

NEWCASTLE
UNDER LYME
YOU'LL NOTICE THE DIFFERENCE

APPENDIX D

N. B. Onions, F.I.L.A.M.
Director of Community Services

Mr. B. A. Price,
County Clerk & Chief Executive,
Staffordshire County Council,
P.O. Box 11,
County Buildings,
Martin Street,
Stafford.
ST16 2LH

*PC note sent
14/8*

When calling or telephoning
please ask for

Mr. A. Gillen
Direct line or ext

2631
My ref

AG/ALV/B15

Your ref
4/MWB/db/19/11/139

7th August 1995

f.a.o. Mr. M. Bradbury.

Dear Mr. Price,

Alleged Public Bridleways - Goldenhill

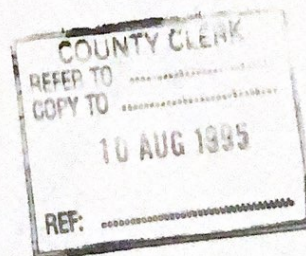
I refer to your letter dated 17th July 1995, concerning the above matter. I note the route as illustrated on your plan, and I would wish to object to the proposal as illustrated, particularly on the length between the red markings.

This is a disused railway track, within Birchenwood Countryside Park, which is quite narrow, and I was intending to develop it as a safe pedestrian route. In 1993, the Council, after discussions and agreement of the North Staffs Bridleways Association, did develop a permissive riding route in the Countryside Park, and I attach a plan illustrating it. *- in packet*

I am of the opinion that the horseriding facility that is currently available is sufficient, and therefore I cannot support this claim.

Yours sincerely,

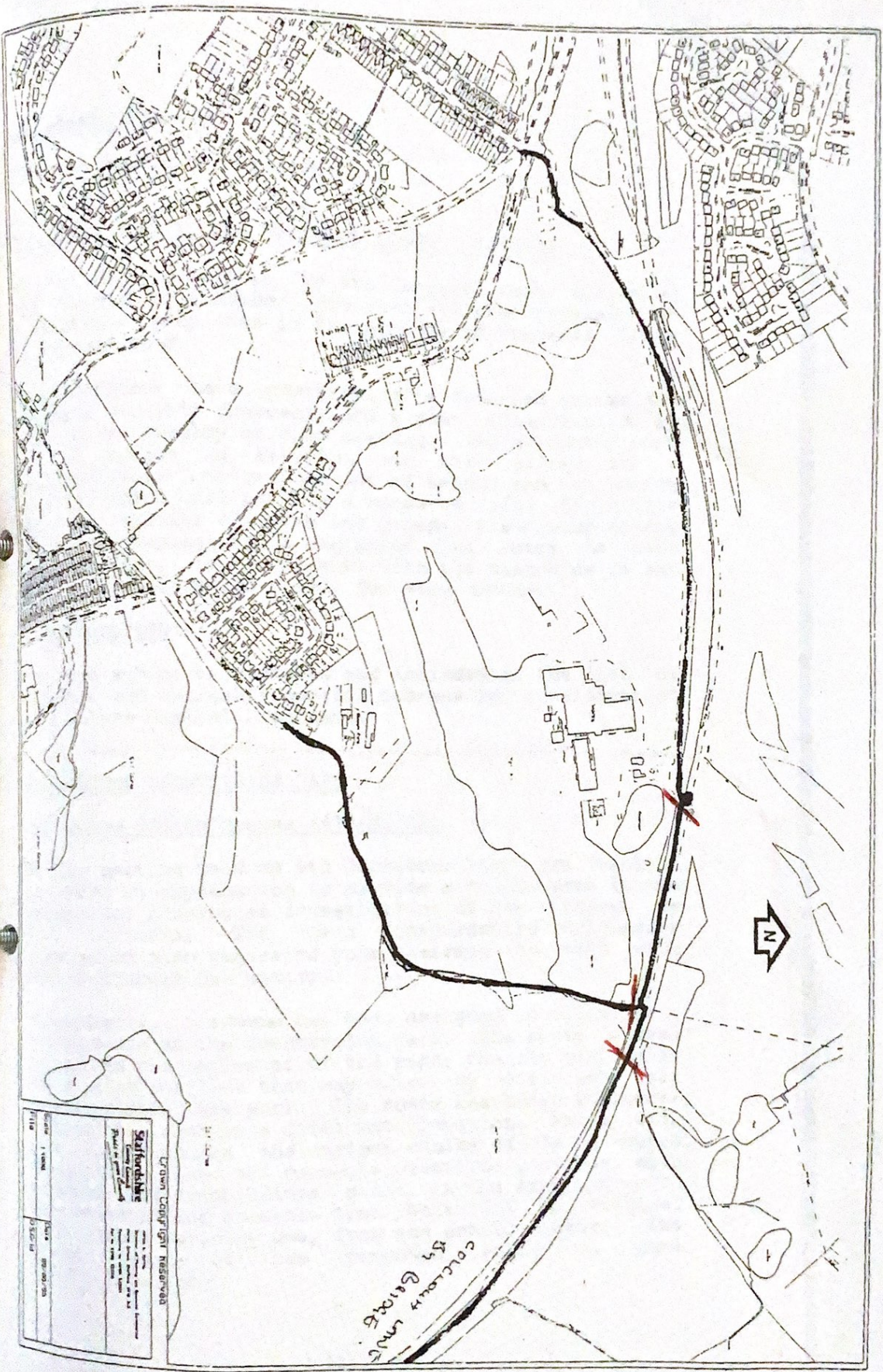
A. J. Hillman
Head of Leisure.



A. Billington, M.H., M.I.E.H.
Head of Housing

A.H. Hudson, M.Sc., B.Sc., M.I.E.H.
Chief Environmental Health Officer

J.W. Martin, F.I.H.S., F.I.L.A.M.
Head of Leisure



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 Sheet No. 100/100
 Date 1957

COLLEGE UNIT
 St. GARAGE

RECOMMENDATION:-

That the report be received.

CHILDRENS PLAY AREA - BRADWELL LODGE (1148/93)

At your meeting held on the 6th January last following the request of a Member, you resolved that provision of a childrens' play area in the grounds of Bradwell Lodge be investigated.

Your Officers have now prepared a detailed scheme and estimate for this proposal, and a plan illustrating it will be on display at your meeting. The estimated cost of the scheme is £40,000, and this allows for a multi-activity centre, one set of swings and two spring animals, which will provide a range of play facilities for the toddler children age group. Associated safety surfacing, fencing and a dog proof site entry is also provided for, in accordance with the standards as set down in your approved Policy for Play document.

RECOMMENDATION:-

That the scheme be approved and included in the list of feasible and desirable capital schemes for consideration in a future Capital Programme.

BIRCHENWOOD COUNTRYSIDE PARK

(a) Horse Riding Routes (479(d)/93)

At your meeting held on 9th September last, you resolved to defer an application to provide a bridle path in the above area, pending an investigation of the request by your Officers. The North Staffordshire Bridleways Association also requested your Chairman to meet with them to discuss the matter.

Subsequently, a scheme has been designed to allow for a riding route at the Countryside Park. The route chosen is around the perimeter of the park, thereby minimising any risk of conflict that may arise by different user groups within the park. The route has three entrance/exit points, each in a different location, which will give horse riders the maximum choice of riding routes available to them. It connects, wherever possible, with adjacent off-road bridle paths in the area and would make horse riding possible from Whitehill to Bathpool Park almost entirely away from the public highway. The overall length of the proposed route is some 2,500 metres long.

Members are advised that horse riding is an outdoor pursuit that is increasing in popularity. With the volume and speed of traffic encountered on the roads today, there is frequently conflict between motorists and horse riders. By developing a network of off-road bridle paths the conflict is eliminated, and organisations such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (R.S.P.A.) and the British Horse Society (B.H.S.) actively support schemes which increase the availability of off-road riding routes.

It is suggested that the horse riding route at Birchenwood be signed by marker posts throughout its course. A plan illustrating the route will be on display at your meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:-

That the horse riding route as shown on the plan be provided at Birchenwood Countryside Park on a permitted basis.

(b) Application for Refunds

The Birchenwood Countryside Park was officially opened on 22nd October, 1992 and the first season of use for football and rugby commenced in September 1992.

Problems have been experienced with regard to the pitches becoming waterlogged due in part to an excessive amount of rainfall over the previous summer months and at the start of the season and to particular difficulties arising from such use on a reclaimed site which resulted in matches being postponed.

This has resulted in three of the hirers requesting a refund of fees to compensate for a loss of use of this facility.

In normal circumstances an extension to the season would have been agreed in order for teams to complete their fixtures list however it is the opinion of your officers that any extension would further deteriorate the playing area.

Teams have been given the opportunity to play any outstanding fixtures midweek or alternative accommodation has been provided wherever possible, however due to the demand on all of the pitches throughout the Borough several teams have not been able to be accommodated.