

Stakeholder Working Group on Public Rights of Way

Meeting notes for the ninth meeting of the Group
held on 22nd October 2009
at 1 East Parade, Sheffield, S1 2ET

Attendance

9.1 The meeting was chaired by Ray Anderson and attended by: Alan Kind, Alasdair Mitchell, Alex Lewis, Andrea Graham, Dave Waterman, Gavin Stark, Gwyn Williams, Janet Davis, John Thorp, Kate Ashbrook, Mark Weston, Mike Walker, Paul Johnson, Richard Gething, Robert Halstead, Rosalinde Shaw, Sarah Slade & Sue Steer.

9.2 Apologies were received from Carys Drew & Terry Robinson.

Notes of the previous meeting

9.3 The draft meeting note for 8th September 2009 was confirmed, subject to the following amendments:

- a. 8.16 – correct by replacing ‘recording’ with ‘recorded’
- b. 8.23 (in the 6th row of the table, in the right hand column) clarify that people will object to recording all purpose highways on the DM unless they can be used as such.
- c. 8.23 (in the table) delete the 13th and 14th rows (above the other suggestions heading).
- d. 8.23 (in the 16th row of the table, in the right hand column) clarify that the Group should recommend a review of rights of way for cyclist and that cycle tracks should be recorded on the DM and that equestrians should be able to use them.
- e. 8.23 (in the 20th row of the table, in the right hand column) clarify that the suggestion for a right to apply for creation should be part of a later phase.

Review of action points

9.4 All action points had been completed.

Discussion of the first draft of the Group’s report

9.5 The Secretariat had prepared a document setting out a first draft of the Group’s proposals. It was emphasised that the resulting document is very much a ‘work in progress’ aiming to incorporate the main points of agreement among the Group as well describing

options where there has not been consensus and flagging up issues that might need more work. The report will be strategic: setting out the purpose of improvements rather than the specifics of which legislation etc might need to be changed. The latter would anyway need to be the subject of further consultation and development by Defra. The Group's role is not to pre-empt that detailed legal consideration, but to identify the overall outcomes we think Defra and any other arms of Government need to achieve.

9.6 The remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussion of this first draft of the report. It was agreed that the results of the discussion would be captured within the next draft of the report and not separately written up as a meeting note.

Next steps

9.7 It was agreed that the Secretariat will prepare a second draft of the report and circulate this to Group members at least a week in advance of the final meeting on Thursday 26th November. It is expected that this second draft of the report will be available for limited circulation by members after this meeting: the final decision on this will be taken at the meeting. A third draft of the report will be produced following the November meeting to allow a further opportunity for comment ahead of the end of year and closure for the Christmas period.

Actions

9.8 Members to give further comments on the first draft by Monday 26th October, or as soon as possible after this.

9.9 The Secretariat to circulate a second draft of the report to members at least a week in advance of the final meeting of the Group on 26th November.