

**DEDICATION OF FOOTPATH ON LAND OWNED BY THE COUNCIL LINKING
QUEENS ROAD AND EQUESTRIAN BRIDGE NEAR 30(B) CHEADLE AND GATLEY,
CHEADLE AND GATLEY.**

Report of the Director of Place Management

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Area Committee is requested to consider whether to dedicate a footpath over a section of land it owns in the Ladybrook Valley, as shown marked A – B on the plan at Appendix 1. If it dedicates the footpath, the Council will have maintenance responsibility to footpath standard for the route.

2. LEGAL POSITION

- 2.1 The Council has the power under Section 2 Local Government Act 2000 to do anything which they consider promotes or improves the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of its area.
- 2.2 Under section 25 Highways Act 1980, a landowner can dedicate a public right of way across their land for the use of the public if they wish to do so and enter into an agreement with the Council to determine the terms of the dedication (which would normally include the path being maintainable at public expense).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The proposed dedication of the footpath, forms an important initiative of providing additional off road routes to the local community. It is especially so as the proposed dedication route will provide a suitable alternative to walking along Queens Road and Radnormere Drive, for commuter and leisure use.
- 3.2 The dedication of the footpath will enhance walking along the Ladybrook Valley, as it will provide an important link to 30CG and 30(b) CG, and the surfaced cycle route from Ladybridge Rd to Demmings Lane. It will further provide an important link to circular routes in the Ladybrook Valley which fulfils an aspiration of the Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- 3.3 A benefit of the dedication of this route as a footpath, will be the provision of a much needed link to other sections of the Rights of Way network, for commuting and leisure.
- 3.4 As part of the drive to reduce carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases, the dedication of the footpath will increase accessibility to other areas of the community such as Cheadle Village, Cheadle Heath and Bramhall without needing to drive. In addition to complementing the dedication, this facility will support work travel plans for local residents and adjacent service and industrial unit employees.

3.6 It is considered that the footpath will provide beneficial local circular routes and useful links to longer distance routes leading out of the Borough. The footpath would be maintainable at public expense once dedicated. Footpaths may be used by pedestrians, so the benefits would extend to a large section of the public wishing to avoid vehicular highways.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ROUTES

4.1 The section of footpath to be dedicated which is the subject of this report is shown on Appendix 1, attached and described as follows:-

- The proposed footpath to be dedicated runs between points A - B, as shown on the plan at Appendix 1, commencing at Point A (where the footpath exits onto the adopted Queens Road, at a point grid referenced 392332, 390167), running generally south-easterly for a distance of 655 metres at Point B (at equestrian bridge located 34 metres north-easterly of Warwick Close and grid referenced 387,278 387,677).
- The width of the footpath between Points A – B, as shown on the plan at Appendix 1, is 1.5 metres.

5. LAND OWNERSHIP

5.1 The owner of the land over which the section of path marked A – B runs, is Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.

5.2 The Neighbourhoods and Estate Management Teams have been consulted about this dedication and have expressed their approval.

6. SUMMARY

6.1 The proposed footpath is unrecorded on the Definitive Map for Stockport and is being actively used by the public. The interest of the Council has been considered with the benefits for the public of the provision of this route.

7. CONCLUSION

7.1 It is considered desirable to provide the footpath along the route shown in Appendix 1 attached to this report in order to facilitate a useful and aesthetic off-road route for a substantial number of public highway users.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Area Committee resolve to:-

- (i) Authorise the dedication of the footpath over Points A – B, as shown on the plan at Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Emily Brough on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4592 or alternatively email emily.brough@stockport.gov.uk