

21 Bibury Crescent,
Hanham
Bristol,
BS15 3EX

24-09-19

Dear Mr Butterworth,

It was only this last week-end that the family read the sign posted on Blue Anchor prom. (Admittedly the publication date was hidden and reading the notice was not helped by the smell emanating from the adjacent dog bin!)

My first visit to Blue Anchor was as a 16year old who with family were having an Easter break in a Railway Camping Coach; paraffin cooking and lighting, toilet and water available on the railway station. The local shop was a converted chalet that backed onto the railway line so everyone had to enter the area now gated and fenced to buy necessities. (Discovered this year that one of the residents of Chapel Cleeve may have served me!) No cars so transport to explore Exmoor was by train, bus or foot.

With the introduction of petrol coupons in 1973 we wondered if it would be possible to holiday, as we had been, in North Wales. Let's try Exmoor! Each self-catering flat or house seemed to be booked, a caravan was the only hope.

That summer holiday was the first of four years in a rented caravan since followed by 43 years and three generations of the family in our own caravan at Blue Anchor.

We were more than a little taken aback by the reception two(?) years ago when we were told by the person in the end chalet that we were on private land and would have to walk on the beach. The wooden fencing was erected a little later and I remember meeting, by chance, two local council operatives trying to solve the problem of who had, and where was, this right of way. There were rumours of digitalisation problems in Taunton. I pointed out that to gain access to the life belt the wooden fence would have to be climbed!

This year when beginning or ending a walk we have found the gate at the Dunster end of the fencing has not been locked and nor has the pedestrian gate at the station end. One cyclist returning from a day's 'grind' in Minehead cycled through the area. I have also wondered how walkers on the National Coastal Path cope with a high tide!

Over the years we have witnessed some erosion such that the tide creeps ever nearer the fences and the row of chalets. In comparison walkers can get right to the side of our caravan so what makes walkers and the reaction of chalet owners so different? One owner was convinced that it was not the force of the tide but the number of walkers that was causing the erosion of the grassy bank.

May it be forever possible for visitors and residents to enjoy the peace, beauty and accessibility of West Somerset.

I wish you every success in getting the pedestrian right of way re-instated away from the beach.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Templar.

Peter Templar.