

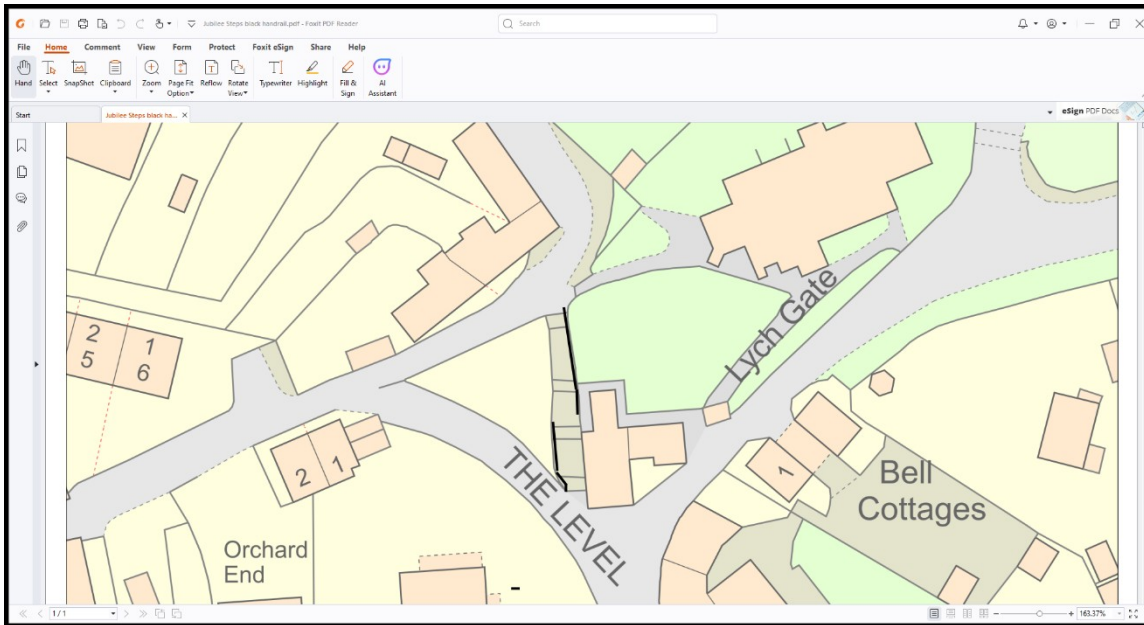
DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe

Jubilee Steps Handrail Project - Have your say!

Proposal:

For the Parish Council to finance this type of railing and be responsible for maintaining it. The rails and uprights would be round, black in colour and fixed to the ground, **not** the walls. The handrail would cross over from the churchyard side to the other just before the first entrance to Church Cottage which, fortuitously, is high enough up the steps to avoid walking through the cornus tree droppings.



Mock-up of proposal



A similar railing in Dartmouth

If it is considered that this is a good way forward, then the project will be costed and residents will be consulted again about whether the Parish Council should progress with the installation.

Please comment to: parishclerk@dittishamparish.co.uk or 01803 722417

Feedback can also be given at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17 April at 7 pm - when the proposals will be on display.

Please respond by 24 April 2024 (so your views can be considered by the 1 May meeting of DPC).

DITTISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Incorporating the Hamlet of Capton and the Manors of Bozomzeal and Coombe

Background

A number of residents have tripped up or slipped down the Jubilee steps which link The Level to Lower Street and the issue has been raised over the past few years in Parish Council meetings.

Devon County Council was contacted, as the steps are their maintenance responsibility (South Hams District Council are responsible for sweeping the surface). Devon County Council assessed the steps).

They have assessed the steps and don't have logged safety incidents there. Devon County Council decided that it couldn't justify expenditure to install railings there.

Devon County Council has said a handrail would have to be paid for by the Parish Council – both initial purchase and installation cost and ongoing maintenance cost.

The steps are not the Parish Council's responsibility or liability, but it is allowed to step in and install railings with Devon County Council's agreement.

The Parish Council considered the options available to improve safety of the steps and it was agreed to ask the Parish Lengthsman to use a salt based weed treatment four times a year and to clear the steps of vegetation on a regular basis. 'Slippery when wet' warning signs were put up on the walls at the top and bottom of the steps.

The request for railings was forcibly raised by residents at the Parish Council's December meeting in 2022 and the Parish Council agreed to look into management options including railings.

After an on-site meeting with a contractor about the positioning of the rail and 'ball park' costs, discussions with the owners of the walls on either side, research into railings on steps in Dartmouth, and finally advice from South Hams District Council Planning (the steps are in the Conservation Area) the 'mock up' railing ideas are out for public consultation.

Many thanks to Cllr Unitt for leading on this project.