



## SHADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Gloria Ford  
Clerk to the Parish Council  
Shadwell Grange Farm  
Moortown  
Leeds, LS17 8AW

Email: [shadwellpc@hotmail.com](mailto:shadwellpc@hotmail.com)

18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008

Councillor Ted Hanley  
Chair of Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Board  
66 Newlay Grove  
Horsforth  
Leeds  
LS18 4LH

Dear Councillor Hanley,

We are currently in the process of attempting to get a footpath made a public right of way. We understand that over a number of years a backlog in dealing with these cases has built up and this has resulted in a waiting list of up to ten years for the case to reach the point where a hearing would be held and witnesses called. Some of the witnesses in our case are quite elderly and have expressed the view that they might not live long enough to see the case to its conclusion.

We would like the Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Committee to consider the process of adding paths to the definitive map as rights of way at a future board meeting as we believe that a ten year waiting list is totally unacceptable. We are aware of the cost implications and shortage of staff, both having been used as a reason for the timescales in previous correspondence, however we feel that the Council should look again at the resources committed to this area. We do not feel that the impact on those involved, especially in rural parts of the city such as ours, has been properly understood.

Our Chairman, Geoffrey Wilson, has taken a lead in regards to the application here and would be happy to discuss this further with you if you feel able to look into this as a committee in the future. I am sure other witnesses would be forthcoming from cases which have been heard recently such as the Collingham to Wetherby footpath which had a successful outcome for the applicants. I am sure their experiences of the process would also be interesting for the committee to hear.

Do let us know if your committee would consider taking up this area as a possible future enquiry topic.

Yours sincerely,

Gloria Ford  
Clerk to Shadwell Parish Council.

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