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Norfolk

Local Access Forum



11th April 2018

Cllr. Martin Wilby
County Hall
Norwich

Dear Martin,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Norfolk Local Access Forum - the NLAf.

As I am sure you are aware, the NLAf is a statutory body set up under the 2000 CROW Act and it is our role to advise on the improvement of local access to the land in our area for the purpose of open air recreation and enjoyment.

Norfolk County Council has, since 2011, taken a neutral stance on the majority of Definitive Map Modification Orders, (DMMO's), made to them as the authority under section 53 of the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act. The NLAf, however, is questioning if this is fair to applicants, particularly if NCC makes an Order at a higher level than sought. Furthermore, is this consistent with NCC's duty, (Highway Act 1980, s.130 (1)), '...to assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of any highway for which they are the highway authority...' The NLAf would therefore like to ask that NCC reviews its current policy.

In addition:

- (1) We would like to know the criteria by which it decides the Orders it will promote and would like it to provide statistics to show how many Orders have been made since the introduction of the policy in 2011.
- (2) Has NCC taken a neutral stance in all cases, or has it promoted or opposed any of them.
- (3) Has any order for an application made by a member of the public subsequently been made at a higher level.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Sullivan
Chair, NLAf.

Please reply to: Greenfields, Kerdiston Road, Reepham, NR10 4LQ