

Maureen,

I think this may be of interest to you. I hope you do not mind me butting in to your correspondence,

Jim C.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **James Colbourne** <[james@jmcolbourne.plus.com](mailto:james@jmcolbourne.plus.com)>

Date: Sat, Feb 1, 2014 at 4:58 PM

Subject: Fwd: Fw: Contact - 1214 - Comber - Formal Declaration

To: [damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:damian.hinds.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Mr Hinds,

I hope you will not mind my writing to you even though, as I live in Emsworth, I am not one of your constituents. I was copied into Mrs Comber's letter to you because, as a one time Ramblers Footpath Secretary, I have frequently had reason to make common cause with Mrs Comber on matters of public access and I too have experienced frustrating obstruction and intransigence from officers of Hampshire County Council. Mrs Comber has no reason, at the present time, to know that I am writing to you now.

Many years ago Farnham Ramblers were called upon by our Hampshire colleagues to support them in efforts to open up a blocked public footpath at Frith End. On the face of it, Mrs Comber was the archetypal 'wicked landowner' responsible for obstruction of the path. As confirmed by the resultant Public Inquiry, Mrs Comber was not at fault and this costly and time consuming misunderstanding was caused by the inability of Hampshire's ROW officers to correctly interpret their own Definitive Map.

I am particularly concerned by HCC's unjustifiable response to Mrs Comber's request for the identification of current holders of its Countryside posts because, having seen the original request and follow-up, I would have found that information most useful. Particularly so, I think you will agree, because it will tie in to the CC's now due response to my FOI request of 11 January 2014 with keywords "Statutory duties concerning Hampshire Rights of Way" (of which, I believe, Mrs Comber is at present unaware). This request can be seen on [www.whatdotheyknow.com](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com) under 'Hampshire County Council' and the above date and Keywords.

May I add that over the years I have developed a great respect for the thoroughness and accuracy of Mrs Comber's research and statements - far greater than for the often rather erratic and dogmatic pronouncements from Winchester that you may well suppose have had something to do with both my successful Ombudsman complaint and with the content of my present FOI request.

Yours sincerely,

James Colbourne