

244. Application to add a Footpath to the Definitive Map and Statement from Abbey Road to Abbey Road via the bank of the River Nidd, Knaresborough

Note: Prior to consideration of this item of business, County Councillor Andrew Goss declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a Substitute on the Planning and Regulatory Functions Sub-Committee. He advised that he would not be participating in the Committee's debate or vote on this item.

Considered –

The report of the Corporate Director – Business and Environmental Services advising that a report would be presented to the meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Functions Sub-Committee on 13 April 2012 concerning the above Definitive Map Modification Order application.

Knaresborough Town Councillor Andrew Willoughby made a statement in support of the application. He advised that this was a short route which had been much used until it had been fenced off in 1984. In the following year, a late County Councillor representing Knaresborough had submitted the application which was now due to be considered on 13 April 2012. Town Councillor Andrew Willoughby advised that there had been a public outcry, in 1984, that the route had been fenced off and that the County Council now had the opportunity to correct the situation. He highlighted that 28 years had now passed without the opportunity to use the path and he was pleased the matter was now coming forward. James Malcolm (Acting Area Highways Manager) advised that there was no time limit for the making of Definitive Map Modification Orders.

County Councillor John Batt (local Member for Knaresborough) spoke in support of the application. He advised that this path gave the opportunity to walk alongside the river and he felt it should be open to the public and that this would be beneficial to tourism.

Resolved –

- (a) That the content of the report be noted.
- (b) That the Planning and Regulatory Functions Sub-Committee be advised that this Area Committee supports this application for the reasons provided by County Councillor John Batt and Knaresborough Town Councillor Andrew Willoughby, as set out in the preamble to this Minute.