

Agenda item no. 4 - Questions from members of the public

Question No.	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1.	Peter McKay, Leominster	At April Local Access Forum were informed that a Handbook for Parish Footpath Officers had been raised, which was welcomed, but do not recall if was to be made viewable online. Could you kindly confirm that this Handbook will be made viewable online, and if it contains information about, or will be revised to include information about, (a) the Street Works Register contained in reply to my question to Cabinet on 16 May 2024 seeking to avoid needless footpath dmmoa's, and (b) representation Parish ought make if walked line deviates from legal line, and if the deviated line becomes obstructed?	Cllr Hurcomb

Response:

Thank you for your question.

A guide has been produced for Parish Footpath Officers to assist them in their role when working on behalf of their Parish or Town Council on the Public Rights of Way network. We have made the guide available to Parish/Town Council Clerks and Parish Footpath Officers but as the guide contains links which should only be accessed by Clerks and Parish Footpath Officers, we will not be making it available to the wider public.

In terms of content, the guide contains information on the different roles and responsibilities, policies and procedures, and how the help and support of Parish Footpath Officers can assist with the management and maintenance of the Public Rights of Way network in Herefordshire. It also sets out how Herefordshire Council will support Parish Footpath Officers with what they do in their Parish or Town.

The guide does not provide information on the Street Works register as this is not in line with our aims of producing the document. As we have previously advised, unadopted Highways Not Maintainable at Public Expense are available on our website via the Street Works Register tab on the Highways and Public Rights of Way map, of which there are only two locations recorded in the county.

We are clear in the guide that where concerns exist regarding the line of routes or any obstruction then this should be raised with the Public Rights of Way team directly.

Supplementary question:			
Supplementary response:			
PQ 2.	Emil Morfett, Breinton	<p>The SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment of the LTP5 assumes no increased flooding from proposed road development west of Hereford to access land for a new 10,000 house settlement. The Scrutiny Committee is aware that this is the catchment that still floods Hereford City, despite millions invested in the Yazor brook SuDS Sustainable Drainage System. It is also the catchment that required extensive remodelling of the proposed flood alleviation scheme, for just 350 houses in phase I of Three Elms development.</p> <p>Why is the risk of flooding from soil sealing west of Hereford, and the increased intensity of flooding from climate change, excluded from any Strategic Environmental Assessment, of LTP5 given the increasing threat to our largest city and the high capital costs of mitigation building and maintaining extensive flood retention tanks, ponds and reservoirs.</p>	Cllr Swinglehurst
Response: <p>The SEA for LTP5 does acknowledge the importance of flood risk and climate resilience as part of its environmental baseline. However, it is important to clarify that the SEA is a high-level strategic document. It does not replace the need for detailed site-specific flood risk assessments, which are required at the planning application stage for any new development or infrastructure. It would be at the submission of a planning request for the housing settlements where the developer will be required to provide the detail you are requesting. Additionally, these planning applications will be subject to scrutiny and the public may object at that time.</p>			
Supplementary question:			

Supplementary response:			
PQ 3.	Gill Jinman, Ewyas Harold	<p>I am pleased to note that it is a core aim of the LTP 2025-2041 “to support rural mobility and connecting our people and services” However, despite the measure mentioned on p 41 to produce a rural mobility strategy to improve accessibility and inclusivity, there appear to be no plans to address the recognised challenges of improving or providing rural bus services, particularly in the area south west of Herefordshire that includes the Golden Valley South Ward, nor any mention of plans for the Golden Valley Parkway.</p> <p>How will the plan be amended to incorporate these much-needed services to help fulfil the LTP aim?</p>	Cllr Price
<p>Response:</p> <p>The LTP is currently out for consultation. Once the consultation is closed, we will review and analyse the responses and amend the LTP to account for the views that residents, businesses and organisations have submitted. We would welcome the comments raised within this question to be submitted as part of the formal consultation process as set out on the council website - Latest consultations – Herefordshire Consultations - so that these views can be considered alongside all other formal responses. All Local Authorities are required to have an up to date Local Transport Plan (LTP). LTP’s provide a framework for the council’s vision for transport and enables strategic integration with growth and housing plans; they do not generally reference specific schemes – unless they have already been agreed upon.</p> <p>There are no published plans as yet, because one of the measures of the LTP is to produce a rural mobility strategy, which will address the recognised challenges of improving rural connectivity. Some of the options for doing so may well be through rural bus services combined with other forms of connectivity. As the LTP is in consultation we would expect there to be amendments based on consultation responses. There is currently a section in the draft LTP covering rail connectivity in the county. Even though the council do not have any statutory powers over rail infrastructure or operations our ambition is to work closely with Network Rail and Train Operating Companies to improve transport connectivity. Depending on the responses to the rail section of the LTP we will aim to dovetail our rail ambitions to work alongside stakeholders with the LTP consultation responses.</p>			

Supplementary question:			
Supplementary response:			
PQ 4.	Sally Webster, Putley	<p>Are Cabinet aware that by approving road closures requested in connection with the Hills Ford Rally, that they would be in breach of their duties as laid out in advice received from Wye Valley and Malvern Hills National Landscapes Team.</p> <p>How does Cabinet propose that Herefordshire Council can demonstrate it has discharged its duty to further the purposes of Protected Landscapes in line with Section 85 of the CRow Act (2000)?</p>	Cllr Durkin
<p>Response:</p> <p>Thank you for the question. The planned event has led to a number of issues which will need to be reviewed and addressed as part of any application process.</p> <p>Council officers are aware of the concerns raised by the Wye Valley and Malvern Hills National Landscape Team in relation to the planned event and the council's general duty in relation to land as set out in section 85 of the CRow Act 2000.</p> <p>Additional supporting information and evidence has been requested, once received officers will review and make the final decision.</p> <p>Please note that information on the impact of the event is still being submitted and being reviewed, and so no decision has been made to date.</p>			
Supplementary question:			

Supplementary response: