

Warwickshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan – LAF

The role of the Local Access Forum is to advise the local authority. The following sets out the stages in developing the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and suggests areas of advice which would be helpful to the local authority in preparing the ROWIP. See also presentation made to the LAF in November 2023.

<p>Phase 1 Gathering Evidence January to end of Spring / Summer 2024</p> <p>This phase is taking place prior to drafting the ROWIP. The purpose is to gather evidence and to highlight which are important matters for the ROWIP to consider.</p> <p>During this phase there will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online public survey• Engagement with parish councils• Contact with stakeholder groups• Workshops and meetings <p>The purpose of these is to understand the <i>'present and likely future needs of the public'</i>, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How should public rights of way respond to increased population and growth in Warwickshire?• How can public rights of way support improvements in health and wellbeing in Warwickshire?• How could the public rights of way network be improved for travelling to work and school?• How can public rights of way support the economy and tourism?	<p>Useful areas for the LAF to consider and advise on their views on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The previous ROWIP – what worked well and what didn't. How can the next ROWIP be improved (within the parameters and guidance set out for ROWIPs)?• From the basis of the experience of LAF members (i.e. commenting on areas the LAF have knowledge of – do not need to research additional areas as this will be carried out by the team and through meetings with stakeholders):<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What are the <i>'present and likely future needs of the public'</i> needs within Warwickshire (see bullets to left)?○ How have these changed since the last ROWIP?○ Horizon-scanning – what issues do the LAF think will be important in the 10 year timeframe of the ROWIP?• Advice on the needs of particular public rights of way user groups• Ensure that all relevant stakeholders have been invited to participate – advising on any contacts missed <p>Methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshops or meetings could be facilitated with consultant or LAF may carry this out independently• And / or written feedback / advice from LAF
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Phase 2
Review of Evidence
Summer to Autumn 2024

In this stage the evidence gathered in Phase 1 will be reviewed and assessed. This will involve:

- Analysis of all surveys
- Review of comments made by stakeholders
- Review of policies and strategies

The consideration of the evidence will be discussed and this will lead to the priorities which will be contained within the ROWIP.

Suggested involvement of the LAF:

- Proposed that workshop(s) are held where the ROWIP team will present the headline findings and some of the conclusions which are being revealed. These can be discussed with the LAF in relation to their implications for the ROWIP.
- The workshop(s) may present questions to the LAF on specific areas for which the local authority would like to seek advice.

Areas to consider could also include

- How do we reach 'harder to reach groups'
- Implementing the ROWIP – how can the LAF and WCC work together to ensure successful outcomes.

Other topics to be agreed nearer the time based on findings and topics emerging from Phase 1.

The workshop would be held towards the end of this phase to enable time for the ROWIP team to review the evidence gathered.

The LAF could provide written advice after the workshop(s) or the notes from the meetings could be used.

Phase 3
Drafting, Consultation and Publication of the ROWIP
Autumn 2024 – early 2025

In this stage the draft ROWIP will be produced.

The draft ROWIP will then be formally consulted on for 12 weeks. All stakeholders contacted in Phase 1 will be invited to comment.

Suggested involvement of the LAF:

The LAF would provide written comments on the ROWIP during the formal consultation period.

<p>After the formal consultation the ROWIP will be adopted by Warwickshire County Council (dates and committee approvals to be agreed).</p>	
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