

Report of	Meeting	Date
Corporate Director of Governance	General Purposes Committee	18/10/07

## **HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PARTS OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH NOS 44, 45, 46 AND 48, COPPULL, AND THE CREATION OF A NEW LENGTH OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH, COPPULL, CHORLEY BOROUGH**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To consider a proposal submitted by Lancashire County Council for the diversion of parts of Public Footpaths No. 44, 45, 46 and 48 Coppull, in conjunction with the creation of a new length of Public Footpath.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. That no objection be raised to the making by Lancashire County Council of a Public Path Diversion Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, for the purpose of diverting lengths of Public Footpaths Nos. 44, 45, 46 and 48 Coppull from their current routes in the vicinity of Highfield Farm on to new routes sited further to the west and south of the farm buildings, in conjunction with the creation of a new length of Public Footpath.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

3. The reason proposed for the footpath diversions and the footpath creation represents one of the commonest put forward, i.e. the desire to take a right of way out of the middle of residential / working buildings and re-route it around the periphery of such a site. The Council has, however, no direct information on public usage of the footpath or of land ownerships in the area. The Council, whilst not averse to the proposal, is not seeking to promote the proposal and would have no evidence to offer should the proposal result in the calling of a public local inquiry. In the circumstances, the decision to raise no objection to the proposed extinguishment/diversion does not detract from the merits of that proposal or commit the Council to support a proposal about which it has no information.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

4. The only other alternative available would have been to oppose the proposed extinguishment/diversions, for which course of action the Council has no apparent grounds.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. This report does not relate to any of the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Improved access to public services	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance		Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	

## BACKGROUND

6. Highfield Farm lies to the north of Jolly Tar Lane. Four public footpaths run towards the farm, Public Footpath No. 44 from the north, Public Footpath No. 45 from the west, Public Footpath No. 48 from the south and Public Footpath No. 47 from the east. Public Footpath No. 46 runs across the southern frontage of farm buildings providing a connecting link with Public Footpath Nos. 44 and 45 on the west and Public Footpaths No. 47 and 48 on the east. The owners of the farm now seek to have the footpath diverted, so as to remove them from the immediate vicinity of the farm buildings.

## DETAILS

7. The proposals are as follows:

- (i) **Public Footpath No. 44, Coppull:** existing route marked by the solid black line A–B–C to be diverted onto a line sited further to the west of the farm, marked by the broken black line A–G–H.
- (ii) **Public Footpath No. 45, Coppull:** existing route marked by the solid black line L–G–C to be diverted onto a line sited further to the south-west of the farm, marked by the broken black line L–M–H.
- (iii) **Public Footpath No. 46, Coppull:** existing route marked by the solid black line C–D to be diverted on to a line sited further to the south and west of the farm, marked by the broken black line H–I.
- (iv) **Public Footpath No. 48, Coppull:** existing route currently running northwards from Jolly Tar Lane along the access track leading towards Highfield Farm as marked by the solid black line F–E–D to be diverted on to a new line running along the west side of the access track, as marked by the broken black line K–J–I.
- (v) **New Footpath to be created:** the route of **Public Footpath No. 47** Coppull to be extended westwards to cross the access track leading towards Highfield Farm, as marked by the broken black line E–J, so as to effect a junction with the new line of Public Footpath No. 48 as detailed above.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

8. This report does not have any implications in relation to the following areas:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal			

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CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE

<b>Background Papers</b>			
<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Letter from Lancashire County Council together with map	3 August 2007	601	Town Hall, Chorley

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
G Fong	5169	17 September 2007	