

18 June 2012

Slough Local Access Forum

CA Technologies
Ditton Park
Riding Court Road
Datchet
Berks
SL3 9LL

Replies to: Jacqui Wheeler,
Officer to Slough Local Access Forum
Highways Engineering
Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place, 51 Bath Road
Slough, SL1 3UF

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Ref: LAF Linear Park/Ditton Park Cycle Path

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of members of both Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forums. We are advisory bodies whose members are volunteers living in the area set up under The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Our remit is to advise the Local Authority and other relevant organisations on access issues within the local area.

I would like to express our deep concerns about the Cycle path that runs through the Ditton Park Estate. This route provides a wonderful off road link affording opportunities for green commuting through beautiful surroundings to local residents and CA Technologies employees alike. Disappointingly however, there remain a number of issues which are undermining the free and unobstructed use of this route.

We understand that there have been numerous instances where the path has been inexplicably unavailable due to locked gates during daylight hours when they should be open. Also that the path surface through the Ditton Park section is badly rutted and potholed due to vehicular use and lack of maintenance.

In some instances people have been stranded at the locked gate which is quite a distance from an alternative route with no prior warning that the gate would be locked. Under the S106 Planning Agreement dated November 1997, CA agreed to certain actions regarding the upkeep of the path within the Ditton Park Estate; these include;

1. Maintain the Sustrans Route and/or the Pedestrian/Cycle route in a good and safe condition to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council.
2. Give 21 days notice to the Council which shall have also been displayed during this notice period on the Route for any of the situations referred to in the Agreement (4.8.1 to 4.8.12). One such reason being the closure of the Route in

the event of there being a security or safety or other risk or alert on or in the vicinity.

It appears these obligations are not being met and we would ask that the resulting issues are given your full attention as a matter of priority.

- Please confirm that prior notice of 21 days will be given to Sustrans Warden/Local Highways Authorities (Council) should it become necessary to close the gates for reasons detailed in the agreement.
- Immediate arrangements are made for the path to be repaired and please confirm that necessary surface maintenance will be carried out on an ongoing basis in future.

As part of the National Cycle Network this route is widely publicised and used; and we would like to see it continue to be an asset to the local communities of Slough and Windsor and Maidenhead.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

David Munkley
Chair 2012, Slough Local Access Forum,

Peter Thorne
Chair 2012, RBWM Local Access Forum