

CVPC Meeting 15th November 2021

Agenda Item 14: Definitive Map Order for Verriotts Lane and Love's Lane in Morcombelake

I have been asked by the residents of these lanes to request that the Parish Council write to Mr Meatyard of the Ramblers Association and ask them to withdraw their application for a Restricted By-way classification of these lanes. In addition, they request that CVPC contact Dorset Council to express their support of the residents in this issue.

Background.

Mr Meatyard of the Ramblers Association has applied to have Verriotts Lane and Love's Lane in Morcombelake designated as a Restricted By-way closed to motorised vehicles.

Mr Meatyard did not discuss this with any of the 13 homes or 2 businesses who live on, or regularly use, these lanes.

None of the residents nor the businesses want this classification as it is restrictive and could severely reduce their future rights of access, which they have had for many years.

Mr Meatyard offered to withdraw the application if the residents found it to be detrimental. The residents contacted Dorset Council and did not get the assurance of future safeguards to rights of access and maintenance for vehicular access. Following this, they asked Mr Meatyard to withdraw his application and he refused.

There is no justification for Mr Meatyard, or the Ramblers Association, to arbitrarily and without consultation with residents living along the lanes, attempt to severely limit their personal and future rights of access to their own properties or other properties along the lanes. The residents consider this to be high-handed, dishonest, insensitive, and intrusive, and selfishly only serves the purpose of the Ramblers Association, and not local residents.

In speaking with local residents there has only been one incident in the past 30 years of anyone mis-using the lanes.

While classifying the lanes as Restricted By-ways will harm the rights of our residents, classifying the lanes as BOAT would continue to allow both ramblers and local residents full service.

All tracks and lanes must be classified by 1st January 2026. After that date, the classification 'BOAT' will no longer be available. Hence the need for many rural tracks to be classified. However, Verriotts Lane and Love's Lane are not uninhabited rural tracks but are residential means of access for 13 local families and two businesses.

Councillor Chris Noon

12/11/21