Castle Hedingham Parish Council and Burial Board

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[redacted]

To: Mr Alan Roscoe
Definitive Map Service,
Essex County Council,
Seax House, 2nd Floor,
Victoria Road South,
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

23rd August 2022

Dear Mr Roscoe

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2022, FOOTPATH 25 CASTLE HEDINGHAM

With reference to the Made Order for the diversion of Footpath 25 in Castle Hedingham, the matter was again considered at the August Parish Council meeting. The specific concerns of the Parish Council have been reported to you in previous correspondence, most recently our letter dated 17th June during the informal consultation. Your response by email dated 24th June has been noted by Councillors and the willingness of the landowner to consider the points raised is appreciated.

At our August meeting, it was the decision of the Parish Council to respond to the formal consultation by again objecting to the diversion on the grounds of the effect it would have on public enjoyment of the path or way as a whole, and that the diversion would be substantially less convenient to the public. (Highways Act 1980 s119 (6)). Specifically, the proposed new route and fencing in of the footpath will have a detrimental effect on the open views enjoyed by walkers, and there remain concerns from Councillors about the increased gradient.

As you are aware, during the informal consultation the Parish Council considered the likelihood of a strong public feeling about Footpath 25 which links the village centre with the Rushley Green community. They also considered its significance in relation to Castle Hedingham's historic involvement in Magna Carta, which the village commemorated on the 800th anniversary in 2015 with a variety of events and permanent memorials, including Footpath 25 as the start of the "Magna Carta walk" between Castle Hedingham and Clare. Since the Made Order was posted on the Parish Council noticeboard and at the footpath itself at the beginning of August, the strength of public feeling has been confirmed by a large number of parishioners expressing their objections and we are also aware of a petition signed by over 400 local residents.

For these reasons, the Parish Council objects to this proposed diversion of Footpath 25.

Yours sincerely

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Claire Waters
Parish Clerk