



Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills - Executive Director for Environment & Economy
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Report to:	Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum
Date:	4 April 2017
Subject:	Progress of Public Path Orders

Summary:

A report on the progress of Public Path Orders
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Recommendation(s):

That the report is noted and formal written advice given where required

1. Background

The County Council has a power to divert, extinguish or create public rights of way either of its own volition or following an application to do so from the public. The Council may also enter into agreements with landowners regarding the dedication of public rights.

2. Summary of ongoing cases

The County Council is currently working on a number of cases most notably as follows:

- A package of 8 diversions to realign routes in the Coastal Country Park area including the potential dedication of a bridleway over a current footpath. Plans are currently with the Environment and Community Projects Team for review and a site visit is required shortly.
- Level crossing diversion orders at Tallington to reduce risks at two level crossings
- Orders to realign a number of PROW affected by a level crossing at Claypole which will also resolve "missing link" and path status change issues. The routes are awaiting certification, which will happen in the coming months.
- A diversion of part of Public Footpath No. 124 and extinguishment of a non-definitive footpath at North Wold Farm in Tealby.

- Extinguishment and creation orders in Market Deeping and Deeping St James parishes seeking to provide an improved route for a well-used public footpath in a developed area.
- An extinguishment proposal in respect of an obstructed public footpath in Ruskington which lies close to a convenient alternative route: an Order was made 15th March.

These public path orders have been undertaken as they fall within one of three of the following strategic areas:

- Applications from members of the public where public benefit in the proposal can be demonstrated in line with the Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Cases that form part of wider green infrastructure schemes (Coastal Country Park, Witham Valley Country Park etc.)
- Cases forming part of wider Council strategies (Road / Rail Partnerships, Environmental strategies)

The County Council is developing a provisional Public Path Order Policy, which will eventually determine the order in which proposals are processed. This will need to be ratified before it can be implemented, and is subject to any changes necessary once regulations in respect of the Deregulation Act 2015 are issued.

3. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Catherine Beeby, Senior Definitive Map Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or countryside_access@lincolnshire.gov.uk.