

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The relevant parts of sections 60 and 61 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 are set out below and key points have been highlighted.

Extracts from s60 Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000

- (1) Every local highway authority shall, within five years after the commencement of this section, prepare and publish a plan, to be known as a rights of way improvement plan, containing—
- (a) the authority's assessment of the matters specified in subsection (2),
 - (b) a statement of the action they propose to take for the management of local rights of way, and for securing an improved network of local rights of way, with particular regard to the matters dealt with in the assessment,
- (2) The matters referred to in subsection (1)(a) are—
- (a) the extent to which local rights of way meet the present and likely future needs of the public,
 - (b) the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and other forms of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the authority's area,
 - (c) the accessibility of local rights of way to blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems
- (3) An authority by whom a rights of way improvement plan is published shall, not more than ten years after first publishing it and subsequently at intervals of not more than ten years—
- (a) make a new assessment of the matters specified in subsection (2), and**
 - (b) review the plan and decide whether to amend it.**
- (4) On such a review the authority shall—
- (a) if they decide to amend the plan, publish it as amended, and
 - (b) if they decide to make no amendments to it, publish a report of their decision and of their reasons for it.

Extracts from s61 Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000

- (1) Before preparing or **reviewing** a rights of way improvement plan, and in particular in making any assessment under section 60(1)(a) or (3)(a), a local highway authority shall consult—
- (a) each local highway authority whose area adjoins their area;
 - (b) each district council, and each *parish or community council*, whose area is within their area;
 - (e) any local access forum established for their area or any part of it;
 - (f) the Countryside Agency or the Countryside Council for Wales (as appropriate);
 - (g) such persons as the Secretary of State (as respects England) or the National Assembly for Wales (as respects Wales) may by regulations prescribe in relation to the local highway authority's area; and
 - (h) such other persons as the local highway authority may consider appropriate.
- (2) In preparing or **amending** a rights of way improvement plan, a local highway authority shall—
- (a) publish a draft of the plan or of the plan as amended,
 - (b) publish, in two or more local newspapers circulating in their area, notice of how a copy of the draft can be inspected or obtained and how representations on it can be made to them, and
 - (c) consider any representations made in accordance with the notice.