

From: m.comber
Date: 08/11/2007 15:45:52
To: Phil Allen; Rob Thompson; Andrew Smith
Cc: Ken Thornber
Subject: Broxhead again



Dear All,

In a recent letter from Cllr Thornber I was advised to keep in touch with Andrew with regard to the recent appeal decision by the Secretary of State. Phil in our conversation over lunch you said that this was in hand and depending on the outcome of talks with the landowner one of two courses of action would be taken. Either the common would be cleared of brush in the vicinity of the claimed paths or failing that the legal process may have to be invoked. Please keep me up to date.

My main reason for writing is that today I rode out on Broxhead Common to find that BW4 where it runs across the field, has been enclosed by sheep fencing and plain wire. This has been placed on the wrong side of the posts i.e. the bridleway side. Also I am not altogether happy with the width. Although at a guess this is about 3 metres which is the minimum for a bridleway, this path is often used by walkers so a tight three metres would create a public nuisance and be a concern for health and safety. I suggest the reasonable width would be where the new fence starts at the Lindford end, the trouble is that it then funnels in.

If you look you will see a very narrow worn track where we have always walked ridden. This is outside of the new fencing.

The worst thing is that the gate at the Lindford end of the path has been re-erected by BW46. Not only is it superfluous but I had to get off the horse to open it. It is therefore an obstruction. The handle is too low and it is too close to the fence so cannot be reached from the back of a horse.

Phil you told me that you had not been consulted with regard to this fence. Please may I know if anyone in your department has been?

Please may I also draw your attention to two other gates. One where BW4 joins BW54. This gate is hung so low that the sand washes over the bottom of the gate which at worst makes it impossible to open or as today it will only open one quarter. This makes for a tight squeeze and a horse will often rush through a small gap if he goes at all. This means that one can sustain a broken ankle or leg if not something worse. Photo attached.

The other gate by the Forestry Commission entrance opens all right but only goes half way because it is hung next to the FC fence. When it is pushed it often bounces back off the fence and once again the horse panics and injuries can occur to the riders legs. I have been caught up on all of these more than once.

Please may I have your assurance that these matters will be dealt with in the immediate