


# Medway Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030







## What is a ROWIP and what must it cover?

By law every Highway Authority must have a ROWIP which has to set out the Authority's goals and priorities for public rights of way assessing the following:


- The extent local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public
- The opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other recreation and enjoyment
- Accessibility of rights of way to blind, partially sighted and others with mobility problems

# How did we do it?


To complete this assessment we undertook the following:

- (a) studied the legal responsibilities undertaken within the team
- (b) collated and considered data on the condition of the network, using customer enquiries and complaints, a sample condition survey of the network and any requests for improvements to the network
- (c) undertook public and landowner surveys and held workshops with various organisations, user groups and parish councils
- (d) identified any other relevant information, including other plans and strategies for Medway and nationally that take into account social, health and economic benefits of PROW



- 
- To enjoy the countryside
  - To improve health
  - For relaxation, peace and quiet
  - Spending time with friends and family
  - Walking with or without a dog
  - Watching wildlife

What did we find out? – use of PROW

- 
- Overgrown vegetation 53%
  - Obstructions 16%
  - Poor signage and way marking 12%
  - Poor condition of furniture 10%

## What did we find out? – complaints



- 
- Priorities suggested by stakeholders and users:


More support for organisations who are helping or may help maintain the network

Prioritising paths used for leisure, routes to school; also promoted routes

Prioritising accessibility improvements, especially for the less mobile

Interestingly 75% thought all PROW should be maintained to the same standard

# What did we find out? - priorities

- 
- Carried out by volunteers over winter period
  - 39 paths surveyed – approximately 43km (14%)
  - Reported some fingerposts missing, and instances of steps and stiles and bridges in need of some care
  - Highlighted a definite need to gather more information on the assets and condition of our network .

## What did we find out?- condition survey





## Conclusions:

How could the public needs be **better met**

- improving accessibility across whole network e.g. removing stiles
- Promotional material is a priority for people – for people with disabilities, parishes and the public
- Forming new working relationships – e.g. with disability groups new projects - RCT
- Upgrading and linking routes
- Improved maintenance of structures, vegetation clearance, response to complaints
- Supporting visitor economy – especially with England Coastal Path implementation
- Ensuring a good standard of rights of way delivery in new developments
- Potential to involve communities in maintenance and surveying



## 4 Objectives of the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan

- A well maintained Network
  - To protect and maintain the network, prioritising safety and areas of greatest need by developing a problem prioritisation matrix for complaints
  - To improve the understanding and liability of the network, its assets and its condition - by surveying the network and compiling an asset register of structures to prioritise safety on the network
- An Evolving Network
  - To ensure that access improvements are planned to meet Medway's needs through S106 and LTP.
  - To improve connectivity of the network –by supporting projects that promote health and well being, safer routes to school and other destinations, reduce air pollution and support economic growth

## 4 Objectives of the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan

- Serving Medway's Needs
  - To provide updated and new promotional resources
  - To provide information for the visitor economy on national and regionally promoted trails
  - To support those with disabilities or under represented users
  - To support improved health and well being
- Effective Delivery
  - To uphold our statutory legal duties, digitalising maps, reducing anomalies, providing an interactive map
  - To deliver a customer focussed service – by improving Confirm to better suit PROW, developing an online facility for the public to log complaints and developing the prioritisation matrix for complaints
  - To form better partnerships with community organisations, forums and improve our volunteer base.



Consultation  
On the draft  
plan

**Have your say!**

- [www.medway.gov.uk/rightsofwayplan](http://www.medway.gov.uk/rightsofwayplan)