

## **1. Question from Peter McKay, Leominster**

Council motto is to Preserve our Heritage, and Full Council initial reply to my question put before that meeting is that Council is keen to ensure information it holds is readily accessible, and will look at how it can improve availability. Back in 1983, on 27 January, Hereford and Worcester Council held a Public Rights of Way County Conference, with the conference learning, question 24, that the Council would look into difficulties concerning paths not shown on the definitive map. This came about due to a large number of parishes at the conference asking why paths were not recorded, a question raised by them at that time due to it only becoming apparent in the 1980/90s when paths were cleared of obstructions and signed that this was not being undertaken on all parish paths, ie they had not all been recorded, and parishes had not been informed that their information had been rejected and the reasons why. Having inspected some of your modern records I find they reveal that many paths submitted for recording by parishes and rural district councils were not recorded, for reasons which Government Inspector has declared to have nothing to do with whether or not they were public rights of way, reference FPS/W1850/7/7 a copy of which is held by your Rights of Way Department regarding paths Wellington 14 and 26, and can be provided. Council action per conference has yet to take place, and these paths are slowly being lost to development. But Council has now completed its computerisation of the definitive map and could raise a layer showing these unrecorded paths, along with the reasons not shown, enabling your planners to take their existence into account, and assume that they exist unless and until proved otherwise, and parishes to likewise have access to this information so that they may consider whether or not the reason for rejection was valid and to bring those paths back into use. This would comply both with your motto to preserve our heritage, and with your stated intention to be keen to make information you hold readily available, along with the conference consideration of this issue. So would Council undertake to do this, or if not, change its motto?