



Rear Admiral Kidner (retired) v Somerset County Council & Herrick

Comments and Ratings from Daily Mail and Daily Telegraph articles published on 12th. March 2009

Wow, that's turned out to be one expensive gate - £300,000!

Rating: Plus 89

- Bea, London, 11/3/2009 14:43

Walkers and ramblers, are a pest, on the landscape of Britain.

Rating: Plus 78

- Bonny, Argyll & Bute, 11/3/2009 14:53

If it is a public right of way, the gates should not have been put there in the first place. Ostentatious!

Rating: Minus 27

- Shirley, UK, 11/3/2009 15:09

Beware councils - The Enemy Within...

Rating: Minus 44

- Epimethean, Reigate, 11/3/2009 15:09

I don't understand what the problem is - if people can still use the footpath then why are people wasting so much money suing for the right to use it - seems kind of stupid to me.

Rating: Plus 168

- Alan, Bexhill, 11/3/2009 15:16

You would think that they could agree on a seperate 'kissing gate' or something?

The man must have rights to protect his property and livestock. Just because someone doesn't like the 'look' of the gates should not be a reason to remove them. I do believe that rights of way should be kept open to the public.

Rating: Plus 131

- John, UK, 11/3/2009 15:25

"It looks like Footballers' Wives or lottery winners have just moved in - a typical case of new money purloining public highway".

What a snob! He should avoid the subject of money with the potential of taxpayers picking up the legal costs.

If you just need to turn the handle to open the gate, and the pathways inside have been so well maintained for ramblers, then I really can't see any justification for going to court in the first place.

Rating: Plus 156

- Ian, London, UK, 11/3/2009 15:31

Minus *It's got nothing to do with an englishman's castle. He was blocking a public right of way, and he knew that when he built them. There's enough bullying going around the country as it is with regards to landowners trying to stop you accessing these paths. Well done to the Council and Peter Kidner!*

Rating: Minus 106

- Lynn Pougher, Carshalton, UK, 11/3/2009 15:32

I wonder what it would have cost the council to make an alternative path onto the disputed right of way which as the article states" is used by many people who support Mr Herrick," ,by going around the property and without having to pull down the pillars and gates,(perhaps it was not possible to go around?) It appears that Mr Kidner despite saying that he "would like to settle it amicably" really wants his own way in the matter, despite the £300,000 cost to the taxpayer, and being an ex "Royal Navy Rear Admiral" will no doubt expect people to still jump when he speaks!!

Rating: Plus 67

- frank, scotland, 11/3/2009 15:33

This is madness, the path was easily accessible - there was no need for this. Kidner is just causing trouble - and the ludicrous Somerset council has let him waste valuable council funds - liberal nonsense gone mad, this makes me furious! Petty bloody minded idiots with nothing better to do with there time - spoil things for the rest of us. The Herricks should sell and lets see if the new owners keep these pathways half as well - which i doubt! Will serve the bloodyminded petty Kidners of this world right.....

Rating: Plus 122

- Miffed of Dorset, Dorset, 11/3/2009 15:52

Trevor,

For starters it's a council matter not a government matter. Honestly, some people on this site would blame Gordon Brown for the weather. (Though it may be that the mail gives preference to these type of comment) Also, why should he allowed to block centuries old rights of way just because he's rich?

Rating: Minus 11

- Tony, Bristol England, 11/3/2009 15:55

I think its about time the Queen asked our current PM to step down. She's the only one who can force him. this country gets more ridiculous every single day.

Rating: Plus 20

- Netti, Planet Earth, definately, 11/3/2009 15:59

not when your blocking off public foot paths

Rating: Minus 34

- d.harrison, bath, 11/3/2009 16:03

I think the gates look very nice, I don't see a problem s the owner of the house even changed the automatic gates so that the rambles could use them at their own will.

What an upstart Mr Peter Kidner is.

I totally disagree with the way they say public right of way, the only time they should have right of way is if they bought the house.

It's his house & upto him who he wants on his property, what next they think they can just barge into his house also, come on people get real, you want to take long walks go to the places that will let you & where you don't bother the owners of the property.

I hope that Mr Peter Kidner looses his appeal, he doesn't deserve to win. arrogant man.

Rating: Plus 220

- Lynn L, Ex-Pat, 11/3/2009 16:05

Trevor, you voted for 'em! Ha, ha, ha

Rating: Plus 38

- Philip, Warsaw, Poland, 11/3/2009 16:13

Quote:"Mr Herrick said: 'It is really bonkers and a complete waste of resources which we would have gladly spent on many other community projects.'.....How right that is, a complete waste of resources, surely if he (Mr Herrick) has NOT stopped anyone using the footpath, AND co-operated by changing the mechanism to a handle, then where is the problem? Mr Kidner, Somerset County Council, AND the Judges, have a lot to answer for in wasting this public money, does this not say it all?.....Ian Greenfield, of the South Petherton Walking Group said: 'This is a very distressing situation when a local resident takes such personal action. 'The Herricks provide an extremely well-maintained footpath network on their land which is greatly appreciated.

Rating: Plus 293

- Fred Steele, Hinckley Leicestershire, 11/3/2009 16:14