

DRAFT RESPONSE

SURREY RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION DRAFT

Q1 - relates to personal details.
 Q2 - relates to personal details.
 Q3 - relates to personal details.

Q4. We have identified the following themes in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Do you agree or disagree with our four themes?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure / no opinion
Theme 1: Public Rights of Way are for Everyone	X		
Theme 2: Maintaining and Protecting the Network	X		
Theme 3: Future Surrey	X		
Theme 4: Communications and Partnerships	X		

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives for Theme 1: Public Rights of Way are for Everyone?

Objective 1: To improve our understanding of the needs of all our users, including those presently under-represented, to make sure that the rights of way network continues to evolve to meet their current and future needs.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 1		X				

Objective 2: That the network is as accessible as possible to as many people as possible, regardless of their physical mobility, disability, ethnicity, age, income or

other factors, through working with partners, improving the quality of the network and providing information.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 2	X					

Suggested additional comments:

It should be noted that close to 14% of Epsom & Ewell's population have a disability which limits day to day activities to an extent. It is welcomed that the Plan seeks to meet those needs, as well as those of underrepresented groups. People living with disabilities may be able to take part in equestrian activities and provision for recreational equestrianism should be further encouraged.

Q6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives for Theme 2: Maintaining and Protecting the Network?

Objective 3: To maintain the network in the best possible condition, prioritising safety and targeting maintenance to where there is the greatest need.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 3	x					

Objective 4: To improve the condition of the public rights of way network through supporting others with a responsibility towards public rights of way, including landowners.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 4	x					

Objective 5: To uphold the council's legal duties to provide an up-to-date definitive map and statement which is accessible to the public, and to execute other work streams in relation to legal work to record, protect and vary public rights of way, in order to underpin the objectives and actions in this Rights of Way Improvement Plan

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 5		x				

Suggested additional comments:

Re Objective 3: The Council supports the principle of maintaining and protecting the existing network. However, it should be noted that some Districts and Boroughs to the north of Surrey, including Epsom & Ewell, enjoy much less direct access to the network than other areas. It is therefore considered that as well as preserving the existing, opportunities should be sought to enhance access and opportunities for under-represented areas of the county.

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives for the Theme 3: Future Surrey?

Objective 6: To ensure that development does not impact negatively on public rights of way or their users; that they are protected and any impacts on them are appropriately mitigated. This should be both within the development and in the wider catchment. Rights of Way requirements associated with Strategic sites should be included in Local Plans.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 6	x					

Objective 7: To improve the safety of our users in respect to the impacts of traffic, through seeking improved connections and crossings where there is the greatest need, working with partners on information and initiatives to improve safety and to increase active travel and liveable neighbourhoods.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 7	x					

Objective 8: To ensure that public rights of way contribute to conserving and protecting the outstanding biodiversity, landscape and heritage of Surrey, whilst also providing opportunities to appreciate and understand them.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 8		x				

Suggested additional comments:

Re Objective 7: See response to Q11 below in relation to impact of highway safety in respect of the racehorse training and racing industries.

Q8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the objectives for the Theme 4: Communications and Partnerships?

Objective 9: To protect the network from the impacts of climate change through improving our maintenance techniques, applying best practice, seeking to innovate, using new materials and improving our understanding of changing weather patterns and other impacts on the public rights of way network.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 9		x				

Objective 10: To raise awareness of the public rights of way network and to support existing and new users with opportunities to find out about public rights of way, to explore them, to make the network a more welcoming place and to help people to find their way around.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 10	x					

Objective 11: To encourage responsible use of the countryside, to increase understanding and consideration between users and to lessen impacts on landowners, their businesses and livestock.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
Objective 11	x					

Suggested additional comments:

The Council supports the principle of maintaining and protecting the existing network. However, it should be noted that some Districts and Boroughs to the north of Surrey, including Epsom & Ewell, enjoy much less direct access to the network than other areas. It is therefore considered that as well as preserving the existing, opportunities should be sought to enhance access and opportunities for under-represented areas of the county.

Re objective 11: In relation to landowners, their businesses and livestock, it should also be noted that it is not just livestock/farmers that are affected by rights of way. Within Epsom & Ewell, and other Surrey Districts and Boroughs, the racehorse training and racing industries have an important role to play.

Surrounding Epsom racecourse itself are nationally important racehorse training grounds, which make a positive contribution to the economy and sporting heritage of the area. Epsom Downs supports the training of racehorses and it is considered that special regard should be given to the bridleways and training areas within The Downs to ensure that this special relationship is protected.

Epsom & Walton Downs is private land regulated by the Epsom & Walton Downs Regulation Act 1984, and associated bye-laws, which give the public the legal right for air and exercise but gives precedence to the Racing and Training industries. The Epsom & Walton Downs Conservators and Epsom & Ewell Borough Council have produced guidance for users of the Downs, and Downskeepers patrol the Downs to protect the area and help ensure the safety of all users.

Of particular concern is the potential for conflict, including accidents, between vehicles and horses at crossings, which has the potential to result in injury to horses, riders and drivers.

Whilst therefore the Council supports the aims of Objective 11, consideration of the objective should be widened to cover horse racing and training.

Q9. Please tell us below if you have any further comments.

Additional comments contained within answers above.