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The Clerk to Stow Maries Parish Council
Glebelands,
Church Lane,
Stow Maries,
Chelmsford
Essex CM3 6SJ

Our Ref: ZB.24/134/144
Your Ref:
Date: 19th January 2018

Dear Sir,

RIDLEY COTTAGE BRIDLEWAY BRIDGE – BRIDLEWAY 24 STOW MARIES.

I am writing to update you with regard to the above matter.

A meeting was held on 18th January with Mr Hollington, as landowner, Councillor Channer and Essex Highways officers.

At the meeting it was confirmed when the bridge was inspected early last year, the extent of defects identified warranted the immediate temporary closure of the bridge on safety grounds.

The bridge is a private structure. The Land Registry record however gives no indication that there is a formal obligation on the owner of the bridge to maintain the structure.

Equally, the bridge is not considered to be part of the highway and the Bridleway is not publicly maintainable. There is no statutory duty to maintain a path that arises from long usage, as with the case of Bridleway 24, which came into being as a result of being claimed under the Definitive Map Review process. Paths which are added to the Definitive Map through this process and which came into being after 1959, are not publicly maintainable.

The meeting went onto consider possible options. The consensus of the meeting was that a more detailed cost assessment was necessary, before any of the options could be given further consideration. This in turn will require more time to enable the assessments to be completed.

Consequently, the consent of the Secretary of State for the Department of Transport **will be** sought for the Temporary Prohibition of Use Order to continue in force for another 6 months from the date when the current Order expires (17th February 2018).

Your Council will be kept informed as to the future progress of this case.

Yours sincerely,


Garry White | Definitive Map & Records Manager
Essex Highways

cc: Andrew Cook, Director of Highways & Transportation, Essex County Council

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