

Huddle Hot Topics January 2014

This is the first of a monthly briefing sheet to let you know the key topics on Huddle.

Top news

The Deregulation Bill has now been published. There are clauses in it affecting rights of way – clauses 13-19 and Schedule 6. There's no comment yet on Huddle but progress on the Bill can be seen on <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/deregulation.html>

The Bill follows the Stakeholder Working Group report and the Defra consultation on "Improvements to the policy and legal and framework for public rights of way."

Other news

- **Not-for-Profit Organisation linked to a LAF**

This theme has had a couple of posts during the month. The last post from a County Council Officer stated. "I'm looking to see if a local environmental charity that administers grants (including for access) might want to work to set up a resident/visitor giving scheme that brings in money for community access/PRoW projects.

Interestingly a South Devon hotel has just entered a scheme with the National Trust whereby a £1 voluntary contribution is added to guest bills. Money is being used to support new walking routes in the vicinity. Are there possibilities to extend this type of initiative to public rights of way maintenance and Rights of Way Improvement Plan schemes?

- **Paths in Crisis**

The Ramblers report has sparked a discussion thread. The latest entry comments on the value of Parish Council involvement and also 'adopt a path' schemes. The success of particular groups such as the Mid Cotswolds Trails and Tracks groups in raising money to restore and maintain paths is mentioned. This was a project driven by horse-riders but no reason why other groups could not achieve success in this area.

- **Integrating the Highway Records – The Local Street Gazette**

A technical commentary has been posted on the Local Street Gazette and the Definitive Map and the problems of describing and defining some entries on the LSG. Some highways may not be maintainable at public expense but may still have rights for pedestrians, cyclists, walkers or vehicle users. GeoPlace, the public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association and the Ordnance Survey which has responsibility for the National Street Gazette is looking into some of the difficulties of categorising routes for on-line coding.

For more details contact your LAF Huddle members or let me know if you require any e-mail attachments of specific items.

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