

SHOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: R Wrinch, Hill House, Wades Lane, Shotley, Ipswich IP9 1EW

Please address all correspondence to the clerk:

Linda Rowlands

33 Orwell View Road, Shotley, Ipswich, Suffolk IP9 1NW

Tel: 01473 788248 Email: shotleypc@btinternet.com

www.myshotley.com



Mike Carter
Rights of Way Officer
Suffolk County Council – Environment and
Transport
County Buildings
Street Farm Road
Saxmundham IP17 1AL

26 October 2007

Your ref:
530/4676/MC

Our Ref: RoW

Dear Mike

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS – SHOTLEY

Thank you for your letter of 18 October outlining the work Suffolk propose to undertake in relation to some rights of way in Shotley. I will list this Council's concerns and comments in the same order as your letter.

Restricted Byway 18 and Footpath 24

Thank you for advising that the breach at the site of the old blockhouse will be repaired and the path re-instated.

The Council is bitterly disappointed that you do not intend to repair the river wall at the site of the major breach as this area is very well used by locals and visitors alike on a daily basis and forms part of a larger network of paths around the Suffolk coast. Councillor Dave Wood attended our meeting on 18 October and has promised to pursue this matter further.

As to your intention to remove the flight of steps leading from the River, can we enquire as to why Suffolk would carry out these works when this is not a public footpath and is on private land? Would not a sign warning of their poor state of repair be sufficient to warn potential users as will be done for the major breach? The Council feels very strongly that the removal of the steps would result in a loss of a very important amenity in this area as these steps are also used daily by locals and visitors. Is the owner of this land aware that you intend to remove the steps? Could we ask that no works to remove the steps be carried out until further consultation between ourselves and interested parties is carried out? We understand that in reinstating the definitive link between the restricted byway 18 and footpath 23 will allow access to Stourside but the steps have been used for this purpose for, we believe, some 20-30 years.

The Council would like to continue discussions regarding the repair of the major breach and in looking at making the steps area an official Right of Way – to this end I believe a meeting would be beneficial to all parties. If you are in agreement, please would you let me have any dates to avoid in December and I will attempt to arrange a meeting to be held here in Shotley between Parish Councillors, Councillor Dave Wood and yourself – if there are others you feel should be present, please let me know.

Footpath 17 (Marsh Lane)

The reversion of this footpath to its original line was discussed and there were no objections to this course of action. Should I receive any objections from members of the public, I will of course explain the reasons for this or direct them to yourself.

Yours sincerely

Linda Rowlands
Parish Clerk

Cc: Councillor Dave Wood
All SPC Councillors