



**COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE -
19TH OCTOBER 2005**

SUBJECT: RIGHTS OF WAY

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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1. The Council, in its role as highway authority, is responsible for rights of way. Our principal areas of work relate to the definitive map and maintenance on the ground.
 2. The definitive map (and its associated document the written statement) define where rights of way exist. The definitive map may be changed by adding, deleting or diverting rights of way. The class of a right of way - footpath, bridleway etc - may also be changed. The Right of Way Committee considers all matters on the definitive map in a quasi-judicial manner. The Committee processes about 30 requests to change the map each year.
 3. Maintenance of rights of way is carried out by the Council's own staff and by teams of volunteers. The budget for this work is about £60,000 each year. Priority is given to the most used paths but there is also a longer term programme aimed at clearing all paths.
 4. The Council is currently preparing its Rights of Way Plan. The main client group for this work is, by statute, the Access Forum. Officers would respond positively to a request from the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee to hold a workshop to discuss their attitudes to rights of way