Castle Hedingham Parish Council and Burial Board

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[redacted]

To:
Mr David Collins
[redacted]

15th January 2021

Dear Mr Collins

RE: Footpath 25 Pye Corner to Rushley Green

Thank you very much for your letter received by email on 28th December 2020 regarding the proposed alterations to Footpath 25 from Pye Corner to Rushley Green. As you know this was considered by Councillors at the January Parish Council meeting on Monday this week.

While the Parish Council is aware of the inconvenience a public footpath can cause landowners, Councillors voted not to support to your proposals for the following reasons:

- This is a uniquely scenic walking route and popular with many residents of Castle Hedingham. The only complaints received by the Parish Council about the surface have been about the Rosemary Lane gate and the area at the bottom of Scotch Pasture which was recently dug over.
- The footpath forms the first part of the historic Magna Carta walk from Castle Hedingham to Clare. You may already know that this was celebrated and highlighted as part of our village commemoration and the national events for the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015 and is marked on the Castle Hedingham footpath map as such.
- We are aware that the injury incurred by the elderly resident was caused by a large dog jumping up at them and not by the condition of the footpath. It is understood that the rescue attempt was made difficult because of the terrain and distance from the road; however, it is considered that the gradient would have been a factor in this as much as the surface, and this will be even greater over a shorter distance if the footpath is moved to the proposed location.
- A fenced-off path along the proposed route would be less visible from the road in the event of an emergency. Even a fenced-off path along the existing historic route could cause bottlenecks and difficulty passing if people are approaching from both directions, including people with disabilities. We would need to see more evidence of a demand for this proposal by disabled walkers.

- We appreciate that you have discussed this with your neighbours, but there is currently no guarantee that the adjoining sections at Pye Corner and Rosemary Lane would be upgraded to ensure equal accessibility for disabled people along the whole length of Footpath 25.

Thank you for asking the opinion of the Parish Council in this matter and I am sorry we are unable to give you the support you were looking for.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Claire Waters
Parish Clerk