



Bothenhampton & Walditch

Parish Council since 1886

Mr M Pearce  
Director  
Flaghead Developments Ltd  
23a Church Road  
Poole  
BH14 8UF

6<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Mr Pearce

**RE: FOOTPATH AND HEDGE TO THE RIGHT OF CHURCH RISE, BOTHENHAMPTON**

I refer to your enquiry to the Clerk regarding the above. The Parish Council has looked into this in detail and we can confirm that although Dorset Council are responsible for the footpaths of public rights of way, hedges and trees are the responsibility of the landowner.

In your initial email you mentioned that you had laid the hedge in March and that you consider it is part of the footpath rather than your land. Notwithstanding the variation in the level of the footpath to the land (which you mention to be 3ft), we consider that the hedge is yours to maintain and we would encourage you to ensure that the footpath is kept clear. (ie hedge clipped back as far as necessary to enable walkers to access the path unimpeded).

In our correspondence with Dorset Council it has been made clear that bats use linear features such as hedgerows for hunting and navigating, however it is doubtful that the hedge is used for roosting unless there are large trees available within the hedge. Dorset Council advise that if there is any possibility of bats residing in the hedge then you are obliged to contact the Bat Conservation Trust or Dorset Wildlife Trust.

We recommend that as the developer, you set a covenant on the new properties that are to be built to ensure that the hedge is kept maintained and that any evidence of bat habitation is reported to the Bat Conservation Trust and/or Dorset Wildlife Trust.

We are delighted with the proposal to extend the existing hedge to create a wildlife corridor and consider it an excellent example of responsible ecological behaviour.

Yours sincerely,

A J Basker  
Chairman  
Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council

[clerk@bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com](mailto:clerk@bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com)

Website [www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com](http://www.bothenhamptonwalditchparishcouncil.com)