

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Roy Hickey

Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Roy Hickey

Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

- Review rights of way improvement plans (ROWIPs) prepared by outer London boroughs
- Prepare comments for Natural England to feed back to local authorities
- Short term contract – end of March

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Current position

- ❑ 6 authorities have completed and published a ROWIP
- ❑ 7 authorities are in the process of preparing their plan
- ❑ 5 authorities not yet started
- ❑ 2 authorities position unknown

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Legislative requirements

□ Section 60, CROW Act 2000

- Duty on HA to prepare and publish a ROWIP within 5 years
- Contain the HA's assessment of the 'matters specified' and
- A statement of the action it proposes to take:
 - for the management of local ROWs
 - for securing an improved network

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Legislative requirements

- Section 60, CROW Act 2000 'matters specified':
 - Extent to which local ROWs meet the present and likely future needs of the public
 - Opportunities provided for exercise, open air recreation and enjoyment
 - Accessibility to those who are blind or partially sighted or who have other mobility problems

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

DEFRA statutory guidance

“ROWIPs are intended to be the prime means by which HAs identify the changes to be made in the management and improvement of local rights of way in order to meet the Government’s aim of better provision for walkers, cyclists, equestrians and people with mobility problems.”

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

DEFRA statutory guidance

□ Context

- ROWIP to be developed in the context of other plans - and should in turn influence those strategies; healthy living, leisure, recreation, sports, tourism, transport and community strategies
- Existing plans to be adapted or developed to reflect proposals in the ROWIP
- Business plans to provide a mechanism for planning the implementation of the ROWIP

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

DEFRA statutory guidance

- ❑ Make improvements that benefit different types and classes of users
 - ❑ HA to consider the needs and circumstances of people with a wide range of expectations, interests and abilities:

Walkers

Cyclists

Equestrians

Lawful vehicle users

People with mobility problems

Both local people and visitors

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

DEFRA statutory guidance

□ Making the assessment

- Study definitive map and statement, data on applications, condition of the network, HAs performance etc.
- Look at ROWs in conjunction with the wider highways network, permissive routes, open spaces, other access opportunities
- Assess the nature and scale of present and likely future needs of path users
- Consider other relevant plans, documents and sources of information
- Potential for discovery of 'lost ways'

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

DEFRA statutory guidance

- ❑ “An informed conclusion about the strengths and weaknesses of the local ROW network”
 - ❑ Where deficiencies exist or are likely to arise
 - ❑ Accessibility of local ROWs to those with restricted mobility or special needs
 - ❑ Deficiencies in HAs ability to meet its statutory duties and other shortcomings
- ❑ Form the basis of the ROWIP’s statement of action

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

DEFRA statutory guidance

- Statement of action to flow from assessment
 - Make proposals for taking the required action and state how proposals are to be realised
 - Set targets for managing and improving network
 - Establish for each objective:
 - The proposed action
 - Estimated cost
 - Key organisations involved

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

DEFRA statutory guidance

- ❑ Publicising and publishing the plan
 - ❑ Publish ROWIP and give notice in two local newspapers
 - ❑ “Actively seek” representations, including from national and local path user groups
 - ❑ Minimum of 12 weeks for representation
 - ❑ Consider any representations made
 - ❑ Adopt plan and set up monitoring arrangements

Roy Hickey – Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

Rights of Way Improvement Plans

Roy Hickey

Public Rights of Way Services Ltd

rh@prowservices.co.uk