



6th February 2021.

Dear Mrs Groth,

Access to Witney Town Allotments: Witney Road, Ducklington, Oxon

I am writing to you in my capacity as owner of land off Witney Road, Ducklington, which includes the private access road leading down to the WTC allotments.

We have had correspondence in the past, but for background information, my father J.F.Jones sold WTC the allotment land to the Council in 1987. Ownership of a remaining parcel of land and the front stretch of the access road, from Witney Road, remained with him, and has now passed to me.

The contract for sale provided for access across my road, for the allotment holders only, and for no other purpose. Regretably, whenever I now visit my land I invariably find a vehicle parked along the access, which has no connection with the allotments; and increasingly with Covid – 19, a regular flow of people walking down the access road. Their reason is indisputably to visit your asset, the Witney Lakes, as I have found when I stop people and enquire. As you will know, access to the Lakes, from Ducklington, is via the public footpath across the field to the south. Whilst my private road may be considerably more convenient, it is private, and what is happening is a continuing breach of contract that is detrimental to the quiet enjoyment of my property.

Whilst wishing to be constructive on this matter, I hope you will appreciate the need for me to bring this to your attention, as I do need to request that you take immediate appropriate measures to bring an end to the breach of contract, and stop people, walking, cycling, or in cars, who are not allotment holders, from using my private road for the purposes of accessing the Witney Lakes.

To resolve this matter, I would ask that you erect a full width gate, or gates, across the road, in similar style to those you have at the access to the allotments, and positioned at the point where your property begins, ie just in front (west) of the pull – in where your allotment holders shed used to be sited. I would also like to see a sign placed behind the wire mesh advising people that access along the road is private. I have on a number of occasions tried placing signs further along the road, but to little avail, as being unprotected, they do not remain in place very long. However, given that the trespass that is taking place is a direct result of the Witney Lakes, I do feel you have to accept responsibility. When I do try to explain to people they are on private land, they ignore me without compunction. I have no wish to impede the rightful access of allotment holders, and could only suggest that a code operated digi lock be used for their ease of use.

I regret the need to write to you in these terms, and trust your Council will appreciate the position I find myself in. I am happy to meet on site with an appropriate officer / councillor, but would ask that

this matter is treated with the urgency it now requires as I cannot permit it to continue. I would therefore ask for your early reply.

Yours faithfully,

Laurence Jones



Mrs. S. Groth,
The Clerk to the Council
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