

Potential for adoption of footpath to the Highways Register

Email dated 11th August

I have some advice from colleagues, and have made a visit to get photos for initial advice.

It will take some time to formulate a full reply, but among the things to be considered are:

- what work is required to bring it up to adoptable standards (ie the standards that a developer would need to meet if they were building a new path for adoption),
- what would be the most appropriate means of carrying out the adoption.

The registered owner of the first section from Mansfield Street is the original builder, but that company has been liquidated. It is unclear who might own the remainder, as I'm not sure if it used to be an access to the land before Mansfield Street etc were built. If so then possibly title went with the sale of that land, otherwise the two adjacent properties each side might own half each.

If we were to adopt it, then we'd probably have to advertise a notice to see if someone came forward to claim it or with other objections to it becoming an adopted highway. One potential issue as that, once a highway it is virtually impossible to stop access for all.

There will be costs associated with work to bring it up to adoptable standards, and also with the adoption process (advertising etc). Normally the party offering the land for adoption needs to meet those costs. It's impossible to say at this stage what the costs might be, but I hope this is some assistance in outlining the likely process.

If you want any further information to assist with considerations by the parish council, please let me know.

Kind regards

Sarah

Sarah Barnwell
Community Liaison Officer (North Northants)