

Meeting with Mr Andrew Smith, HCC ROW Manager
at Winchester, 8 January 2001.

HCCAS8101
RABlue20

Suggested topics for present discussion. (AS = Mr Andrew Smith)
(JC = Mr P.J.Colbourne)
(CC = Hampshire County Council)

(1) Havant BW 132, "the Hayling Wadeway".

- a. What is relationship of Chichester Harbour Conservancy with HCC concerning work on FPs and BWs?
- b. Does AS agree that it should repair this BW to at least the standard outlined in JC's letter to Edward White dated 29/11/1999?
If not, what action does AS foresee and to what time scale?
Following this meeting, may JC expect the considered reply from the ROW section to his letter which has been outstanding for over a year?
- c. Could AS comment on the suggestion that failure by the CC to take action to stop unlawful destruction of the path surface and foundations by bait diggers and failure to take steps to remove deposits of soft mud which are a nuisance and make the path more dangerous for users are legitimate grounds for complaint and/or legal action? (ROWGLP p.220 refers)

(2) HCC's lack of 'openness'. Secrecy and difficulties put in the way of members of the public in ROW matters.

- a. According to HCC's Infoline (28/10/1997), the public may attend ROW Panel meetings but are **not** allowed copies of the agenda.
- b. Also (Infoline 12/8/99) minutes for the July 99 meeting would not be available at Havant Library until 7 Sept.
- c. In fact, as confirmed 6/1/01, ROWP minutes are **not** available at Havant Library. Their Hantsnet shows only the dates of such meetings and the fact that "Orders confirmed by the CC" are Confidential. **But why?**
- d. HCC's Website was so out of date that it did not list the ROWP meeting held on 30/11/2000.
- e. When the Bordon Herald reporter in receipt of the press notice announcing the Ombudsman Report contacted the HCC Press Officer to determine the location of the subject paths, she was told that that information was "confidential". The result was that the paths were wrongly identified in the newspaper report.
- f. It is a requirement (WCAB1.s57.7) that the availability of Definitive Map information for public inspection should be publicised by the CC. No-one I have asked about this has any knowledge of such publicity.
- g. Even when one is able to obtain printed committee material from HCC the price is extortionate. Although I live in Hampshire, West Sussex CC (one of HCC's Best Value partners, I believe) regularly send me 100 page agendas for their ROWSC meetings free of charge.

(3). Local availability of Definitive Maps, Statements and modifying Orders.

- a. Does AS agree that **the CC** has the duty to ensure that such information is made available for local public inspection and that, in the absence of a formal agreement, a district council can have no such responsibility?
- b. Also that the CC must take effective action to publicise this availability?
- c. Could AS please comment on progress on county-wide local availability?
- d. Does AS agree that publicly available OS maps cannot be relied upon as