

ESCRICK PARISH COUNCIL

Application for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) for a Public Right of Way (PROW) through Queen Margaret's School to the Temple.

Earlier this year a leaflet was distributed to Escrick residents by the 'Escrick PROW Action Group' entitled "Is there a Public Right of Way from Main Street to the cricket ground and beyond?" Attached to the leaflet was a standard form (WCA Form D) produced by NYCC used to collect evidence of whether or not a route should be designated a 'Public Footpath'. The leaflet requested that completed forms be returned to the Action Group. An application for a DMMO for a PROW was then formally submitted by Mr J Gaskin to NYCC on 9 May 2013.

NYCC has now commenced a formal investigation into whether the proposed route should be designated a PROW. As part of that exercise it is consulting with various organisations, including Escrick Parish Council. At the Parish Council meeting held on 7 October 2013, it was agreed that we would distribute a note to all residents explaining the situation and giving them a further opportunity to send in directly to NYCC any evidence or views they may have **either for or against** the route being used by the general public. Further advice can be found on NYCC's website at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/article/24005>

The evidence NYCC is seeking can be summarised as follows:

Any evidence of use must relate to the use you made of the path and the use of the path by others that you witnessed. It does not matter that you used it for 40 years or 4 weeks, all the information goes toward building a picture of the way the route has been used. Information about any signs or other obstructions you saw whilst using the route is also important. Finally, please mention if you were ever prevented from using the route either by being stopped by a person or because you came across some obstruction that meant you could not continue, such as a locked gate across the path.

In addition to evidence of use it is possible to submit other evidence that either supports or refutes the existence of a Public Right of Way. Such evidence comes in many forms and can include Parish records, land sale particulars or details of an historic enclosure award. It is also useful to include old map evidence, especially if the exact position of the possible right of way is not certain. However, maps alone are not sufficiently strong evidence to show that a right existed or that it did not exist; they must be accompanied by other forms of evidence.

A plan showing the route of the footpath under consideration as a Definitive Map Modification Order for a Public Right of Way is shown overleaf.

Any residents that wish to contribute to this evidence gathering exercise can contact Russ Varley, the officer responsible. Evidence or views should be emailed to russ.varley@northyorks.gov.uk or write to Mr R Varley, Definitive Map Officer, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AH. The closing date for responses is 31 October 2013 and any submissions should be made by this date or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Parish Council will keep you informed of developments. Please see our website www.escrick.org (under Parish Council, Current Issues) for further information and updates. This letter will be available here.