
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	30 th January 2003	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXCEUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	G R Fewkes (595725)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	ALTERATIONS TO RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK AT TETRON POINT, SWADLINCOTE (former Nadins Opencast Coal Site)	REF: GF/E/7/1/41
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Swadlincote/Newhall	TERMS OF REFERENCE: ESO6

1.0 Recommendations

The Council is asked to consider the proposed alterations to the rights of way network across the former Nadins Opencast Coal Site (Tetron Point) and comment accordingly.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To inform Members of the proposed alterations to the public rights of way network across the former Nadins Opencast Coal Site (Tetron Point), and to invite comments and/or objections on the outlined proposals.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Derbyshire County Council has received an application from UK Coal Mining Ltd, to permanently alter the public rights of way network at Tetron Point, part of the former Nadins Opencast Coal Site in Swadlincote. The footpaths were temporarily suspended in 1992 to allow the site to be worked for coal by opencast methods and alternative ways provided for use by the public until the land is restored.

3.2 The site is now being restored to accommodate a variety of uses for business, light industry, warehousing and distribution, complimented by leisure facilities. This is to include the provision of two golf courses and a driving range with ancillary leisure facilities on the north side of William Nadin Way, where the majority of the original footpaths are situated. The area is also being landscaped for informal recreation and additional public access.

3.3 As a result of planning permission granted by both Derbyshire County Council and South Derbyshire District Council, it is necessary to alter the route of a number of paths to enable the development described above to be carried out. The existing footpaths that are affected are shown on the attached plan as solid black lines and the proposed alternatives depicted by bold broken lines and squares.

- 3.4 The proposed diversion of parts of footpaths 42 and 44 between points A-B and C-D-E is intended to allow the land to be developed for industrial use. As far as the golf course is concerned, it is necessary to relocate sections of Footpaths 44, 45, 46, 47 and 98, so the public can be more safely accommodated between the fairways, by making use of the landscaped areas both within and around the periphery of the site.
- 3.5 It is proposed to replace the existing network of paths with three north to south pedestrian routes shown as the bold broken lines. These will be provided at a minimum width of 2 metres and will be stone surfaced. A continuous circular route will also be provided around the edge of the site, as shown by bold squares, for both cyclists and walkers. Again this will be suitably surfaced and provided at a minimum width of at least 3 metres. Apart from providing a local recreational facility in its own right, this will also form part of the proposed new National Cycle Route (NCR 63) linking Leicester with Burton on Trent via Swadlincote. This in turn will provide the foundation for the development of a network of other local routes as outlined in the South Derbyshire Cycling Strategy.
- 3.6 The new routes being proposed as part of the Tetron Point Scheme will be accessible to all, including pushchair and wheelchair users and are also intended to facilitate journeys to work, school and shops between the town centre and surrounding residential estates, whether on foot or by cycle. They will be connected at key locations to the surrounding roads and footpath network.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial costs to the Council as UK Coal Mining Ltd has agreed to meet the costs of promoting the necessary diversion/cycle track orders and will be responsible for carrying out all the associated physical works required to provide suitable routes for the public's use. This will include the satisfactory reinstatement of the remaining lengths of path temporarily suspended in 1992.
- 4.2 Furthermore, Derbyshire County Council will undertake all the required consultation work and promotion of the diversion orders.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct corporate implications, as Derbyshire County Council will deal with the entire process.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The proposals will create a more convenient rights of way network across the area and be of benefit to the wider community, as all paths will be surfaced to allow unrestricted access to a large range of users groups.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The alterations are necessary to allow planned development of the former opencast site. The provisions included for new footpaths and cycleways will serve to increase public access between the town centre, employment and residential areas, and also provide a valuable community recreational and amenity facility.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Consultation letter from Derbyshire County Council 16/12/02