



**Epping Forest
District Council**

***Report to Area Plans Sub-Committee
East***

Date of meeting: 8 December 2010

Subject: Extension of Footpath 51 linking Norton Heath Road to Spains Hall Road, Willingale.

Officer contact for further information: Nigel Richardson - Ext 4110

Recommendation(s):

- 1. To notify Essex County Council that No Objection be raised to an order being made to extend Footpath 51 as proposed.**

Background

(Head of Planning and Economic Development). Essex County Council have consulted Epping Forest District under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, of their intention to extend a footpath that runs north off Norton Heath Road to meet a track running south towards it off Spains Hall Road.

Report Detail

The Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way shows the footpath as shown in bold on the appended plan. On the Definitive Map it suddenly stops and therefore in theory a person would have to turn about and walk back. This anomaly appears to have been created because the path used to run through Chipping Ongar Royal Airforce Station and was intended to divert onto the tracks that run through the former airfield, but there is no evidence that this was formally completed.

The current owners of what was the airfield have confirmed to Essex CC that they have no objections to the footpath extension as shown as a series of crosses on the same appended plan. The position as shown would follow the route of a path on the ground. It would be 1.5 metres wide partly along the field edge, as usual for field edge paths, and 3 metres wide, as existing, along the more northern section that follows the existing track up to Spains Hall Road.

Essex CC are carrying out the external consultation process, but within Epping Forest District, the Assistant Country Care Manager has raised no objections given the path would be on the route of what currently exists here. The footpath linked through between two roads would clearly encourage the enjoyment of the countryside for residents, the public and ramblers.

Conclusion:

There are no objections to proposal and it would be in the public interest to have Footpath 51 extended which could be done without any undue harm caused to the countryside or the amenities of any local resident.