

**Dear Consultee**

**We need YOUR help!**

**Consultation - Dorset Council - Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2022-2032  
DEADLINE October 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

**I am emailing to let you know about a great opportunity!**

**We have launched a consultation to collate views and ideas to help shape the next Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2022-2032**

**As an organisation please can you:**

- **Take the time to read through and complete the consultation questionnaire (link below)**  
**As an organisation you may find it easier to focus on the questions that enable you to submit the strategic issues and use the interactive maps to highlight in more detail project improvement ideas**
- **Please forward and circulate this email & information through your contact databases and network – encouraging your members to take part - we need to reach as many people as possible – thank you.**
- **Please promote this consultation through your publicity – emails, newsletters, notice boards etc**
- **If possible can you reply confirming that you have received this email and how you have been able to promote this consultation**

**Thankyou!**

**Link to official press release**

[Help us improve our path network for walking, cycling and horse-riding - Dorset Council news](#)

**Link to Consultation**

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/rights-of-way-consultation>

## **BACKGROUND**

The [Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan](#) is the prime means for Dorset council, as the Local Highway Authority, to identify and prioritise actions to develop and improve the network of Dorset's footpaths, bridleways, byways, and wider access routes.

Over the past 18 months, more Dorset residents than ever have found that getting outdoors and into the fresh air comforting, restorative and revitalising. To do this, many have used Dorset Public Rights of Way, footpaths, bridleways and byways to walk, ride, cycle, horse carriage drive away from the vehicular highway – and responsibly drive - to explore our locality. Some have perhaps discovered paths and places they haven't visited before, immersing themselves in Dorset's stunning landscapes, rich heritage and fascinating natural world.

**We want to hear from the Dorset wide community – all ages and interests – and various organisations (user groups, landmanagers and wider interest**

groups) so we can develop an improved network of paths that are easy and enjoyable to use for as many people as possible.

Your views are really important – we need to know what it is you love about using Dorset's paths and which paths you use - but we also want to know about what isn't so great and your ideas to address this.

**So what are the barriers, what prevents you from using the paths, what routes would you like to use and why, how can we work with you to develop the Dorset PROW network?**

The [Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation](#) – which includes online maps – will help us understand the key issues that need to be addressed, and let people submit location-specific concerns and project ideas to help us improve Dorset's public rights of way.

The [survey](#) will allow respondents to: –

- Highlight a “missing link” where a new path would join up the network.
- Identify a strategic route linking communities that could be shared by walkers, equestrians & cyclists
- Explore the possibility of creating a safe off-road route where walkers, equestrians and cyclists currently must use the road
- Pinpoint good locations to improve a path's surface, replace stiles with gates and generally indicate where small measures can potentially make a big impact
- Suggest areas where better signage would be useful
- Raise concerns and how they might be addressed
- Reveal historic details such as old stiles and river crossings that need protecting
- Let us know how we might work together on ideas and initiatives.

While we may not be able to accommodate all the ideas and projects in the prioritised delivery plans, all [feedback](#) will be taken into consideration.

Councillor Noc Lacey-Clarke, Cabinet Lead Member for Environment, Travel and Harbours at Dorset Council, said:

“Using public rights of way – the green highways – enables people to get outside and truly explore Dorset's villages, towns and wider countryside.

The benefits are huge where an improved path network can provide car-free walking riding and cycling routes for all ages and abilities at a “community pace” for local journeys; to get out, meet and socialise with local people; opportunities to step out from your doorstep and keep active, relax and unwind; a means to take time to explore and notice the details that we often overlook. Our paths help us all to experience Dorset's rich and varied natural and historic heritage.

Taking part in this [survey](#) is a real opportunity for Dorset people to let us know what they feel works and what needs to be done to improve the way our residents and visitors can enjoy walking, cycling and horse-riding whilst taking care to protect the very landscapes these paths take them through.”

After collating and reviewing the feedback from [the consultation](#), Dorset Council officers will draft a new [Rights of Way Improvement Plan](#) early next year. This plan will be publicly consulted on in the Spring, with the final version published and presented to Cabinet for approval in Summer 2022.

[Please fill in the questionnaire and online maps here](#) by midnight 31 October.

Thank you so much for your time and support contributing to this consultation. Whilst we would prefer you complete the survey to submit your views and ideas – if you have any problems or find it easier you are also welcome to feedback to me via this email address.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need to discuss this in more detail.

**Tara S Hansford**

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Coordinator**

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**Dorset Council**

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[dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

**LIVE CONSULTATION** Dorset Public Rights of  
Way Consultation – please Contribute your ideas!

**DEADLINE 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

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