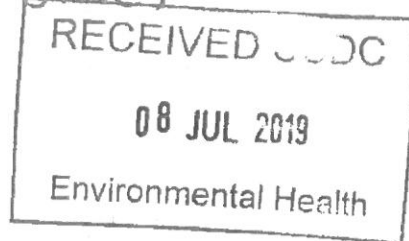


Ref: Proposed Gate on
Little Setchel Drive,
Smithy Fen,
Cottenham.



2nd July 2019

Dear Ms. Knight,

Firstly, we apologise for not attending your meeting regarding the above, but circumstances on the farm prevented this.

We acknowledge that the council wishes to prevent fly-tipping along this road, your so-called 'Hot Spot', and can see your reasons for wishing to do so. But, unfortunately, we think that anyone driving into Smithy Fen to dump rubbish is not going to take it home again! If, a gate blocks access to this track then they will proceed further down the fen and use ~~use~~ areas along hockspit Hall Drive, already used for some dumping and burning out of cars, thus you are only moving the problem further down the fen, or, will they just tip up whatever they have in the road, and in doing so block the road completely. If, this happens can you guarantee that you will be able to come and clear it within a couple of hours so that we can access our fields with livestock, or will

We just have to clear it ourselves.

Our whole families biggest concern is that by putting a gate across the road at the proposed location or even a bit further down will put us in danger. We use this track twice a day everyday to feed/check livestock and at busy times several times a day. Even today we have been down the road five times as we are haymaking (and its only 12noon)

We have (both my husband and son) along with other farmers and contractors suffered intimidation, verbal abuse, bricks thrown through vehicle windows, nail traps in the road, even physical abuse and death threats to my husband, documented by the police and known to several officers of the council.

By putting a gate here, whoever is driving will have to stop whatever the vehicle, get out, undo the gate and the same again when returning; thus putting themselves in a very vulnerable position.

What if there is an emergency to anyone and ambulance or fire is needed, precious time could be lost in accessing ~~to~~ the gate code or lock.

Also, by restricting access to this part of the fen, the gate will prevent dog walkers, birdwatchers and other members of the public enjoyment and free access to the countryside.. [They would not wish to leave their cars along the drove whilst they go for a walk.]

So, we would ask you not to put a gate here for the reasons explained.. We as one of the largest landowners here would like you to take our views seriously and not be easily led by persons with no reason to use this track and would never put themselves in danger ever.

Whilst you will say that the fears and any incidents that may occur to ourselves or others is a police matter we shall hold the council to blame if anything should happen to anyone as a result of the gate putting them into harm's way.

With kind regards.