

I am Chief Executive of Compass Mobility Services and have known Mr. and Mrs. Herrick since they have engaged with our services. We provide advice and consultation services to authorities, informing them of the needs of disabled people and how they can access services and facilities.

We provide contracted services to Somerset County Council, Taunton Deane, Somerset Primary Care Trust and many other local authorities. We support and organise 'Accessible Somerset' a programme to promote disabled access to the countryside.

I am restricted to a wheelchair and other mobility vehicles and have experienced the footpaths on the land now owned by Mr. & Mrs. Herrick.

This year I was involved in a BBC Points West programme that was broadcast during the summer which was concerned over access to the rural countryside for people with mobility problems. I represented disabled users and Mr. Herrick through his 'Mobility Awareness' initiative represented the landowner.

Mr. Herrick has initiated the 'Mobility Awareness' project and interactive website which allows people with mobility difficulties to mark footpaths, that can easily be adapted to help them pass, as a problem and then report it to the local authorities to help with their needs.

Mr. Herrick promoted this initiative at their 'Awareness Day' in June this year and we supported this with our stand and personnel attending.

The footpaths at Barcroft Hall are a pleasure for disabled users such as me, they are kept in excellent condition, have been prepared properly, are constantly maintained and give great pleasure to the users.

I have no problem whatsoever passing through the pillars of the entrance to Barcroft Hall with the correct mobility vehicle designed for the countryside.

These pillars do not deter me in any way and do not restrict passage.

*Richard Pittman 2008*