

My ref:
Your ref: 297781
Date: 6.05.09
Contact: Anna Keech
Direct dial: 01223 715669
E Mail: Ecsbusiness.support@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



By Email

Mr Goodwin
request-10806-0fdb8690@whatdotheyknow.com

Environment Services
Executive Director, Brian Smith

Box No. CC1307
Castle Court
Castle Hill
Cambridge
CB3 0AP

Dear Mr Goodwin,

Thank you for your recent EIR request received 21 April 2009, regarding the closure of Newbridge Lane, Wisbech and the current legal status of this section of highway.

I have received the following information from our Network Management Service in response to your query.

Because we had a problem with fly tipping making it impossible to drive through New Bridge Lane because it was blocked, and our costs to clear the rubbish away were prohibitive. Other costs were incurred by Fenland District Council, the Internal Drainage Board and our own Waste Disposal Team.

We did carry out a CCTV survey over a four month period to establish any possible prosecutions however no substantial evidence was obtained.

A paper was taken to the Fenland Traffic Management Area Joint Committee on Friday 2 March 2007 which gave it's support for the Highways Department to consult and advertise a draft proposal to Prohibit Driving (Except for Access) on New bridge Lane just south of the travellers' site to it's junction with Begdale Lane, Elm.

Consultations were carried out with all interested parties, including as many of the land owners as we could find and representation from a farmer who had land adjacent to New Bridge Lane but not off New Bridge Lane, who used the Lane to gain access to other land the other side of the A47.

This landowner was written too explaining the problem, and was invited to lodge an objection to the proposal, when it was advertised, so that the Area Joint Committee might consider it.

The Draft Traffic Regulation Order was advertised for a three week period and no objections were received.

Continues overleaf

The Order was made and brought into operation on 22 June 2007. This is a legal order which gives the police powers to issue tickets for those who are in contravention of this order.

The earth bund (at the travellers' site end) and the locked Gate were erected sometime after this date.

The combination to the lock at the southern end is given to any land owner who can give us evidence that they own/need access to the land that is enclosed by the gate and earth bund.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish either to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you should write to Helen Maneuf, Head of Audit, Scrutiny and Information Governance, Box RES 1405, Room 307, Shire Hall, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire CB3 0AP.

If you have any queries regarding this letter please contact me, remembering to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Anna Keech
Business Support Officer