

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 6 March 2009**1 Question from Mr Peter McKay, Leominster, Hereford.**

The Council's Right of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) makes mention that there are 144km of unsurfaced unclassified county roads which it refers to as a Quiet Lane network, and if added to figure 3 that shows the 250km bridleway network for equestrians any cyclists would increase that by 57.6%. The ROWIP also contains Enforcement Policy and Procedures concerning obstructions, fallen trees, ploughing, misleading signs, etc., applicable to rights of way, i.e., bridleways and footpaths, yet there is an anomaly in that the Highway Maintenance Plan for unclassified county roads, i.e. as applicable to the Quiet Lane Network, contains no equivalent policies except for annual inspection on foot if need be.

- 1.1 Would Council when next amending the Highway Maintenance Plan make mention that these policies apply to the Quiet Lane Network also, and confirm that they are being applied in the meantime? Furthermore the public having become accustomed to only going where signs say they may now that all rights of way are signed would Council undertake to sign the Quiet Lane Network with the low cost wooden post mounted sign shown in Quiet Lane guidance notes?
- 1.2 In the late 1800's the forerunner of Section 47 of 1980 Highway Act came into force and a handful of lanes were made subject of cease to maintain orders. The lanes remain open and Council remains the Highway Authority for these lanes but without the duty to maintain the surface at public expense. The anomaly is that they become unlisted since the List of Streets only requires those that are maintained at public expense to be listed. With it having been decided, reference Rights of Way Improvement Plan, that unsurfaced unclassified roads, i.e., lanes, will be grouped under the network name of 'quiet Lanes, I would ask if Council would be prepared to list these on its Lists of Streets; under a subheading that surfaces are not maintained at public expense; so that they may be managed in all other respects in a similar way to the other Quiet Lanes?