

A place where people and wildlife live together in harmony...



Bideford Station
Railway Terrace
East-the-Water
Bideford

Paula Ferris
36 Stallards
Braunton
Devon
EX33 IBP

Dear Paula

Re: Braunton Burrows; Broadsands Carpark Closure

Thank you for sending me a copy of your paper on the above issue which is a matter that is of great concern to all of us at Bideford Station. Although Braunton Burrows is part of the AONB because of its importance as the core of the Biosphere Reserve Andy Bell, the Biosphere Co-ordinator and line manager of the AONB Service takes the lead for the Service on all the issues relating to this area. (Incidentally Andy has not yet directly received a copy of your paper.) I would not normally comment on behalf of the AONB unless the Partnership specifically asks me to do so.

Andy has made the following statement which may be of interest to you

'The closure of parking on CDET land at Broadsands has been stimulated primarily by a joint concern of abuse of the area by 4x4 vehicles, motorbikes, unauthorised camping, raves and evidence of drug use. The latter resulting in a child being accidentally injured by a discarded syringe

We sympathise with the need to address these problems at the same time understand the concerns of the law abiding and considerate public. to that and we are ensuring that any barrier put in places meets the legal requirements regarding any recorded rights of access i.e. Public Footpath and SWCP, and complies with disability discrimination act. The barrier will not preclude the existing non-motorised access over the area.

The barrier solution was developed as a result of consultation with adjacent landowners, the MOD Police and Local Police. It was agreed through a health and Safety assessment that it is not appropriate for a single warden to personally address the abuse of the site, nor would there be enough time in the day for a warden to do the rest of his/her core work on managing the mod usage and conservation work on the site.'

The main thrust of your paper is around communication and consultation with the local community. Part of the AONB Vision is to make it *'A place where the community actively participates in the management of the area by identifying and helping to deliver solutions.'* We would therefore be keen to see a full and open debate on this issue and welcome the news that presentations on the closure will be given at the Taw Torridge Estuary Forum next week.

We have a popular website and a PR consultant and would be more than happy to post up factual statements about the reasons for the closure and the other issues which you raised or help promote consultation should the MOD or English Nature wish us to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Linda Blanchard
Manager
North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cc Andrew Bell NDCCS
Rose Day TTEF