

# The Eastleigh Group of the



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12 December 2016

Dear Mr. Bray,

## **RE – PUBLIC EXHIBITION – LAND SOUTH OF CHESTNUT AVENUE, STONEHAM PARK**

I refer our discussions this afternoon and I am writing to place on record the Ramblers response to the exhibition.

Our objectives are to ensure that as the urban area of Eastleigh Borough expands that: -

- (a) There remains a strategic network of rights of way which serve wider traffic movements on foot and retain the potential for recreational use;
- (b) That there remains a local network serving the needs of each housing estate and connecting it to the wider network;
- (c) That open space provided within each development is available to everyone;
- (d) That the routes on the Definitive Map get increased and reflect the future network that will exist by ensuring the new paths are included.

Given each objective and how it relates to this development we have the following comments: -

- (a) There is only one footpath route that connects Eastleigh and Southampton west of the River Itchen and this is the existing path (collectively 28, 53, 54 and 56 Eastleigh) that runs through the site and continues down Stoneham Lane and south of the M27 goes east to follow the Monks Brook Greenway down to the River Itchen. On foot the only two other legal options because of the way the M27 and M3 were built are to follow roads down Wide Lane near the airport or go up to the ASDA roundabout and follow the Bournemouth Road and the Winchester Road to Bassett. For this reason, it is fundamentally important that the footpath route through the site remains open during the lengthy period it will take to complete this development. It should be kept out of the adjoining development sites and any physical disruption avoided or kept to an absolute minimum.
- (b) Within the development there will be paths that connect the different elements of the site together and to off-site locations. These paths should be the subject of an adoption agreement and once the process in such an agreement is concluded and they become public highways we can insist on these routes being added to the Definitive Map. The proposals in this scheme suggest a network of a very high standard can be achieved but only if the adoption agreement procedure is fulfilled.
- (c) We seek to avoid the open space being left in the hands of resident management companies and hence remain private and are instead handed over to a public body to be managed for the benefit of everyone.
- (d) The Definitive Map is translated by the Ordnance Survey on to their maps and is the means by which those unfamiliar with an area readily find routes that they can use without local knowledge. The situation we and the Government Policy set out in the NPPF and Defra Circular 1/09 seeks to avoid is where developers build roads on the same alignment as existing rights of way which means when the roads are adopted the footpaths and bridleways are taken off the Definitive Map as they

The Group promotes rambling by organising 150 walks a year and protects rights of way and defends the beauty of the countryside within the Borough of Eastleigh. Registered Charity No 1093577, part of The Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration number 4458492

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then have a higher highway status. So, if you are proposing to do this we would be seeking the diversion of the path to a new alignment so that it can continue to exist on the Definitive Map as a separate legal entity.

The Borough of Eastleigh as it has developed has lost many of its rights of way that were originally included on the Definitive Map in the 1950's and every endeavour must be made to improve the situation and the opportunities available where possible taken and it would seem that when this development is complete with everyone's goodwill there could be an exemplary network on the Definitive Map.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Richard C. Kenchington', is written over a horizontal line.

Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV (Hons)  
Footpath Secretary  
EASTLEIGH RAMBLERS

To  
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Copied to Dawn Errington, Development Management, Eastleigh Borough Council and Owen Devine, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council.

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