

Responses of Planning Authorities in Lincolnshire to the letter sent to them on behalf of the Mid Lincolnshire Local Access Forum in connection with the effect of Planning Applications on Public Rights of Way

<u>Name of Local Authority</u>	<u>Response Received</u>
City of Lincoln	<p>Supports the protection and the development of Public Rights of Way within the City and beyond. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan which was formally adopted in April by the districts of central Lincolnshire in conjunction with the County Council, contains several policies that provide opportunities to protect and enhance Public Rights of Way as part of the wider green infrastructure network of Central Lincolnshire. The advice from Leicestershire Local Access Forum is supported but I am not convinced that it adds a great deal to what has already been formally incorporated into the Local Plan.</p> <p>In terms of Development Management, Chris Miller did offer to send through annual updates of Public Rights of Way mapping layers and we would very much appreciate this. There is a layer within the interactive map for the Local Plan but a specific layer that we can incorporate into our Planning Information System would be extremely helpful so that Public Rights of Way can be identified as early as possible. Equally, whilst we do consult Highways and Planning colleagues at the County Council on almost all of the planning applications that we receive it would make sense to also consult directly with Chris's team. This would be very straightforward to set up once we have the mapping layer.</p>

	<p>We would be pleased to sit down with Chris and discuss matters further and there are opportunities to incorporate Public Rights of Way more centrally into planning decisions in areas such as Traffic Impact Assessments and Health Impact Assessments along with feedback that we can provide to be incorporated into the Rights of Way Improvement Plans.</p>
North Kesteven	<p>Is supportive of the issue of the draft Generic Advice, and which would have a positive role to play in decision making.</p> <p>In terms of the mapping of public rights of way, the Planning Team currently receives GIS updates from the County Council and which are then embedded into our own mapping system. The planning process uses the GIS data to identify constraints and which are used to inform consultations, etc. I understand that the system operates well, and as such we would support the continued release of GIS layer updates.</p>
South Kesteven	<p>The Council is on the Lincs Development Managers Forum and was unable to attend the meeting that considered Rights of Ways issues. The Council has a copy of the minutes of this meeting. The generic advice to planners on rights of way issues was read with interest, was considered a very useful note and was distributed to the planners. The Council has not experienced the negative issues that were raised in the letter from Chris Padley. However, the Council does take learning and development seriously. Chris Padley and the new Senior County Council's Definitive Map officer are invited to attend one of the Council's regular planning officer's training sessions where we can discuss the matters raised in Chris Padley's letter. If this is acceptable, the Council will make contact with the relevant people and send the date of the next training meeting.</p>
Boston	<p>Leicestershire Local Access Forum's advice is considered sound and the principles should be endorsed. The Council does indeed understand the importance of ensuring that planning decisions take full account of protecting</p>

	<p>existing Rights of Way and if possible seeks to extend the network. The Council welcomes the steps being taken to improve the linkages as set out in the letter and as agreed by the Development Management Officers Group. The interim Development Control Manager will review our current procedures in respect of consulting with the County Council's Countryside Services and will improve arrangements if necessary.</p>
East Lindsey	<p>The Council has a formal process in place, in that if an application affects a public right of way we always consult the County Council's Countryside Access Group, for their comments. If, in the unlikely event, a diversion is necessary we will always make sure the County Council are satisfied with that approach. We have to do the diversion if it is because of a planning permission, as one of the duties of the planning team.</p> <p>I can also confirm as a matter of principle the first priority is to protect or enhance an existing route when dealing with an application near a PROW.</p>
West Lindsey	<p>The Council have taken a number of steps to ensure that our consultation and engagement with all consultees is extensive and effective and welcomes the opportunity to consider new guidance that can enhance this further.</p> <p>The guidance that has recently been introduced for the Leicestershire area looks like a very positive step in this regard and officers were grateful to the LAF to be able to learn more about this and discuss the role of the LAF at the Lincolnshire Development Management Officers Group back in June 2017.</p> <p>Many consultees have put in place guidance such as the draft version supplied to improve the way that all parties engage in the planning process and we strongly support the introduction of any further guidance that can assist this further.</p> <p>Whilst it was pleasing to hear within that meeting that in our area this</p>

	consultation is carried out effectively, I recognise that this is not necessarily consistent across all planning authorities and whilst the guidance is non-statutory it is very helpful to understand the most effective ways and means to engage with consultees. I would also strongly advocate the LAF's close engagement in emerging local plans, as this will also ensure that rights of way, open space and amenity is being extensively covered during plan-making.
South Holland	No response received