

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 2 OCTOBER 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**UPDATE ON TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF PUBLIC FOOTPATH L87
AT CASTLE DONINGTON**

Purpose of Report

1. To update members on the temporary closure of Public Footpath L87 at Castle Donington.

Background Information

2. Footpath L87 at Castle Donington was temporarily closed under the provisions of Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 on the 20th March 2008. The Order came into force on 1st April 2008 and lasts for 6 months. The closure order ceases on the 1st October 2008.
3. While the order is in force an alternative route for pedestrians has been provided, as shown on the attached plan.

Reasons for the Closure

4. The closure was initiated by the Highways Transportation & Waste Management Department and the Order made by the Chief Executive's Department, in response to a request from the proprietors of Donington Park, to enable a campsite to be erected in association with events being held at the Park during the summer.
5. The Highways Solicitor explained the legal background to this Order at the Forum's meeting on 12th June 2008.

Review of Case

6. In the light of the concerns expressed by members of the L.A.F. the case of Footpath L87 has been reviewed and several issues which should be considered in future cases have been identified.
7. It may in some cases be more appropriate to refer applicants to the relevant District Council to process an order as it has powers to close highways specifically to enable public events of a temporary nature to take place under the provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act of 1847.
8. In future officers will continue to carefully scrutinise applications for temporary closures to make sure that:-
 - a) the closure is absolutely necessary,
 - b) The reasons for the closure fulfil the requirements set out in the relevant legislation.

- c) Any temporary closure orders should in future, only be operative for the minimum period necessary and for no longer than is actually required.
 - d) Any alternative routes, not on existing public highways, are open available and clearly signed before the closure comes into operation.
9. The Temporary Closure Order affecting Footpath L87 ends on 1st of October 2008. The Chief Executive/The Director of Community Services will be writing to Donington Park to inform them that as of 1st October Footpath L87 must be made open and available for use to the public once more. The Park will also be informed that the authority will not be making a 6 month temporary closure order next year and, therefore, other means of resolving the Park's operational issues will need to be found.

Recommendation

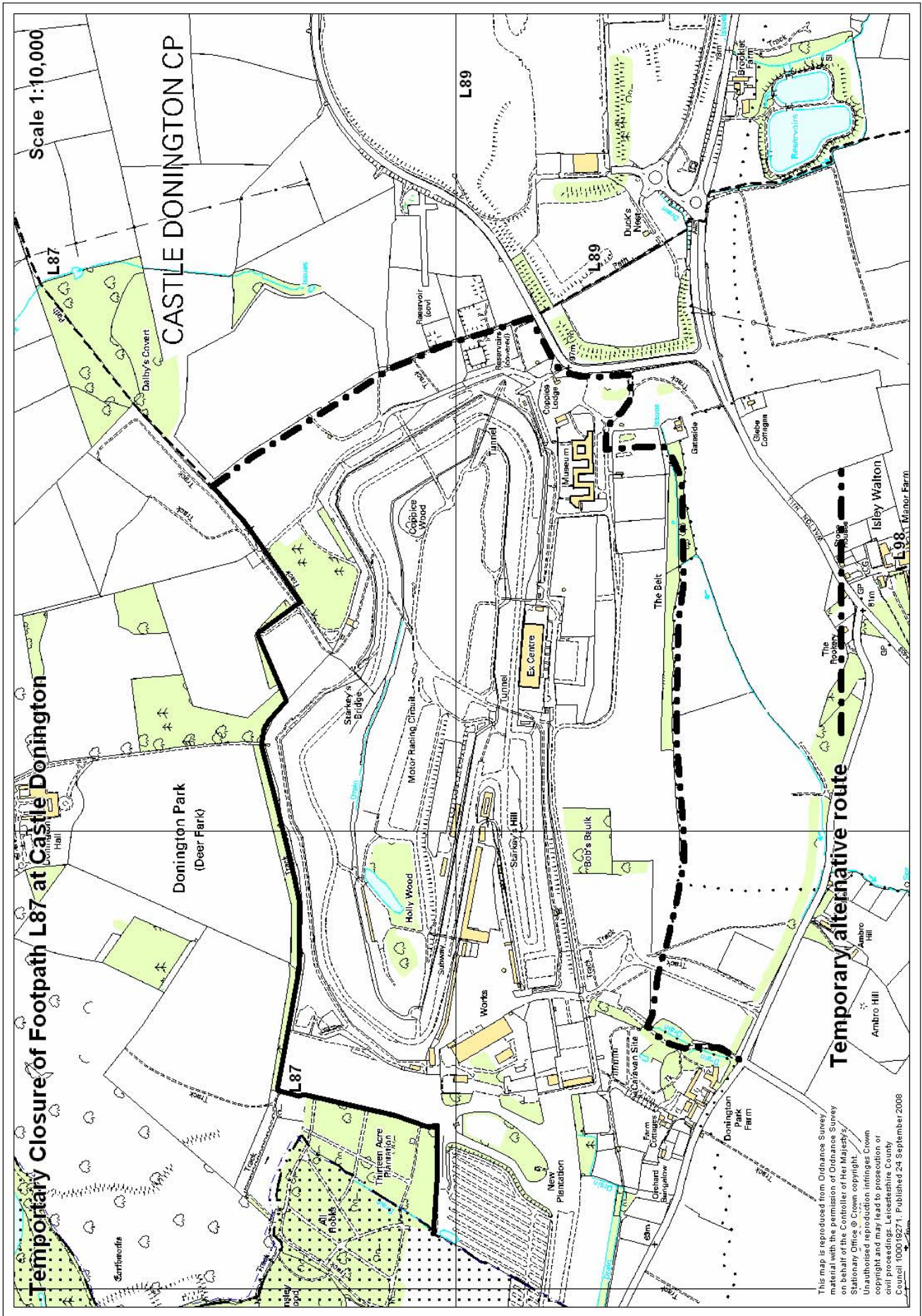
That the Forum notes the report.

Officer to Contact

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Appendices

Appendix – L87 alternative route



Scale 1:10,000

Temporary Closure of Footpath L87 at Castle Donington

CASTLE DONINGTON CP

Donington Park (Deer Park)

Temporary alternative route

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