

# EAST HAMPSHIRE District Council

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Chief Executive  
B. P. Roynon

## LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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your reference

enquiries to

date 2nd May, 1990

my reference BH/RT/SC

extension 372

Mrs. M. Comber,  
Chairman,  
Kingsley Parish Council,  
The Old Cottage,  
Frith End,  
BORDON,  
Hants.

Dear Mrs. Comber,

### Broxhead Common and Bridleways in East Hampshire

Thank you for the copy of your letter to Michael Mates expressing your concerns about the lack of bridleway facilities for riders in East Hampshire.

As you know, Broxhead Common is a Local Nature Reserve and S.S.S.I. and consequently before any changes to the rights of way network are made, consultations have to take place and agreement reached with the N.C.C. Like yourself, the County Council have met the N.C.C. and the landowner and a number of suggestions have been made which would result in better access to the Common. These suggestions involve a permissive route being granted by the landowner linked to a permit system (similar to that adopted by the MOD).

The N.C.C. are very concerned that any increased access to the Common would result in further erosion to this valuable heathland site and have proposed that any changes should include an increased ranger presence. Obviously this raises other issues including manning levels etc., in the County's Recreation Department.

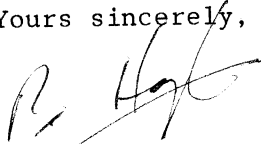
Broxhead Common and its bridleways have been something of a problem to the District Council for many years, resulting originally from a decision by the landowner to fence parts of it. The County Council have always been the lead Authority in this matter and will remain so. In the meantime however, negotiations are progressing with the principal parties involved in the issue, with the intention of achieving an equitable solution to this problem, although I do not anticipate an early result.

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With regard to your comments about generally expanding the bridleway network in East Hampshire, you may be aware that earlier this year Members agreed to the setting up of a Countryside Section within the Community & Leisure Division of this Council. This Section will be in a position to deal with the many and varied matters associated with countryside management including rights of way. A budget has been provided to assist the work and a second rights of way team will be formed later this year, partly to assist with routine inspection duties presently carried out by the Rights of Way Manager, thus releasing him to pursue claims for bridleway rights and carry out other investigations.

I wholeheartedly agree with your comments about riders' safety on the roads and will ask Robin Truscott, our Rights of Way Manager, to bear this important point in mind when carrying out his duties.

Yours sincerely,



B. HOPCRAFT  
Leader of the Council

cc Michael Mates, M.P.  
W. Bide, Principal Rights of Way Officer, HCC  
R. Truscott, Rights of Way Manager, EHDC