

## **RIGHTS OF WAY CABINET COMMITTEE – 8TH OCTOBER 2007**

**SUBJECT: RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

---

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Members approval for the rights of way improvement plan (RoWIP).

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The RoWIP will be the council's plan for improving rights of way and access to common land and open countryside.
- 2.2 The Welsh Assembly Government has produced guidance about the production of the plan. There is a requirement to produce the plan by Autumn 2007.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The RoWIP is a community document aimed at an improving and important community asset through involvement of the community.
- 3.2 There is also a statutory requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to produce the plan consistent with all key Council Policy and Strategy documents.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, all highway authorities must have produced a 'Rights of Way Improvement Plan' (RoWIP) by the end of Autumn 2007. The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has indicated that they wish all authorities to produce a RoWIP by 1st November 2007.
- 4.2 The plan commenced on the 1st November 2002 and with the guidance of the Local Access Forum this authority been working towards the preparation and completion of the plan in accordance with Welsh Assembly guidelines.
- 4.3 The Action Statement is a result of data collected from various sources and forms the basis of the plan.
- 4.4 The Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan was subject of a Public consultation for a period of three months which ended on the 9th June 2007. Five representations were received during this period and the Draft RoWIP has been amended to fulfil the concerns of the respondents which has resulted in the final version which is now before you.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a financial burden on existing budgets, but much of the work identified within the plan will require substantial additional resources. These will be sourced from externally as far as possible.

## **6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The production of the plan has been achieved with existing staff although addition staff will be necessary to fully implement the Actions of the plan.

## **7. CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Local Access Forum is steward for the production of the plan and has had full oversight of it at every stage of its production and approved of the version before you. The Rights of Way Committee considered the Draft document and resolved to support the contents. The public have been consulted in accordance with WAG guidelines and all responses have been considered by the Local Access Forum and where necessary the plan amended.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 Members are asked to adopt the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the Caerphilly County Borough Council, so the final version can be published.

## **9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Statutory requirement.

## **10. STATUTORY POWER**

- 10.1 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Author: A.J. Sander, Senior Assistant Engineer Rights of Way  
Consultees: Local Access Forum,  
Rights of Way Committee  
Public consultation

Background Papers:  
Rights of Way Improvement Plan