

NETHER WALLOP PARISH COUNCIL

Info.

After receiving complaints from several members of the public earlier in the year, the Clerk had raised a request for action on Footpath 7 running between The Garden House and The Trout.



Correspondence from:	Detail:
HCC	The issue has been closed with no further action to be taken at the moment as although the surface of the route is not ideal, the risk posed to footpath users is minimal.
Clerk	<p>Are we looking at the same part of footpath 7? I am talking about the part between the GARDEN HOUSE and THE TROUT. The short piece that runs from Trout Lane at the top, down to Heathman Street at the bottom.</p> <p>The section I am talking about is not just "not ideal", it is a serious trip/slip hazard. It is steep, lots of loose stones, extremely patchy and uneven tarmac. As I said in the report, I have fallen over on it and I wouldn't consider myself to have any mobility issues.</p> <p>Elderly people CANNOT walk along it safely at all, even with walking sticks. I am receiving complaints that it is not passable for anyone with even the slightest of mobility concerns.</p> <p>I would like to ask you to reconsider this response, because I know that if I report back to the residents that HCC perceive there is minimal risk to users falling, it won't go down well. Please remember that people of all ages use the footpaths network, and it shouldn't be accessible to only the young and fitter members of society.</p>

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	<p>Perhaps Cllr Drew would be kind enough to meet you and I there to see the issue? It is a short stretch, but something really should be done.</p>
HCC	<p>Thank you for your email, I did inspect the whole length of the section between the two properties, and I do understand your concerns.</p> <p>After inspecting the footpath, I did speak to the Highways teams about the feasibility of making repairs to the surface. The advice received stated that due to the nature of the route and the associated drainage/runoff issues, only a full reconstruction of the footpath would make any noteworthy difference to the surface. This would also need to address the drainage and any structural issues.</p> <p>Therefore, while it is only a short section of footpath it would require a significant investment. Such large-scale works must be considered in relation to the wider public right of way network, issues and priorities. In this case the surface does not prevent the majority of users from walking the path. Additionally, there is a paralleled footpath (165/502/1) less than 50m away which provides a very similar connection. It is therefore hard to justify such a significant investment into route which would have only a limited benefit to the footpath network in the area.</p> <p>In terms of the risk to users, while the surface is steep and uneven, this not unusual for rural footpath, although not ideal for a footpath within village.</p> <p>I hope this helps explain the reasoning behind our decision. I am of course happy to meet you and Cllr Drew, if required.</p>

Councillors to advise if this should be progressed further?

It should be noted that HCC in the last month resurfaced a small section of the road right at the bottom of the footpath for no apparent reason as there were no significant potholes.