

WISLEY – BYFLEET FOOTPATH
INFORMATION ABOUT SIGNS REQUIRED
OBJECTIONS TO BRIDLEWAY

Following an extensive campaign by the Woking and Elmbridge Cycle Groups, Surrey County Council is trying to change the Wisley to Byfleet footpath into a **bridleway**. It's the footpath which runs from Wisley Lane, opposite the Courtyard, passing Bayan and running along the side of the waterworks, and then going under the M25 to Sanway.

The proposed bridleway cannot legally come into effect because statutory objections to oppose it are being made. If the Council still decides to go ahead, then the Secretary of State for the Environment will have to hold a public inquiry to decide the matter.

If the change to a bridleway takes place, then cyclists and horse riders will be able to use the path as well as pedestrians. The two kissing gates will be removed by the Council and, whatever the Council say, there will be no means of preventing access by **motorbikes**, with the noise and disturbance they cause, as used to happen before the kissing gates were installed. The noise of motor scramblers is horrendous. There will be a return to much of the anti-social behaviour we have seen in the past.

If you wish to continue to use the path as it is now, safe and secure especially for children and families, without motorbikes having access, without cyclists, and horse riders and the mess they leave behind and don't clear up, please consider if you can help to save the footpath.

As the owner of the land over which the path runs from Wisley Lane to the M25, I am objecting to the bridleway because all the signs put up along the path clearly restricted access to pedestrians only, and showed that there was never any intention to dedicate the path as a bridleway for cyclists or horse riders.

No cyclist has ever used the path without signs of some sort being there, and I say this being acquainted with Wisley for 40 years.

It is not sufficient for the cyclists simply to say that they have used the path for 20 years. Rights of way cannot be acquired where the landowner has shown that he did not consent, permit or acquiesce to those rights being granted. As a matter of law, if signs have been put up by the owner or SCC anytime within the 20 year period, making it clear that it was only a footpath, then the footpath cannot be changed into a bridleway.