

Agenda Item 12

Richard Jewkes

From: Alan Radford
Sent: 18 April 2008 16:31
To: Richard Jewkes
Cc: John Crowther; Garry Dean; David Jacobs (Traffic); Kelly Perkins
Subject: RE: Dudley Borough Local Access Forum - Furnace Hill footpath

Hello Richard,

Just a quick update on the enclosed issue.

I have today drafted a letter to the resident of 26 Furnace Hill asking for their co-operation by allowing me to affix a footpath sign to the gable end wall of their property. I am not overly optimistic that we will receive a positive response, but consider it well worth asking given that we have had two signs go missing from this location already.

If the response is negative, I am not sure what action would be appropriate. I am well aware that we, as the highway authority, have a duty to ensure that footpaths are signed. However, with a limited budget, and the theft of signs increasing, (due no doubt to the value of scrap metal!), I am reluctant to effectively throw good money after bad and feel that simply installing another sign and pole that will no doubt also go astray to be a waste of valuable and limited resources.

I am also aware that if the sign has been deliberately removed, that it is indeed theft, but feel that we have to accept that the police have more pressing issues to attend to than a missing sign.

I realise that this e-mail may seem quite negative, but I have to be realistic and manage what funding I have as best I can. Indeed, with last years increase being withdrawn for the current financial year, I will be lucky if the available budget allows the installation of many signs at all as I have a number of projects that have been brought to my attention over the past few years that funding levels have not allowed me to address.

Regards

Alan

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Jewkes
Sent: 06 February 2008 10:14
To: Alan Radford
Cc: 'Dudley Borough Local Access Forum'; Mr D Davies
Subject: Dudley Borough Local Access Forum - Furnace Hill footpath

Hello Alan,

At the last meeting of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum held on 23rd January, 2008, a member of the Forum raised an issue in relation to the removal of a sign on the footpath at Furnace Hill, and the Forum agreed to request action regarding this. The minute recording the discussion of the matter is as follows: -

Mr Davies raised a concern in relation to the removal of signs from the extended footpath at Furnace Hill. He reported that a sign on the footpath had been sawn off at its base and removed. When the sign had been replaced in Autumn 2007, it had shortly after been removed again in the same manner. He commented that this constituted criminal damage and theft of public property and suggested that the removal of the signs be reported to the Police. In addition, it was requested that the appropriate Council officer write to the residents of properties on either side of the path to see if they had any knowledge of the incidents or could offer any information as to the whereabouts of the signs.

It was also requested that copies of any correspondence relating to this matter be sent to the Chairman and to Mr. Davies in order to keep them updated.

AGREED