

## **Solihull MBC LAF Meeting Report 26/01/2023**

### **Maintenance Work**

- Ad-hoc maintenance of the PRowS continues on a reactive basis, continued requests for new/repairs to furniture, i.e. missing fingerposts and stiles/gates.

### **Improvement Works Carried Out (includes but not limited to)**

- Repairs to boardwalks.
- New kissing gates and gates.
- Repairs to steps.

### **Obstruction and Encroachment Problems**

- Letters are sent to landowners as appropriate, sometimes/preferably resolved informally over the telephone and email where an established relationship exists.

### **Land Owner Concerns**

- None received in reporting period.

### **Service Requests**

- ~ 25 service requests in the last 3 months.

### **Diversion Orders**

- Formal diversion Order SL20A Arden School – objections received to formal consultation matter now referred to Planning Inspectorate.
- Request for diversion SL81 Hockely Heath – applicant has now requested formal advertising having been on hold for several months.
- SMBC led diversion at SL78 Illshaw Heath. Additional consultation with stakeholders undertaken, a revised proposal now developed awaiting formal consultation.
- Request for diversion M121 Hampton Manor. Additional consultation with stakeholders undertaken, a revised proposal now developed awaiting formal consultation.
- Request for diversion M166 Oldwich Lane East. Additional consultation with stakeholders undertaken, a revised proposal now developed awaiting formal consultation.
- Request for diversion M169 Heronfield Cottages. Concerns raised through informal consultation a revised proposal is under development.
- Request for diversion M125 Back Lane. New request currently under investigation, the route is temporarily diverted for 6 months to facilitate construction.

### **DMMOs**

- Ongoing. 15 current requests –Oak Lane Barston has been progressed and attracted objections and been referred to the Planning Inspectorate.

## Land Owner/Highway Statements and Declarations

- None received in reporting period.

## Notices

- No formal notices received since the last LAF meeting.

## Contribution of Volunteers

- We continue to work with and are thankful for the contributions of volunteers. There is now one main group that work on the network - Solihull Bramblers.
- Stoning of path at M173 Netherwood Lane, Chadwick End. Collaborative work between SMBC, volunteers and our contractor.

## Impact of Schemes on Network

- **HS2** Main works continue having significant impact. SMBC continues to hold a working group to engage user groups on matters associated with HS2 and rights of way, demonstrating the Council's commitment to working collaboratively with HS2, its contractors and stakeholders. It should be noted that HS2 as scheme promoters also carry out considerable engagement and consultation exercises with the local community and have a dedicated website which has recently been upgraded to make it easier for members of the public to access information on their scheme. SMBC as a consultee in many instances works to ensure that HS2 deliver their works, with as minimal impact to the network as possible.
- **M42** As a nationally significant scheme, the scheme is being progressed by Highways England through a mechanism known as a Development Consent Order. This provides them with wide ranging powers to close roads and public rights of way where necessary to progress their scheme. This is outside of the normal process which is overseen and administered by the local authority. Notwithstanding this, we continue to engage and work collaboratively with Highways England and their contractors to mitigate the impact of the scheme and escalate concerns from users as appropriate. Currently we are working with Skanska for them to provide enhanced signs on diverted and closed routes in light of recent feedback.
- **2023 Update** we are currently looking to plot closed routes on Onenetwork to provide additional information for users.

**Photographs:**

Stoned path – M173 Netherwood Lane



Boardwalk repairs – M192 Berkswell



Step repairs M159 Long Brook Lane

