

## SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**REPORT TO:** Development and Conservation  
Control Committee

1<sup>st</sup> September 2004

**AUTHOR/S:** Finance and Resources Director

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### **Public Footpath Extinguishment of no. 7 in Oakington under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

#### **Recommendation: to authorise the making of an Order**

##### **Purpose**

1. To consider an application to extinguish Footpath no. 7 in Oakington to facilitate development of Coles Lane in the village.

##### **Effect on Corporate Objectives**

2.	Quality, Accessible Services	n/a
	Village Life	n/a
	Sustainability	n/a
	Partnership	n/a

##### **Background**

3. Taylor Woodrow is developing land at Coles Lane, Oakington. In order to accommodate the access road and pavement, Footpath no. 7 will have to be extinguished. The proposed Order is attached to this report, together with an Order plan. It is intended that the adopted highway will link up with a new bridleway being created by Cambridgeshire County Council. The surfaces of the highway and bridleway will more-or-less be flush with each other.
4. Once the access road and pavement have been adopted by Cambridgeshire County Council, the public right of way will have been retained

##### **Options**

5. Extinguishment of the public footpath was a requirement of Planning Consent no. S/2491/03/RM and was shown on the agreed plans.

##### **Financial Implications**

6. There are no financial implications for the Council, as all costs incurred, for example in placing the Public Notice in the Press, can be recovered from the applicant.

##### **Legal Implications**

7. There are no legal implications.

##### **Staffing Implications**

8. There are no staffing implications.

### **Risk Management Implications**

9. There are no risk management implications.

### **Consultations**

10. Key user groups and other interested parties were consulted on an informal basis, at the beginning of August to assess likely reaction prior to the formal Public Notice being placed in the *Cambridge Evening News*.

The **Ramblers' Association** has made the following comments:

- the replacement of public rights of way by estate roads is not ideal but, given the limited scope of the development, it would be difficult to maintain a "green" corridor within the site
- the bridleway should be rural in nature (through undeveloped land) so as in part to compensate for the loss of Footpath 7
- cost of the bridleway extension, including a bridge or culvert, should be borne by the developers

**Oakington and Westwick Parish Council** has commented as follows:

- Footpath 7 should be extinguished only over the length of the proposed estate road
  - the portion of the existing footpath leading to the former airfield appears to take a slightly different route to that of the proposed bridleway. The route should be retained as a public footpath, linking up in due course with footpaths in Northstowe, and that a footpath diversion be made as necessary
  - horse riding is inadvisable on block-paved, estate roads
  - it is easier to prevent the misuse of public footpaths by motor vehicles than it is the misuse of bridleways
  - public rights of way are a key factor in respect of Northstowe
11. A number of expressions of support for the proposed bridleway have been received from individuals connected with horse riding. Any other material comments received will be reported verbally at the meeting, and may necessitate revision to the draft Order.

### **Recommendations**

12. It is recommended that the Committee authorises officers to make an Order extinguishing part of Footpath no. 7 in Oakington and, subject to there being no objections to formal consultation, to confirm the Order in due course, and concurrently with Cambridgeshire County Council adopting Coles Lane and confirming creation of the bridleway.

**Background Papers:** the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: File relating to Footpath no. 7 in Oakington

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