

Charity Trusts

Report number **C/04/23**

To **Representatives**
Date **12 July 2023**
Status **Exempt**
Responsible officer Secretary to the Trust

Subject **EATON LANDS DEEDES CLOSE BRIDLEPATH REPORT
C/04/23**

SUMMARY: This report provides information on a resident consultation for the complaints on misuse of the Bridlepath (HB24). Representatives are asked to discuss and consider how to find a resolution.

INTRODUCTION

Over the years there have been numerous reports of damage to property, drug problems and anti -social behaviour along the Bridlepath at Eaton Lands. Some of the residents have reported physical damage such as damage to fencing, tarmac and walls from heavy duty lorries using the Bridlepath to deliver to the rear of other properties.

A few of the residents believe the Bridlepath is being illegally used by vehicular traffic and have requested action.

The original observations and proposals are as follows.

The lower entrance to HB24 be made safer for using side gates and also any pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and legally entitled users, whilst at the same time clearly warning mechanically propelled vehicles of the road traffic act. This will protect their properties, allow them to rebuild their walls and stop further erosion of the tarmac surface on HB24 which deposits itself all over Deedes Close further aggravating road erosion and presenting a skid risk for vehicles. To do this, they have proposed.

- updating the temporary signage installed in April 2020,
- replacing the broken Bridlepath post and faded sign
- installing width restrictive bollards.

Residents were consulted by way of a hand delivered letter from the Town Clerk but were not all were in favour of this resolution.

However, Officers have requested a replacement of the signage at both ends of the Bridlepath, but 24-hour policing of access is not feasible.

The signage should also be updated at the upper entrance to HB24 too; people do not use the upper entrance as frequently owing to its physical restriction by brick buildings and pot-holed, mud and gravel surface. This will also ensure if they do politely confront offenders, that they are not subjected to a tirade of abuse. They are seeking the support of their local town council in accordance with the Kent County Council statement on the bridlepath sign.

There is a separate discussion required about potential authorised use of HB24 by residents of Tanners Hill Gardens in mechanically propelled vehicles to access their garages, which historically was managed by issue of a permit. This discussion would also include awareness training of any local authority vehicles or contractors accessing the Eaton Lands and residents. It would also serve as a bold reminder to any solicitors working on land and building development projects at the end of the gardens of Tanners Hill Gardens who fail to grasp the legality of mechanically propelled vehicles using a bridlepath.

Hythe Town Council Officers contacted the Grounds Maintenance team at Folkestone and Hythe District Council (FHDC) and have confirmed that they require access to the playing field and highlighted that access would also be required for emergency vehicles should the need be required.

Summary

Representatives are asked to consider the observations and proposals from some of the residents and consider the responses received. It is recommended to instruct the Secretary to the Trust (The Town Clerk) to action any proposals/decisions made by the representatives at the meeting on 20 July 2023.

CONTACT OFFICER

If you have any queries about this report, please contact The Secretary to the Trust.
Tel: 01303 266152 or email Clerk@hythe-tc.gov.uk prior to the meeting.