

REPLACEMENT OF FENCES ALONG THE A337/A35/A326 WHICH ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (HCC)

Presentment by Tony Vanderhoek, New Forest CDA Co-opted Committee Member and Practising Commoner

'Further to my presentment dated 8th August 2020 highlighting this crucial issue, it is very welcome to see that HCC are replacing the dilapidated stock fencing along the A roads that they are responsible for through the Forest. I visited the site opposite Cadnam Cricket ground on 13th November and wooden post and rail/wire stock netting is being erected to replace the damaged wooden post and wire which is excellent news.

Unfortunately, in other areas replacement fencing I have recently viewed and made aware of is still just wooden post and wire, which is not of a good enough standard to be effective stock proofing. In some places the repairs are very poor, for example opposite Hollands Wood campsite, the entrance into Buckford Inclosure where a repair left a straining post at a 45 degree angle.

The default stock fencing standard adopted by HCC is very poor and I urge the Verderers make it clear to HCC to improve the standard of fencing to the wooden post and rail/wire stock netting type and there must be a programme of complete replacement of the fencing along all these A roads to that standard - good examples seen along the A31 erected by Highways England. I understand that this type of fencing is more costly than wooden post and wire; however, it is longer lasting and effective. No one wants to see breaches by Commoners' animals onto these busy fast roads and the people/animal carnage that could ensue, so good fencing is imperative.

Local contractors who are familiar with the correct standard of stock fencing should be used.

I repeat the fact that it is also imperative that HCC conducts a routine regular perambulation of the fences to ensure their integrity.

Thank You'