



Stockton-on-Tees

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan Delivery Action Plan - 2009/10 (Year 1)

On 4th December 2008, Stockton Borough Council Cabinet approved and adopted the ROWIP as an official Council Plan.

The ROWIP outlines how SBC intend to manage and improve the Public Rights of Way network in the Borough over the next 10 years.

The vision for SBC ROWIP, aims to produce a public rights of way network :

- *that is physically accessible for all:*
- *which meets the needs of all users for both recreation and access:*
- *on which up-to-date information is readily available by a variety of means*

Year 1 Progress Report (March 2010)

(Please note – ROWIP Action Plan as shown on table 7/page 56 of document)

Ref	Action Proposed	Action Carried out
1.	Definitive Map and Statement to be Consolidated	On-going and estimated completion date is mid 2010.
2.	Definitive Map Anomalies to be Regularised	<p>On-going and 23 anomalies have been identified on the existing Definitive Map.</p> <p>2009/10, four paths orders have been advertised or currently in the process of being advertised to regularise the existing definitive anomalies - :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Public Footpath No. 4 – Stockton (objection received and Planning Inspectorate to determine outcome of application). 2) Public Footpath 1 – Egglecliffe (order advertised Feb.2010 and consultation ends 29th March 2010). 3) Public Footpath No. 3 – Egglescliffe (order advertised Feb.2010 and consultation end 29th March 2010). 4) Public Footpath No. 2 – Stockton (order advertised Jan.10 and consultation ends 14th March 2010). <p>Note - the total costs to advertise the above orders is approx. 4K.</p>
3.	Existing Network 'Easy to use' and Formalise Maintenance Procedures and Undertake Prioritised Works Programme	<p>On-going local indicators of 'easy to use' - 87% (2009/10).</p> <p>During 2010/11 continue to -:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • carry out 2 cuts on selected paths of approx 50km per cut. • carry out 3 cuts on the Teesdale Way of approx. 20km per cut.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance of additionally paths inc. mowing and strimming of surface vegetation, fallen trees, stiles and gates repairs, bridge repairs and sign posting (when required). • majority of maintenance works on PROW network is carried out by NACRO and additional works carried out by Probation Services, under the Community Payback Scheme. • introduction of path monitors during 2009 and continue during 2010/11, which will help the Council monitor and maintain its Right of Way network. • Introduction of Parish Paths Partnership during 2009, and continue during 2010/11, which will help the Council monitor and maintain its Right of Way network. <p>Note - the costs to provide work team over a 12 month period is approx.23k</p>
4.	Complete Digitised Definitive Map and Electronic Records	<p>Digitised of PROW on G.I.S is complete and on-line mapping will be available via SBC PROW web page - mid March 2010 (and update when required).</p> <p>Interactive web walks of promoted routes, is being planned as part of the online mapping of PROW's and will be available during 2010/11.</p>
5.	Introduce Disabled 'Accessibility Assessment' Procedures	Not Started – planning to develop and implement an accessibility policy in conjunction with disability groups, in which an audit can be carried out of the existing network and identify the routes which meet the needs of the restricted mobility users and publicise via walking leaflets.
6.	Introduce 'Barrier Free' Routes	On-going and currently replacing stiles with kissing gates with landowners consent. SBC aims to have a network of PROW that is free from barriers as possible and easy to use by everyone.
7.	Making the Public Aware of the Rights of Way Network	<p>On-going – update PROW guide and guide is available from most Public Buildings, Country Parks or can be download from SBC PROW web page –</p> <p>http://www.stockton.gov.uk/citizenservices/transport/roadsfootpaths/33551/publicrightsofwayguide/</p> <p>New PROW walking map is currently being designed for 'The Three Villages Loop Walk and map should be complete and available to be distributed as above, by April 2010.</p> <p>Further ROW maps and leaflets are planned for 2010/11 and will also be available from SBC web page.</p> <p>Path Orders affecting the ROW's will be available for viewing on SBC website mid March 2010.</p>
8.	Improving & Extending the Network for 'Walkers'	On-going - the ROWIP has identified a good network of footpaths available to walkers. Therefore, the Council will continue to sign, waymark and remove obstructions from paths and continue to identify future works to repair, replace stiles, gates, bridges, re-surface works and drainage works in consultation with landowners.
9.	Improving & Extending the Network for 'Equestrians'	<p>On-going - the ROWIP has identified the bridleway network is deficient in many areas with missing gaps in some areas of the borough. Letters were sent out to a number of landowners in Billingham, Wolviston and Norton in 2009 to assess the level of interest in improving the bridleway network by providing safe, traffic routes through dedication of footpaths or through Natural England - HLS scheme.</p> <p>38% of landowners replied, in which 33% replies were positive and requested further information of improving the existing bridleway. Further information was sent out to each landowner, in which no replies have been received regarding any potentially/desire routes.</p> <p>Arrangements will be made to send out further letters to interested landowners during 2010/11 to progress this matter any further.</p> <p>In addition, a similar approach will be carried out throughout other areas of the borough to improve the existing network for equestrian use in 2010/11.</p>

10.	Provision of Missing Links and Circular Paths ('Lost Ways')	Not Started – feasibility study required to identify Council's permissive paths, to be re-classified as PROW and recorded on the DMS and in turn fills in the missing links of the existing network. In addition, SBC await further information/guidance to record all historic rights of way, due to the removal of the 'Discovering Lost Ways' project from Natural England.
11.	Public Transport Provision	On-going - provide bus details onto existing and new PROW walking plans which are accessible from Stockton's bus network.
12.	Compile Details of Permissive/Conser vation Paths	On-going - permissive paths, under Countryside Stewardship Scheme inc. on PROW guide. Further information can be found on the following web site http://cwr.naturalengland.org.uk/
13.	Improving & Extending the Network for 'Cyclists'	On-going and developing and promoting cycling routes suitable for family use and leading from settlements to main visitor attractions.
14.	Identify 'Dangerous' Crossings Rail/Trunk Road	<p>On-going - support required from the TVLAF with Network Rail regarding surface deck platforms, as NR state all crossings identified in Stockton meet the necessary criteria in accordance with Office of Rail Regulation.</p> <p>Discussions have been carried out with the Highway Agency regarding the provision of suitable crossing points over the A66 in which alternatives crossing points and alternative routes have been identified.</p> <p>Consultation with landowners, Parish Council, Councillors and user groups will be consulted in 2010/11 regarding the alternative routes available.</p> <p>Further talks will be carried out with HA regarding suitable crossing points over the A19.</p>
15.	Provision of Key Crossings over the River Tees & River Leven	On-going - the Council is currently working with Sustrans to develop a scheme 'Connect2' to provide a link Ingleby Barwick with Eaglescliffe, Preston Park, Thornaby and Yarm via a series of pedestrian and cycle routes, including new bridges across the Rivers Leven and Tees.
16.	Benefits to Tourism	<p>On-going - use of the planning system to ensure that development or re-development improves existing or creates new rights of way for tourism and leisure purposes.</p> <p>In addition, substantial work and extensive consultation has been carried out by Parks and Countryside Section on the 'Green Infrastructure Strategy' which will help to fill the existing gaps in the ROW network.</p> <p>The strategy plan will also complement the Tees Heritage Park proposals to create a riverside corridor from the existing green spaces of land from Stockton Town Centre and Yarm.</p> <p>During 2009, Lustrum Beck Steering Group and South Stockton Green Gateway Group were formed in which the two groups will contribute to deliver the aims and objectives of Stockton's ROWIP action plan and improve the existing PROW network and in turn provide greater opportunities for use of the ROW network by residents and visitors to the Borough.</p>
17.	Small-Scale Improvements carried out on the PROW network, since the ROWIP was approved and adopted as a official Council plan.	<p>On-going – and major PROW's Improvement works carried out during 2009/10 -:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FP 5 & BR 14 (Grindon) - resurface works 4km. (approx.costs 100k). • Teesdale Way (Newport Bridge to Tees Barrage) new seating. • Burn Wood, Longnewton – new footbridge (approx. cost 11k). • FP12 Stockton - re-surface works 550m (approx. costs 30k). • FP7 Carlton - bridge deck replaced. • Spraying of 'Giant Hogweed' along the river banks of the Teesdale Way and erection of caution signs of GH along the TW route.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 cuts along the Teesdale Way (approx. 20 km per cut).• Annual programme of vegetation clearance inc. 2 cuts per year on selected footpaths (approx. 50km per cut)• Additional Works (when required) inc. mowing & strimming of surface vegetation, fallen trees, stile & gates repairs, bridge repairs, drainage works, boardwalks and signposting and waymarking.• Public Footpath No.14 Stockton - new footbridge (approx. cost 3.5k).• Public Footpath No.37 Stockton (part of Teesdale Way) - resurface works 980m (approx. costs 42k).• New footpath signage on order and new finger signs will inc. additional information of destination and distance and inc. Teesdale Way logo (approx. cost 4k).
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