

## LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT – 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011 – AGENDA ITEM 5

PURPOSE OF REPORT: Update on the cycle path through Ditton Park Estate (part of Slough Linear Park)

Recorded condition of permissive cycle path through Ditton Park Estate, taken 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011.



### 1. Update

1.1 Computer Associates were emailed on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 2010 to ask for repairs to the surface of the path running through Ditton Park Estate as per obligations under the Section 106 planning agreement. A further email was sent to Rights of Way officers at Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead mentioning the LAF's concern over this path, its condition and what seems like indiscriminate closures. Members resolved to keep on the agenda and seek an update from RBWM in one month.

1.2 Anthony Hurst, the Rights of Way Officer at RBWM sent a letter to Computer Associates (see appx 1) in January 2011. No response was received.

- 1.3 The path was visited again on 6<sup>th</sup> April by SBC Officers and the above photo record taken show that no remedial works have been undertaken at this time.
- 1.4 Complaints received on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2011 via Peter Challis Sustrans Area Manager from members of the public trying to use the path on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April. The gate was locked and they had to turn back.
- 1.5 Computer Associates subsequently said the gate was closed due to vandalism in the form of signage being ripped off posts and a fire being built on the path.
- 1.6 Within the S106 Agreement, Clause 4.8 says that 21 days notice must be given to the Council before the path can be closed. Clause 4.8.10 gives a reason for such closure as being “in the event of there being a security or safety or other risk or alert on or in the vicinity of the Site” but it should only be closed for as long as is necessary. Though CA do not have to give 21 days notice if it is an emergency.
- 1.7 Anthony Hurst, the Rights of Way Officer at RBWM has agreed to send a follow up letter to Computer Associates and invite Computer Associates to a site meeting.

## Appendix 1

Please reply to: Anthony Hurst  
Direct Line: 01628 796180  
Fax: 01628 796774  
Email: anthony.hurst@rbwm.gov.uk  
My ref: 9007/1  
Your ref:

**Environmental Services Directorate**  
Stephen Brown B.Sc. C.Eng. MICE  
Head of Highways & Engineering

21<sup>st</sup> January 2011

CA Technologies  
Ditton Park  
Riding Court Road  
Datchet  
Berkshire SL6 9LL

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ditton Park: permitted Pedestrian/Cycle Routes

This Council has recently received a number of complaints from cyclists and walkers concerning poor surface conditions on parts of the permitted Pedestrian/Cycle Routes through Ditton Park. I am enclosing photographs showing one of the routes.

Additionally, it has been reported that some of the gates at the entrances to the Pedestrian/Cycle Routes have been found to be locked on occasion during daylight hours, without any prior notice having been given.

As you are no doubt aware, these Pedestrian/Cycle Routes were created as part of a planning agreement completed in 1997, under which CA Real Estate has an obligation to maintain the routes in a good and safe condition to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council. I am enclosing the relevant extract from the planning agreement.

I would therefore be grateful if these matters could be attended to as soon as possible. It would be helpful if you could advise me once the repairs have been completed.

If you would like to discuss this letter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Hurst  
Principal Rights of Way Officer