

Public questions to Council – 4 March 2016

Question from Mr P McKay, Leominster

Question 1

Highways records

Council has advised under FOI that when undertaking the LSG upgrade requiring highway dedication codes to be registered, that our unadopted highways that HC simply must be aware of such as those in regular public use such as Rockfield Road, cul-de-sac's leading to public places such as Dinedor Camp, and to public paths mentioned on the written statements as road to which path connects, are to be registered without any public highway dedication rights of use, expecting instead our parish councils to apply for registration with supporting evidence. I view the legislation and DfT Code of Practice as requiring Council to self-register these unadopted highways, which could be supported by an Evidence Base outlining earlier decisions made when the present records were raised, providing transparency so that all may be aware, HC having the evidence, expertise and responsibility for doing this.

I therefore ask what further instruction/guidance does Council require Government to raise before they would undertake self-registration, which surely would be a more cost effective way forward with completion of the highway records, providing connectivity, and to the standard that the public and parishes expect?

Answer from Cllr P Rone, cabinet member transport and roads

Herefordshire Council considers that it complies with current government guidance in this area. As has previously been advised, the council has a finite resource available for researching and establishing highway rights and these will be prioritised in the first instance to addressing properly made applications.

Supplementary Question

Thank you for your reply. The question of raising applications for this type of road has been discussed by Leominster Town Council who do not consider they ought be expected to raise evidence that this type of road is a highway and make application for its registration, but consider they ought be registered by yourselves without applications, as am sure Hereford City Council would expect for roads such as Rockfield Road.

So my supplementary question is to ask if these roads could be shown on the highway map layer agreed in reply to question to Full Council meeting in December that will show routes under consideration aiding clarity, as being roads whose highway dedication status is undetermined and yet to be assessed, as being the most efficient and least costly way forward ?

I am attending a meeting on Tuesday in committee room at House of Lords and would wish to present Herefordshire Council in a positive light rather than negative, and with council declining to attend a LAF working group meeting to discuss these issues am obliged to resort to this way obtaining such information

Supplementary Answer from Cllr P Rone, cabinet member transport and roads

The supplementary question was withdrawn following a meeting between the questioner, cabinet member and service lead officer..
