

September 17, 2014

Slough Local Access Forum  
St Martins Place  
51 Bath Road  
Slough  
Berks

**Department:** Highways Engineering  
**Contact Name:** Ms Jacqui Wheeler  
**Contact No:** 01753 – 477479  
**Email:** jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk  
**Our Ref:** JW/8/29/1-4

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Slough Borough Council - Proposed Diversion of Part of Footpath 21 Slough  
S 257 Town and Country Planning Act 1990**

The Council is proposing to divert part of Footpath 21 Slough. The proposal is shown on the enclosed plan; I also enclose a location plan.

The proposed diversion is required as a result of the development of Salt Hill Park, Slough whereby a new path will be provided with lighting from Salt Hill Way across public amenity land into Salt Hill Park as part of the East – West Cycle route. As part of this development a gate will be installed across the existing public footpath 21 where the definitive line enters the park at Salt Hill Way and the existing surfaced path on the definitive line is to be broken out and re-landscaped. These proposals mean that the current definitive line of public footpath 21 will be blocked and no longer available to the public. As the footpath diversion is necessary for the development to take place, the procedure to be used is under S257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The current definitive line of footpath 21 exits Salt Hill Park adjacent to no. 66a Salt Hill Way and follows the perimeter of the park before re-entering the park at the entrance adjacent to no.4 White Close (see enclosed Location Plan). The current line of the path then follows existing park paths crossing the stream where it continues south through the park. This existing section of the footpath is considered unfavourable as it takes users out of the park where it narrows and then back into the park and is not as widely used as paths within the park which are much more convenient, lit and open.

Moreover, future plans for the East – West Cycle Route involve creating legalised cycle paths within the park as part of improving connectivity to the wider sustainable transport network. Diverting this footpath now would also aid in these plans as preparation for a future upgrade to legalise the cycling use along it.

It is therefore proposed that the current line of footpath 21 just south of the subway tunnel entrance into Salt Hill Park should be diverted onto a more desirable line wholly within the park following existing laid out paths.

The tests for making and confirming a footpath diversion order under the provisions of section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 include consideration of;

- the need for the diverted path to end at a point on a highway which is substantially as convenient as the existing points of termination;
- the need for the path to be not substantially less convenient to the public as a result of the diversion;
- the effect of the diversion on the public enjoyment of the path as a whole;
- the effect of the diversion on the land crossed by the existing and the new paths.

The footpath will be diverted onto the line of the newly constructed path across public amenity land in Salt Hill Way so that it will still have a point of termination on Salt Hill Way which is equally as convenient as the existing. The diverted route will be more convenient as it will follow a path through the park which is wider, more open and therefore safer and more enjoyable for the public. The development will improve the attractiveness of the route through Salt Hill Park.

I am writing to you now to invite your views on the proposed diversion. Unless I hear from you by 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014, I will assume that you have no comments to make. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

Yours sincerely

**Jacqui Wheeler**  
**Public Rights of Way Officer**