Item 5, Questions from members of the public (plus supplementary question)

Questioner: Peter McKay, Leominster

Question:

Would you review the text of the Long List item in your work programme to ensure that it covers both the specific highway and path record issues I suggested be a topic for scrutiny back in December 2022, namely the process for addressing long standing anomalies, etc., in our highway and path records, such as those that Leominster Town Council has requested be addressed as part of the 2021-41 Place Shaping Local Plan, and the Green Lanes shown as footpaths that come about due to use of the non-statutory term CRF, which your research guidance glossary advises where intended to be shown as RUPP's, but were shown as footpaths with use by others than walkers being extinguished in 2031, along with some indication of when could expect scrutiny of these two specific aspects of the highway and path records?

Response:

Yes, the committee will review the Long List as requested and will respond on the substance of the question at the next public meeting.

Supplementary question:

I wish to express my disappointment that the substance of my question is not to be considered at this meeting, with the next meeting being in May, some 18 months after scrutiny topic was suggested to the Government Support Team in conformance with your 'Get Involved' webpage encouragement to do so, so may I ask why your work programme, or any other business is not a routine part of the agenda to cover such matters?

Response:

Thank you for your question.

I have been advised that it is considered not good practice for committees to have an 'any other business' section. This is because, for council meetings held in public, there are rules about papers being provided in advance so that everybody has the opportunity to look at them.

I can let you know that we are in fact going to be having a work programme meeting next week. Although this is not a meeting in public, we will be taking the issue that you have raised to the work programme meeting and will write back to you.