

Evidence regarding the footpath through Queen Margaret's School from Parish Council Minutes

October 2000

Mr Forbes Adam explained the reasons why he felt it necessary to tighten up on members of the public entering Escrick Park. He emphasised that in no way does he wish to bar long-standing residents of Escrick from enjoying the pleasure of walking through the Park, nor does he wish to create conflict. He does however, have to protect the estate and he wishes to avoid the situation where just anybody feels they have the right to access. Discussion followed as to how this course of action could be effectively carried out and a register of names or a card system were suggested. Mr Forbes Adam will consider the issuing of cards, but also reiterated that villagers were welcome to walk in the grounds providing **they have first obtained permission** from the Estate Office.

March 2003

"No Entry" signs have been placed at various places in the Hollicarrs. Parish Councillors are not aware of any agreement in which the "right of way" has been withdrawn for members of the village. Mr Wilson will ask Mr Forbes Adam for clarification.

June 2003

Parish Councillors had expressed concern at "No Entry" signs in the Hollicarrs and Mr Forbes Adam was asked for clarification. He stated that there was a **permissive circular footpath** to the Temple. However the Estate Management have concerns about security and unknown people entering the area.

January 2004

Mr Smowton also asked for it to be minuted that the school's entrance from Main Street will be closed for one day a year thereby safeguarding the school's **permissive** right of way.

Mr Wilson had spoken to Dr Chapman who had stated that his letter to residents of the village was badly worded and that he was asking, not stopping, residents from entering the school grounds from Main Street. He also stated that residents who have walked this way over the year are welcome to continue to do so.

July 2004

A member of the public attended the meeting to report that she had walked through Queen Margaret School and was challenged in an intimidating manner by the Head Master. Mr Terry Wilson, previous chair of EPC produced the article he had printed in the parish magazine earlier this year which said that parishioners who had always used this road were entitled to walk through QM grounds. Bill Reader informed the Council that the road through QM is owned by the estate and it had been a right of way for the public for many years. Clarification was to be sought by the chairman from Charles Forbes Adam. Councillor Casing requested a letter be sent to QM about today's incident.

September 2004

Footpath through Queen Margaret's School: The Chairman had received a letter from the Headmaster of QM school asking that the use of this as a footpath should cease bearing in mind the alternative that had been provided by the Estate through Gas House Wood and around the cricket field. This request was on grounds for security and privacy. **The Chairman had obtained a letter from Mr Forbes Adam who confirmed that this had never been a public right of way and was permissive only** and that he also felt that the alternative route was such that there was no necessity to use the access through the Park Gates to the cricket field. The

matter was fully discussed by EPC and the Chairman pointed out that the Council had either to accept what was being said or to challenge it formally and try to establish if there were public rights. It was proposed by Mr Russell that the Parish Council accept there is no public right of way and that we agree to the Headmasters request that use of the path should be restricted. This was seconded by Ms Judy Wanless and was unanimously carried. The Headmaster had offered to allow certain elderly residents to continue using the right of way. All visitors to the school from September in any event will be required to have identity badges and these could also be issued to users of the footpath. It was also suggested that a notice be placed on the Park Gates to the effect that there was restricted access, as this would deter strangers from walking through. The Chairman is to write to the Headmaster to agree a statement to be placed in the Parish Magazine. Mr Charles Forbes Adam reported that there were paths provided through Gas House Wood to a standard suitable for use with wheelchairs.

October 2004

Access through Queen Margaret's School: Members of the public have approached Mrs Casling and Mr Forster separately about the restricted access through QM. The chair reported that anyone wishing to use this access should write directly to Dr Chapman, the headmaster of QM to get an identity badge to enable them access through the school grounds. He confirmed that EPC are not going to persue the right of way through the school.