

WOODLEAZE COPSE FOOTPATH TO FURZEHILL WOOD

By Geoff Chopping

In January 2018 a Definitive Map Modification Order Application was made, to the then Dorset County Council, in order to register a footpath from Furzehill, which went: across Woodleaze Copse; around the back of the Council Offices; and across the overflow car park to reach Furzehill Wood. The Map shows the route requested in the application. Many Photographs, documents and witness statements were also submitted.

The application was made because the then East Dorset District Council, refused to confirm that they would require any redevelopment of the site to respect the path which has been used by residents of Furzehill for a great many years.

There are still about 20 applications in the queue ahead of this one. So it could be many years before it would be determined.

However as the application has been made, it will stay in the records. This means that if a search is done prior to the sale of a new dwelling, then it will be shown that an application for a footpath has been made, which might pass straight through the lounge of that new dwelling. This could blight several dwellings of a new development.

So unless the developer waits for the application to be determined, the usual course of action is for the developer to formally adopt the footpath, but apply as part of the planning process for the footpath to be moved to a more practical route for the planned development. Once the footpath has been formally moved only the new route will show in the searches.

In which case a footpath link would be maintained between Furzehill Wood and Woodleaze Copse. It will also mean the new development will have direct access into Furzehill Wood and onwards towards Wimborne.

Furzehill Wood is owned by the Woodland Trust. It is open access land and has an access further along Furzehill, by Nursery Cottage.