

## **Stakeholder Working Group on Public Rights of Way**

Meeting notes for the tenth meeting of the Group  
held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
at Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6DE

### **Attendance**

- 9.1 The meeting was chaired by Ray Anderson and attended by: Alan Kind, Alasdair Mitchell, Alex Lewis, Andrea Graham, Carys Drew, 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 Andy Mackintosh has recently taken up a new post within Natural England and attended the meeting in place of Terry Robinson.

### **Notes of the previous meeting**

- 9.3 There were no changes to the draft meeting note and all action points had been completed.

### **Discussion of the second draft of the Group's report**

- 9.4 The Secretariat had prepared a second draft of the report setting out the Group's proposals and this had been circulated to members. The main business of the meeting was to review this draft and discuss any amendments or further work needed to complete the report. The improvements to the draft report agreed during the meeting are not described within this note but will be captured by the Secretariat in a further draft of the report.
- 9.5 During the course of discussions several specific actions were identified for the Secretariat to seek further information or clarify details within the report:
- a. Liaise with Janet over statistics on use of the 1981 Act procedures.
  - b. Check that the statistics quoted in relation to backlogs refer to applications in general and not solely historic claims.
  - c. Find out whether PINS can provide statistics for objected modification orders and the way that cases are treated (i.e. whether by written representations/ hearing/public inquiry).
  - d. Check how the original Countryside Agency estimate of 20,000 lost ways was made and clarify this within the report.

- e. Liaise with Gwyn over the wording of the section of the report on nature conservation.
- f. Liaise with Dave to clarify details of the proposal over the scope of judicial/ statutory review.
- g. Liaise with Dave to clarify statutory provision in the CROW Act 2000 for closing the definitive map to downgrading or removal of recorded rights after the cut-off.
- h. Contact Ellen Duffy at DfT to clarify references to the Street Works Register and Local Street Gazetteer.

### **Completion of the Group's work**

9.6 It was agreed that the Secretariat would produce a third draft of the report to incorporate the improvements to drafting discussed during the meeting and further to the actions listed above. This version of the report would be provided to Group members for limited circulation amongst their constituents. Group members have been very closely involved in the development of proposals and drafting of the report. The purpose in asking for review of the report by immediate constituents is to help the Group gauge reaction to the report and make improvements where it could be misunderstood or the Group's reasoning could be better explained. It was emphasised that members would need to play an active role in advocating the agreed package of proposals to their sectors. Circulation of the report would be controlled to ensure that the contents are not spread or quoted in the press ahead of the report being finalised by the Group and then published.

9.7 The third draft will be prepared for mid December. The Group requested that a further meeting be convened in the New Year to discuss final amendments to the report in the light of their consultations. The Secretariat will make arrangements for this to be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January in London. It was hoped that this will allow for publication and launch of the report in March although it was noted that this timing could be affected by restrictions on announcements being made in the run up to a general election.