

Mr A Hurst
Principal Rights of Way Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead
Town Hall
St. Ives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF

17 February 2014

Dear Mr Hurst

Thames Path National Trail – Missing Link

Thank you for your consultation letter of 5 February and we welcome this fresh initiative to complete the important riverside link in the Thames Path National Trail and our historic Maidenhead Boundary Walk.

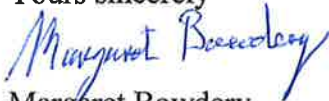
It was in 1950 that the Council proposed infilling the landing steps beside the Thames Hotel to improve the existing riverside path to Bridge Gardens. Since then, the Thames Path has been created as well as The Maidenhead Boundary Walk. Both these routes deserve the highest possible standard of amenity and safety.

To achieve the recommended quality standards for the Thames Path National Trail, we recommend that Maidenhead FP.53, (obstructed by parked cars since 1991) should be relocated to the riverside. If this is agreed, we have no objection to the occupants of Bridge View being allowed the continued use of the paved frontage for parking. This will leave approximately 17m of additional new footpath to be provided along the riverside.

If the riverside route is agreed, our Group is willing to contribute £14,000 towards path construction costs. Furthermore, we are willing to review this donation once the final costs of the riverside footpath are known.

Since 1989 occupants and new tenants of Bridge View have been aware that the Council planned to route the Thames Path along the former boatyard slipway. We therefore hope that the Path Agreement negotiations of 2007 will now be progressed to a satisfactory conclusion for all parties. If a Path Agreement is not possible within a reasonable timescale, a Creation Order should be made as recommended by the Local Access Forum.

Yours sincerely



Margaret Bowdery
Life President



Maidenhead Civic Society

Bryher
Islet Road
Maidenhead
SL6 8HT

Anthony Hurst
Principal Rights of Way Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead SL6 1RF

8 February 2014

Re: Thames Path “missing link”

Dear Anthony,

I was encouraged by the news that there is to be a community engagement about the practicalities of creating a riverside route between Chandlers Quay and Bridge Gardens.

The Civic Society has long been a supporter of the Ramblers' quest for the completion of this “missing link” in the Thames Path.

It's astonishing to us that the route was ever lost in the first place and the alternative is unattractive, inadequate and dangerous.

It's a known fact that 59% of visitors to Maidenhead come because of the Thames. We have a civic duty to make those visitors feel welcome. What better way than by restoring a key segment of a national trail within sight of the town's most historic gateway, Maidenhead Bridge?

Restoring the riverside route is the preferred solution, historically, aesthetically and practically. Moreover, with plans being laid for the redevelopment of the former mill site on the Bucks bank and the installation of a footbridge at Boulters, it sends a timely message that the Borough recognises the importance of this stretch of the Thames as a valuable asset.

Yours sincerely

Bob Dulson, Chairman

TO

Anthony Hurst, Rights of Way Officer RBWM

17th Feb 2014

FROM

Graham Brunsten, Chairman Maidenhead Boundary Walk Committee.

THAMES PATH 'MISSING LINK'

Dear Anthony

On behalf of **The Rotary Club of Maidenhead** I would like you to convey the following submission, to the meeting of The Rights of Way panel on March 4th, in support of The Council completing this path.

During our annual event 'The Maidenhead Boundary Walk' approximately 500 people use this path and have to cross the main road twice because of the missing link. Despite the assistance of marshals we consider this to be one of the most dangerous parts of the whole 13 mile route for pedestrians.

Also as a Riverside resident I think that if the Thames Path National Trail was complete in this section it would be a worthwhile improvement to local amenities.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend the meeting on March 4th, but I hope a representative of Rotary will be there.

Yours sincerely

Graham Brunsten

Rotary Club of Maidenhead

73, Ray Park Avenue MAIDENHEAD SL68EG

Anthony Hurst

From: Kate Ashbrook <hq@oss.org.uk>
Sent: 25 February 2014 11:47
To: Anthony Hurst
Subject: Thames Path National Trail

Dear Mr Hurst

Margaret Bowdery has passed to me a copy of your letter of 5 February. You may have sent one to OSS and it has been mislaid; I apologise for responding late.

We are delighted to hear that a report is to be submitted to the council's Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel on 4 March to consider the Thames path 'missing link' to the north of Bridge Gardens.

The Open Spaces Society strongly supports the creation of a public path here as part of the Thames Path National Trail, to avoid the dangerous road which puts walkers at considerable risk. This path is of international and national as well as local significance and it would make a massive difference to people's enjoyment and safety to be able to walk by the river rather than on the narrow road.

We urge councillors to resolve to make a public path creation agreement or creation order for this stretch of path.

Yours sincerely

*Kate Ashbrook
General Secretary
The Open Spaces Society
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Robert Hunter Centenary

Support our [appeal](#) and make his legacy live



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Anthony Hurst

Subject: FW: Objection to Thames Footpath Link

From: Mike Cahill [mailto:mikecahill@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: 17 February 2014 17:13
To: Anthony Hurst
Cc: Cllr Quick
Subject: Objection to Thames Footpath Link

To Cllr John Stretton
Cllr Eileen Quick
Anthony Hurst

5 Bridge View,
Raymead Road
Maidenhead
Berks
SL6 8NL

My name is Mike Cahill. I own the above property, and I completely object to your proposal.

It is the property that will be affected the most by your proposed 'missing link'.

I bought the property some years ago due to it's uninterrupted river views, it is a leasehold property and the lease has a couple of hundred years to run.

As you are aware there is very little room between the river and the buildings to develop a path and as the bedroom for the property is DOWNSTAIRS it will all but destroy the value of the property and take away its biggest feature, so I have a question for you all.

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOUR COUNCIL PROPOSED A FOOTPATH 5 FEET FROM YOUR BEDROOM WINDOW AND YOU WOULD THEN HAVE TO PUT UP AT LEAST A 7 FOOT FENCE SO PEOPLE COULD NOT LOOK IN ?

SEROIUSLY HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ?

Well it would be totally unhelpful and too colourful to tell you how I am feeling, as you want to completely destroy my property.

In addition to this have you explored the cost of such a short piece of footpath, because COMPENSATION is just not going to cut it, I will not want to live there after you ruin the property.

I am unable to attend your meeting on the 4th March as I will be abroad, but I will fight this with everything I've got.

If you want to do something constructive with your time, I would suggest you sort out the mess on the other side of the river then at least there would be something attractive to look at.

Yours a very hacked off resident
Mike Cahill
Tel :- 07771864222

ps

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF YOUR COUNCIL PROPOSED A FOOTPATH 5 FEET FROM YOUR BEDROOM WINDOW AND YOU WOULD THEN HAVE TO PUT UP AT LEAST A 7 FOOT FENCE SO PEOPLE COULD NOT LOOK IN ?

Anthony Hurst

From: Philippa Haederle <aghservices@live.com>
Sent: 25 February 2014 18:50
To: Anthony Hurst
Subject: Path Creation issues

Dear Mr Hurst

Following our meeting on 25 February we wanted to set out our viewpoints with regard to the proposed riverside pathway which would run in front of our premises.

- We note that it is accepted by the Council that no current right of way exists on the riverside of the buildings and that earlier discussions on this topic in the Maidenhead Advertiser were misinformed.
- We believe that even once compensation is taken into account, such a path creation would be a very expensive and time consuming exercise.
- We are not convinced that informed Maidenhead voters would consider this a good value for money spend, given other obvious priorities in the Borough. Saying yes to a question of "would you like a riverside path" is one thing. However, if it is a choice between a riverside path (that probably only relatively few would use), and vital local services, we think the answer would be very different.
- There would be significant flooding issues with a river side path - during the recent floods it would have been highly dangerous to have an accessible path across the properties.

Your sincerely
Philippa Haederle

Anthony Hurst

Subject: FW: Path Creation Issues

From: Michael Landers [<mailto:mike.landiers@icloud.com>]

Sent: 26 February 2014 09:34

To: Anthony Hurst

Subject: Path Creation Issues

Dear Councillor Hurst,

Like Philippa I am a resident at Bridge View and I share her concerns about the proposed possible creation of a path.

I'd like to share my situation with you and get your views.

I have lived in Maidenhead since 1997 originally in Boyn Hill Close and then between 1999 and 2007 in Cannon Lane. Whilst living in Maidenhead I was employed in the Video and Audio Conferencing Industry and was obliged to visit Bridge View House several times during 1998/9 to conduct business with a Company called First Virtual. Frankly I was blown away by the uninterrupted riverside views that Bridge View offered and asked the business owner Bruce Withington to let me know if any of the flats above First Virtual came up for sale.

A number of other properties in the same area came up for sale during the decade between 1998 and 2007 and I viewed many of them. Chandlers Quay opened during that period and I viewed all the flats available there before deciding against buying any of them despite their riverside views, secure parking and luxurious fittings. The reason was very simple, Chandlers Quay did not enjoy the additional security and privacy that Bridge View enjoyed because Chandlers Quay had open access to the front, a public pathway. I waited another 5 years until a property at Bridge View became available and bought it in 2007 specifically because it didn't have public access between the property and the river.

I wouldn't want to create an impression that I'm 'anti rambler', I'm not. I'm a rambler too. I spend a week or two each summer walking in the Lake District, enjoy the breathtaking scenery and the challenge of Catbells and Sharp Edge. However having been burgled years ago it's an experience I'm not keen to repeat. My view is very clear, I wouldn't have purchased this property had there been the possibility of public access being granted between the property and the river. Can you offer me your thoughts on the following please:

How would you feel if the Council elected to represent you decided to effectively place you in a property that you had deliberately avoided purchasing?

How much monetary compensation would you seek if you found yourself living in a property that you would not chosen to purchase?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards

Mike Landers
2 Bridge View

Anthony Hurst

From: Carol Farmiloe <cfarm@pinetrader.co.uk>
Sent: 26 February 2014 13:20
To: Anthony Hurst
Subject: Riverside path creation issues

Dear Mr. Hurst,

Further to our meeting on 25 February I felt that I should write to let you know my thoughts regarding the Council's proposal to extend the riverside path across my river frontage and the adjoining frontage at Bridgeview.

Firstly, I would say that there has never been public access to the river across my river frontage or that of Bridgeview at any time. I have lived in Maidenhead for more than 40 years, most of that time in Ray Mead Road, and my late husband was member of the Andrews family who operated their boatyard in Ray Mead Road since the mid 1800s, so I have extensive knowledge of the history of the area. I have lived at 4 Bridgeview since 1991 and own the adjacent strip of land where 5 Bridgeview is situated. I have direct access to the river, where I moor my small boat in the summer. One pays a premium to own property with direct access to the river and this proposal seeks to devalue my property considerably. I am also particularly concerned with the loss of security and privacy that the construction of a riverside path would bring.

I understand that the Council is keen to provide a riverside path for ramblers and walkers and to this end they have already provided dropped kerbs and signs to help walkers cross Ray Mead Road safely at this point. However, I feel that the expense of creating a path to join the path in front of Chandler's Quay with Bridge Gardens would be extremely costly in view of construction costs and compensation to landowners. It seems to me that the money would be better spent by the Council in continuing to improve flood relief schemes in the borough, which are obviously needed in view of the recent disastrous floods in the Datchet and Wraysbury areas. Furthermore, there are a lot of potholes in the roads from damage over the last few harsh winters which have never been repaired.

One further point that I would like to add. There are other areas along the Thames Path where it does not follow the riverbank, but is directed away from the river and around riverside properties without any problem, so I cannot understand why it is considered necessary for the path to follow the riverbank at this location, when provisions are already in place to bypass these properties. I would, therefore, ask the Council to consider seriously whether the creation of this path is the best way to spend the borough's money.

Best regards,

Carol Farmiloe