



HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – Section 119

SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF REASONS

Bromford Housing Group Ltd (formally Merlin Housing Society Ltd) are seeking to divert part of public footpath LSO 47 where the recorded alignment runs through 5 residential properties on Chapel Lane, Old Sodbury within their ownership. This situation has occurred as a result of historic oversights where housing development has taken place without the correct legal orders having been processed; the properties were built in the 1950's. Bromford Housing Group Ltd has inherited this problem and now wish to rectify the situation in order to improve their housing stock.

With regard to the legal tests to be satisfied under the Act: -

- In the interests of the landowner it is expedient that the footpath is diverted to remove the path from running through residential properties;
- The proposed diversion will not be substantially less convenient to the public as users will still be able to connect to Chapel Lane via public footpath LSO 40A, then following the adopted footway alongside Chapel Lane heading south towards public footpaths LSO 71 and 72. The diverted alignment will provide a surfaced path, separated from Chapel Lane, on a section where there is presently no adopted footway;
- It is expedient to confirm the order having regard to the effect it will have on public enjoyment of the path as a whole as the proposed new alignment will be unobstructed and the links to the wider path network will be retained;
- Bromford Housing Group Ltd and South Gloucestershire Council, under the terms of a Collateral Warranty Agreement between them have agreed to pay the costs of this order and the minor expenses that will be incurred in making the proposed route ready for use by the public.

