

HUDDLE HOT TOPICS October 2014

Cycling Delivery Plan – consultation. Closing date 13th November (11.15 p.m.)

The cycling delivery plan is the government's 10 year strategy on how they plan to increase cycling and walking across England. It includes an ambition to double cycling levels by 2025 and increase the percentage of school children aged 5-10 years walking to school to 55% by 2025.

The delivery plan includes a number of actions to meet these targets and to facilitate behaviour change across the country by promoting cycling and walking as alternative sustainable travel modes. A draft version of the delivery plan has been published for informal consultation.

Draft plan:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/364791/141015_Cycling_Delivery_Plan.pdf

Email responses to: Walking.Cycling@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/cycling-delivery-plan-informal-consultation>

There has been a lively discussion on Huddle on this Plan during October. In brief the main points raised have been:

- The Plan contains no mention of bridleways, restricted byways and off-road routes.
- Housing development proposals should include 'green routes' of a minimum status of bridleway so that they can be lawfully used by cyclists. One Huddle user referred to one housing development where there is a strategic cycle network of shared or segregated routes on tarmac combined with a recreational route of shared footpath/cycle path on 3m wide hoggin paths, thus providing alternative routes for different types of user. On another new development it is hoped to achieve a bridleway status route.
- Cycling along pavements is generally not acceptable. Most are not fit for purpose and are generally more dangerous and slower than using the road.
- Should the Plan be called an Exercising Delivery Plan?
- Guidance from Defra on the RoWIP (letter from Dan Rogerson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Water, Forestry, Rural Affairs and Resource Management) mentioned reviewing RoWIPs with a view to improve provision for cyclists, equestrian and disabled users. (This letter also referred to the forthcoming cycling and walking delivery plan). These aspects have not been included. The Plan should have a broader perspective.
- Vehicular users help to keep routes in better condition for non-mechanised users by keeping vegetation under control.
- The Plan makes no reference to unrecorded Public Rights of Way.
- One post refers to the fact that the UK roads are amongst the safest in the world and there is a misperception of danger.

Within the posts there are some concerns expressed about possible amendments to the Deregulation Bill. If these are taken through in the Bill full details will be incorporated in future monthly Huddle updates.

Access Groups – key extracts

There is a short information leaflet on the work of the Rights of Way Review Committee, the Highway Records Working Group and the Stakeholder Working Group. The Stakeholder Working Group is the group of stakeholders that produced a report to streamline rights of way procedures, now incorporated in the Deregulation Bill going through Parliament.

- *The Rights of Way Review Committee*

The Rights of Way Review Committee came into existence in 1979 prior to the passing of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and, although the Committee has usually been chaired by an active parliamentarian, it was not set up by the Government, or any Government related body, and thus retains an independent status.

It was formed initially by the Ramblers (then the Ramblers' Association), the Country Landowners' Association and the National Farmers' Union) but later expanded to include representatives of other recreational user groups, local and national authorities.

The Committee retains a rights of way focus but over the years it has broadened its scope to most aspects of public access.

The RWRC is currently chaired by crossbench peer Lord (John) Lytton who was invited to the position in early 2012 and has a keen interest in public access issues.

Over the years the Committee has produced a series of 'Practice Guidance Notes' aimed primarily at the rights of way profession. This published guidance has subsequently been widely used as a definitive reference and information source both for the profession and the wider public.

http://www.iprow.co.uk/gpg/index.php/RWRC_Practice_Guidance_Notes

- *The Highway Records Working Group*

<http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/comm/landing-home.do?id=2747932>

The Definitive Map and Statement are an official record of the public's legal rights but there is no equivalent record for rights of way for motor vehicles. Local Authorities must keep a List of Streets and a Local Street gazetteer but they are not a definitive record. There is inconsistency around the way routes are recorded on these registers and there is also overlap with the definitive map and statement. (See the Stepping Forward Report 6.12 – 6.15).

The Highway Records Working Group (HRWG) was set up by a group of local authority highways officers to try to identify and address some of the issues associated with Highway Records - specifically the existing legislation relating to the List of Streets and its often confusing relationship with other highways/rights of way records. Their terms of reference include a commitment to delivering a nationally recognised policy, and a series of guidelines, to ensure a consistency of approach to this area amongst highways authorities.

LAF Induction Packs and Training

There's a request for outlines and top tips.