

**COLNEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
THE TRACK ON THE COMMON BEHIND NUMBERS 53 TO 81 HIGH STREET**

BACKGROUND

1. The track behind the cottages 53 to 81 High Street is part of the designated Common land.
2. The poor condition of the track has long been an issue of concern from residents in the cottages 53 to 81 High Street. The former Chairman of Council is reported to have been personally threatened by a resident as a result of the ongoing feeling of this matter.
3. Parking on the track is a concern for the Council as it should not be permitted. However, residents do not feel safe parking their cars on the High Street which is a narrow long blind bend in the road.
4. The depression in the track adjacent to the Village Hall is deep and fills after rain and washes the side access path to the village hall with water and mud.
5. Some residents have expressed an expectation that the newly elected Council will resolve the matter.
6. The matter was on the agenda for the Council meeting in January 2023. A briefing note was prepared by the Clerk. Few, if any, of the residents may have read or understood this report.
7. In summary the Council is not permitted by law to repair the track or permit parking on the Common, and the Council cannot by law to permit residents to do repair works on Common Land.
8. The matter was discussed at the Council meeting in January 2023. The Clerk was instructed to investigate the advantages and disadvantages of de-registering parts of the Common for parking and bring a further report back to a Council meeting.
9. This matter is unlikely to be resolved quickly and residents concerns will continue and may escalate. A timely communication to them would be helpful to residents and would be in the interests of the Council.

PROPOSAL

That a letter prepared be sent to all the residents at 53 to 81 High Street

- a. explaining the legal position regarding the restrictions to works on the Common
- b. stating that
 - i. residents' concerns are appreciated by the Council and the Council wishes to find a suitable solution
 - ii. that the matter is however complex and potentially difficult to solve
 - iii. that the Council is actively looking at the options and potential solutions
 - iv. the Council will keep residents informed on progress
 - v. if residents have questions these should be addressed to the Clerk.

ALTERNATIVE

To invite the affected residents to a meeting where the situation can be explained and discussed.