



## **LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

### **REVIEW OF RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To update Forum members on the proposed review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

#### **Background**

2. In 2000 new legislation established the requirement for Local Rights of Way Improvement Plans. Government had been seeking to encourage more people to walk, cycle and ride. In broad terms, the documents review the local rights of way network in areas and consider how best to manage them for the public to use. The documents also contain an Action Plan of how the network will be managed over time and any improvements worthy of focus.
3. The documents have covered all aspects of rights of way management including the recording of paths and order making.
4. In 2006, Leicestershire County Council produced a first Local Improvement Plan. This was to cover the period to 2016. A revision of the document was published in 2011 to update parts and look ahead a bit further. The document is available online.
5. The authority is now proposing to renew the document and put forward a new action and work plan for the next 5 – 10 years.

#### **The Existing Document**

- The current plan includes the following areas:
  - A broad introduction, including policy and health
  - Looking After the network, the management of paths on the ground and how best to do this with work programmes.
  - Recording the network, including the map and statement and changing things looking ahead with Deregulation.
  - Encouraging use and promoting the network
6. The Local Access Forum is seen as the primary consultation body for the plan, including having input into initial proposals. As a starting point, it is suggested that a special workshop is held with the group. As well as a

background presentation(s) this would introduce the process and seek ideas from the group to take matters forward.

7. The authority would also like engage at an early stage, on the future management of the paths and the map itself. Subjects such as the closure of the map and future maintenance of paths are bound to be of interest to members.

#### **Request For Date(s)**

8. It would be helpful if members could identify dates that would be suitable for an initial consultation event. Ideally this would be during working hours and can be hosted at County Hall.
9. If this couldn't be agreed, an evening slot would be made available.
10. More details on the ROWIP are available online, including a pdf version.  
[https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2015/12/8/leics\\_rowip2.pdf](https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/field/pdf/2015/12/8/leics_rowip2.pdf)

#### **Officer To Contact**

Edwin McWilliam, Access Manager  
E-mail: [footpaths@leics.gov.uk](mailto:footpaths@leics.gov.uk)