

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: S53 Application Alleged Public Footpath between Public Footpath No. 11 and Public Bridleway No. 0.1287 Castle Church  
**Date:** 17 October 2022 13:55:22  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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Dear [REDACTED]

Ref: 017177DW S53 Application Alleged Public Footpath crossing land owned by Stafford Grammar School

Thank you for giving the school the opportunity to comment with respect to the above application.

I note that a predecessor of mine submitted a letter regarding the same issue on 28th February 2007 and, on reflection, the points he made are equally valid today as they were at the time. In the interests of brevity I will list the salient points,

- There is already a footpath that begins and ends at the same point so what is the point of an additional footpath?
- The school does not agree that walkers are never challenged on their right to be on the unauthorised footpath; what has actually happened is that walkers often ignore the requests of staff to keep clear to the extent that staff give up asking.
- No signs have ever been erected to point out the route of the existing footpaths because they are invariably vandalised. Also, on different parts of the school site, dog walkers just ignore the signs and trespass on school land anyway.
- On the footpaths in question, dog walkers rarely have their dogs under control within the strictest definition, in that it is rare to see a dog on a lead and they invariably breach the 1.5m width of the path. With young children playing on the sports fields there is an ever present risk of a dog owner not being able to control their dog and a child is intimidated by an out of control dog or, worse still, attacked.
- The school does not have the resources to check the sports pitches on every occasion before children play on them. Dog faeces is regularly found on the sports pitches because dog walkers ignore the bins provided and this poses a health risk to the children.
- Occasionally, local youths ride their motorbikes over the sports fields and having an additional footpath makes it even easier for them to gain access.
- Our next door neighbour farmer has specifically put in a fenced footpath for the convenience of dog walkers which is systematically ignored as they prefer to roam over his land.

I would be grateful if you could provide me with the outcome of the meeting.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

On Tue, 20 Sept 2022 at 16:36, James, Laura (Corporate)  
<[laura.james1@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.james1@staffordshire.gov.uk)> wrote:

Good afternoon Richard,

Thank you for your call earlier in relation to the S53 report regarding the above application. As discussed, due to the time in which it has taken for you to receive the report, I can confirm that we are prepared to offer an extended deadline for submission of your comments/evidence in this matter. I should be grateful if you could please forward these to me by 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

During our conversation we discussed issues currently experienced by the school on the existing public footpath, No. 11. Whilst we are unable to offer specific legal advice in connection with this matter, section 118b and section 119b of the Highways Act 1980 provides schools stronger rights to apply for a special diversion or extinguishment orders if the school can evidence and prove the route is a serious threat to safeguarding. This is a matter for the school and independent legal advice would be required. Please find the link below to the Staffordshire County Council website if this is something that the school would like to explore further:

[Advice for applicants wanting to submit a Public Path Diversion Order - Staffordshire County Council](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Regards

Laura

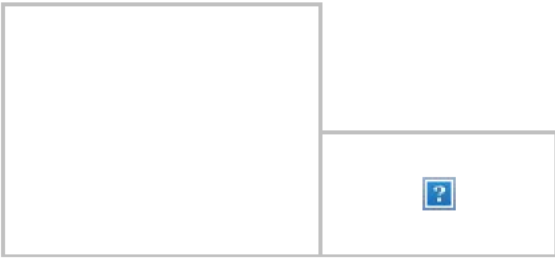
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