this communication should be read in conjunction with it. Please treat these communications as an objection to the above planning application.

Footpath Nos 702 and 703 are the subject of a Temporary Closure Order which has now been extended to 2 November 2024. Could your Council please ensure that the works required by the Diversion Order and the construction of the road between Burnetts Lane and Allington Lane are completed within the life of that Temporary Closure Order so that the recreational network valued by the inhabitants of Fair Oak and Horton Heath can be reopened?

The proposals shown in "Amended Illustrative Plan Extract 3" indicate that parts of Footpath No 701 and 702 Fair Oak and Horton Heath are to be diverted but the plan does not explain the diversion proposals outside the limits of the planning application. The relevant extract from that plan appears below. The local planning authority should not approve this planning application until it contains full details of how the paths will be diverted and the public given an opportunity to comment within the planning process. The red line should be amended to include the full extent of the proposed diversion and the form of the construction of the diverted route needs to be stated and should match the County Council's design standards. As your Council will also be responsible for making any diversion order to implement such a diversion liaison with your legal department will be required. Your Council normally uses the provisions of Section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to divert paths affected by development. To use these powers all the works have to be the subject of a planning consent hence the need to include the whole diversion in the planning application.

If the path is to be converted to a bridleway, then the width will need to accommodate equestrian movements so will it need to be 3 metres if unenclosed, 4 metres if enclosed on one side and 5 metres if enclosed on both sides. These widths are needed to ensure that two horses can pass each other and pedestrians and cyclist can steer clear of the horse if the rider is not in full control. The plan needs to be revised with this aspect in mind.



The alignment of the “current route” shown on the above map is not correct. The plan shows the hedge line as a solid line and the path runs to the south of it.

There remains an issue on Footpath No 701 Fair Oak and Horton Heath which was logged on Hampshire County Council’s Countryside Access Management System under Code 35945 on 25 October 2021 which has not yet been addressed. See the extract below. We think that the public could have expected that by now, between Eastleigh Borough Council as landowner, Hampshire County Council as the highway authority and SSE the company that laid the cable, arrangements would have been made to restore the footpath to a usable condition. Below is the reply we received from Rory Watson-Newman. What has happened since?

From: Rory.Watson-Newman@eastleigh.gov.uk,
 To: eastleighrambler@aol.com,
 CC: countryside@hants.gov.uk, clerk@fair-oak-pc.gov.uk,
 Subject: Re: FLOODING ON FOOTPATH 701 FAIR OAK AND HORTON HEATH
 Date: Sun, 24 Oct 2021 16:06

Attachments:

Good afternoon Richard

SSE have been working in the area and it is understood that these works have in turn diverted the flow of water.

I have previously discussed the need for rectification works due to the wet area not been known to hold water prior to their activities.

I will forward this exchange and keep you posted with progress.

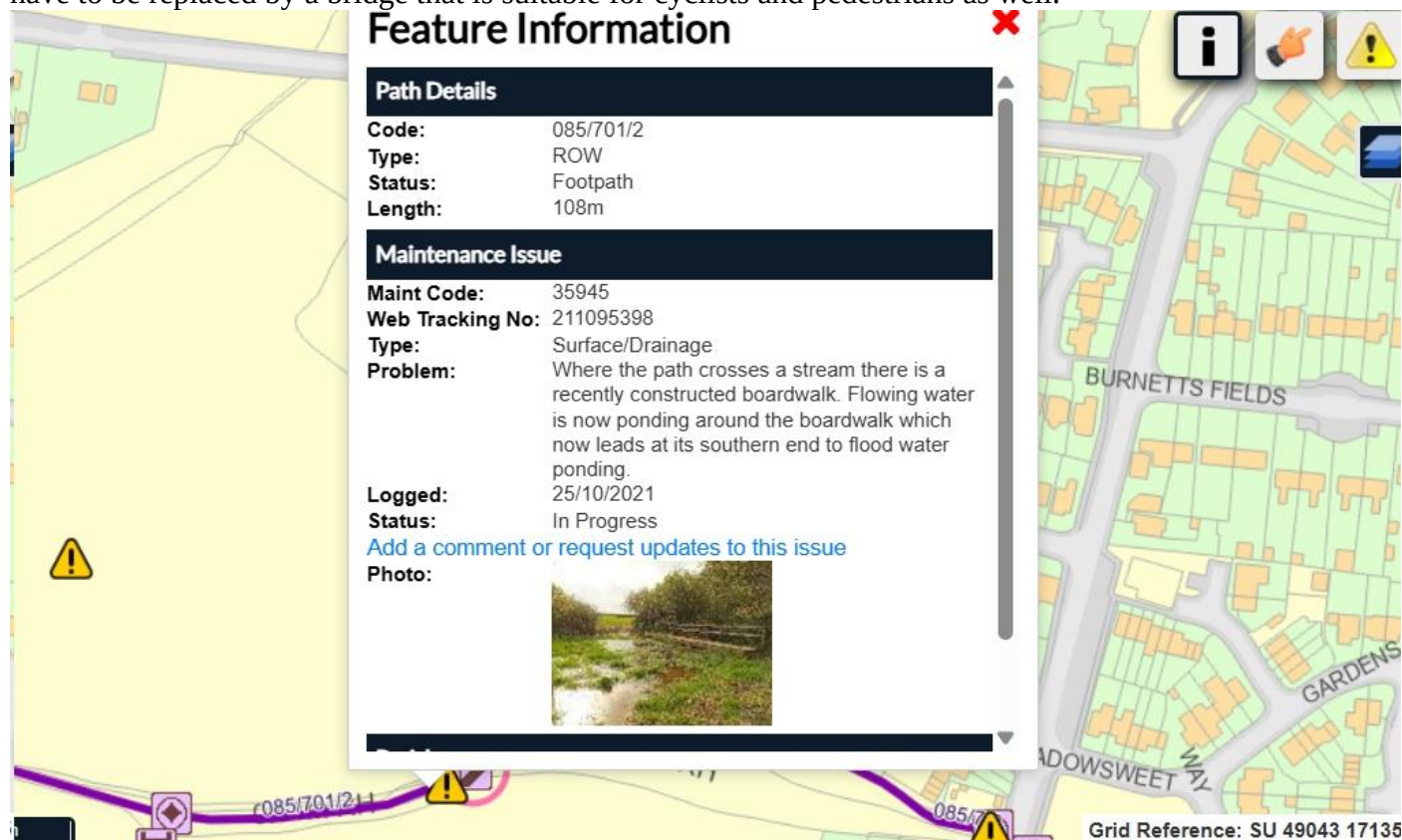
Kind regards

Rory

Rory Watson-Newman
 Horton Heath - Estates and Contracts Manager

After the boardwalk was installed across the stream, all was fine. It was reported to us that subsequently an electricity cable was laid across the path in a trench 6 foot deep immediately to the south of the boardwalk and although the ground was reinstated to the original level it was not re-laid in a way that would sustain the public use of the footpath and surface water is now using the route instead of going down the stream under the boardwalk. As a result, the location where the cable crossed the path has become a quagmire that is barely passable in this dry spell. Compare the three photos below. The first was taken today 18 August 2024, the other two on 24 October 2021.

If this is to become a major thoroughfare within the One Horton Heath development then there needs to be a significant scheme to get this route into a suitable condition implemented at the same time as the roadworks. The ground water needs to be rechanneled to follow the original line of the watercourse and not collect in the valley as shown on the pictures below. If it is to become a bridleway then the existing boardwalk will have to be replaced by a bridge that is suitable for cyclists and pedestrians as well.



Feature Information

Path Details

Code: 085/701/2
Type: ROW
Status: Footpath
Length: 108m

Maintenance Issue

Maint Code: 35945
Web Tracking No: 211095398
Type: Surface/Drainage
Problem: Where the path crosses a stream there is a recently constructed boardwalk. Flowing water is now ponding around the boardwalk which now leads at its southern end to flood water ponding.
Logged: 25/10/2021
Status: In Progress
[Add a comment or request updates to this issue](#)
Photo: 

Grid Reference: SU 49043 17135







Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Richard C. Kenchington". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV (Hons),
Footpath Secretary, EASTLEIGH RAMBLERS

To
Dawn Errington
EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL
By email to dawn.errington@eastleigh.gov.uk

Copied to the Clerk of Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council for information at clerk@fairoak-pc.gov.uk

Copy to The Planning Section of the Countryside Service of Hampshire County Council at countryside.planning@hants.gov.uk

And Andy Aitken of the Countryside Service at andrew.aitken@hants.gov.uk

Alan Marlow and David Clark within the Ramblers' Association.