

## **Proposal to close a gap in the Dedham Parish Council (DPC) Sport's Field boundary hedge.**

The DPC have been asked to consider closing the gap in the hedge which occurs between the edge of the Beech House rear boundary and the rear boundary of No1 Frog Meadow. This is the start of a passageway behind the Frog Meadow houses and adjacent to the Beech House side garden boundary. It follows the original course of the Black Brook.

The request was made by the residents of 7 Frog meadow who had intercepted young children who were walking down the passageway. When they got to the brook they were climbing over the fence of No 7 into their front garden to get out onto the road. It had resulted in one youngster being spoken to by the police.

The householders have asked that DPC consider the danger young children are placed in by allowing the opening to what appears to be a footpath through to the road. They have requested that this gap in the boundary hedge be closed.

Other residents have confirmed that adults as well as young children have used the passageway treating it as a footpath. The adults turning back when they realise there is no way through to the road but not the children.

In addition, both the Parish Council and Frog Meadow residents have experienced flooding after heavy rainfall. Whilst this is not a regular occurrence, it has in recent times damaged the grass on an area of the playing field as well as flooding some back gardens.

Having considered the various options of providing no entry signage, or barrier fencing, or a lockable metal gate, the metal gate appears to be the best solution. The metal gate should be of an open design to allow water to flow through but debris to be trapped.

This solution as well as protecting young children provides an additional benefit as DPC have responsibility for playing field maintenance.

**Proposal:** The gap in the DPC boundary on the playing field leading to the passageway behind the Frog Meadow houses be closed by a metal gate of open design with small 'No Entry' notice attached. The maximum budget for the gate, other material costs and the erection of the gate not to exceed £500. The gate initially to be unlocked to allow access for hedge and passageway maintenance only.

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Festnight-Barrier-Provide-Privacy-Security/dp/B0868L89ZP/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=festnight+fence+gate+1x+1.5+metres+with+spike+top&qid=1606727961&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Festnight-Barrier-Provide-Privacy-Security/dp/B0868L89ZP/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=festnight+fence+gate+1x+1.5+metres+with+spike+top&qid=1606727961&sr=8-1)