


Our Reference: T&PM/KD XM56/05

Your Reference:

**This matter is being dealt with by Ken Dawson Direct Line: (0191) 277 8966**

9 March 2005

  
Grosvenor Avenue  
Jesmond  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE2 2NP

Dear 

### **FOOTPATH AT THE GROVE, JESMOND**

I refer to your letter of 21 February, and will attempt to answer the points you have raised regarding access along The Grove.

As explained originally, the proposal to add this footpath to the definitive map arises from the current plan to complete the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) record for the former Newcastle County Borough. Otherwise, there has been occasional representation from local residents who believe the route to be a public footpath. In particular, this issue was brought to light when the car park at Akhurst School was extended. Furthermore, there have been complaints about some residents extending their garden boundaries into the footpath corridor.

The intention of the Council is to add The Grove footpath to the Definitive Map and Statement based on appropriate historical and documentary evidence. There is as yet, no fixed timescale for completion. The making of an order will be subject to authorisation by a panel of Councillors who have studied all accumulated evidence, supporting or opposing it.

The recording of a PRoW should not impinge on freeholders' rights, provided that the way is not obstructed. I cannot otherwise comment on what may or may not be allowed under planning legislation.

The freeholders have not yet been consulted because the process has not yet started. In due course, all interested parties will be informed and invited to comment.

As far as I am aware, local residents recently employed the Rapid Response Team to clear the path.

I have not seen Councillor Armstrong's letter to residents. However, it was explained to him that the route is *believed* to be a PRoW, based on access by the public over the years.

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If the footpath is eventually recorded on the definitive map, it is intended that the Council will maintain a usable surface with a minimum of vegetation cleared from the edges to allow ease of use, whilst the natural character of the corridor, including brambles, nettles, wild flowers and hedges would be preserved. It is not intended to promote this footpath

I hope the above comments will address your concerns for the time being.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Wightman**  
**Group Manager – Traffic and Project Management**