Rights of Way Improvement Plan Questionnaire 2016   APPENDIX 1

Countryside Services staff are working to review and update the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Powys which has been in existence now for over 10 years.
We would like your help to do so.

The purpose of the consultation is to find out your views on the current state of the network i.e. surface, waymarks, signage, trails etc.

- how, where and what you use the network for i.e. dog walking horse riding, mountain biking etc.
- what your priorities are so we can sustain and where possible improve those aspects
- what barriers exist that prevent people from using the network

County Councillor John T Powell, Cabinet member for Countryside Services said:

"The public rights of way and open access land are a key asset to the Powys economy in terms of attracting tourists and spend in our county. They provide our residents and tourists alike with plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy our beautiful countryside and boost their health and mental well-being whilst doing so. We'd really like to continue to enhance the network but with reducing resources we would value your views on what you feel our priorities should be."

The closing date for comments is 31 January 2017.

Privacy Statement

Before we take you to the survey, please read the Privacy Statement below. By completing this survey you state that you have read and accept it.

Powys County Council accepts the following responsibilities for personal information recorded through this survey:-

1. The information will only be used for the agreed reason and will be looked after securely
2. The information will only be kept for as long as needed or to comply with statutory requirements and will then be securely destroyed
3. If the information has to be shared with other agencies initial consent will be gathered at this point and explicit (signed) consent will obtained by the service / department concerned as soon as possible. Unless we are obliged by law to disclose the information.

Detailed guidance can be found on our Freedom of Information Web pages or from the Information Management Team Tel 01597 827512

A note on privacy
This survey is anonymous.

The record kept of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you unless a specific question in the survey has asked for this. If you have responded to a survey that used an identifying token to allow you to access the survey, you can rest assured that the identifying token is not kept with your responses. It is managed in a separate database, and will only be updated to indicate that you have (or haven't) completed this survey. There is no way of matching identification tokens with survey responses in this survey.

The current use of the rights of way network

Background:

The public rights of way network consists of footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways that are open to all traffic.

There are a number of terms and definitions which can be confusing for users.

The following aims to help you understand these before you complete the survey.

- Public rights of way - these are highways that are made available for the public to use e.g. footpaths, bridlepaths and byways open to all traffic.
- Footpath - for use on foot only, may be accompanied by a dog or pushchair
- Bridleway - this is the same as a footpath but with additional rights to ride or lead a horse or ride or push a pedal cycle
- Restricted by-way - as above but with the addition of rights to drive a horse drawn carriage.
- Byway - this is the same as above but with additional rights to drive a motorised vehicle
- Open access - this allow the public right of access to registered common land and 'open land' and NRW Forestry land as shown on the OS map in yellow
- Definitive map - this is the legal record of the public rights of way showing their alignment and status. The definitive statement may record further details for each public right of way.
- Promoted or recreational trails of regional or national status e.g. Glyndwr's Way, Offa's Dyke Path, Severn Way, Wye Valley Walk and also local and circular routes
- Waymarking - Signs posted at either end and along public rights of way
- Furniture - Stiles and gates along public rights of way

Q1:   Do you visit any of the following?

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ Parks
- ☐ Playgrounds
- ☐ Lakes
- ☐ Common land and open countryside
- ☐ Nature reserves
- ☐ Farmland
- ☐ Woodlands and forests
- ☐ Riversides
- ☐ Other:

Q2:   Which of the following best describes your use of the public rights of way in Powys?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

- ☐ I regularly use the rights of way network (all year round - come rain or shine)
- ☐ I regularly use the rights of way network (seasonal user - fair weather only)
- ☐ I sometimes use the rights of way network
- ☐ I don't use the rights of way network but would like to (go to Q2a)

Q2a. Please could you tell us what currently prevents or stops you from using the network and what might help you to do so.

Please write your answer here:

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Q3: Do you use any of the following recreational trails within Powys?

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ Offa's Dyke National Trail
- ☐ Glyndwr's Way National Trail
- ☐ Severn Way
- ☐ Wye Valley Walk
- ☐ Kerry Ridgeway
- ☐ Anne Griffiths Walk
- ☐ Pererindod Melangell Walk
- ☐ Epynt Way
- ☐ Other:

Q4: The following activities are popular on our rights of way network. Please state which ones apply to you and how often you do them. Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Twice yearly	Yearly	I never do this
Walking	○	○	○	○	○	○
Running	○	○	○	○	○	○
Cycling incl Mountain biking	○	○	○	○	○	○
Horse riding	○	○	○	○	○	○
Horse-drawn vehicle	○	○	○	○	○	○
4 x 4 driving	○	○	○	○	○	○
Motorcycling	○	○	○	○	○	○
Dog walking	○	○	○	○	○	○
Something else	○	○	○	○	○	○

Q4a   Please give details re- the "something else" that you do.

Please write your answer here:

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Q5:   What makes you use the public rights of way? Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ It's how I like to spend some of my leisure/recreation time
- ☐ It's about getting some exercise / staying healthy
- ☐ It's about my personal well-being/it helps me to relax and unwind
- ☐ I use them to get to work or go to the shops locally
- ☐ I use them for another reason not listed above (Go to Q5a)

Q5a   Please tell us your reasons? Please write your answer here:

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Q6:   How do you usually travel to the start of a public right of way?

Please choose **all** that apply:

- ☐ I walk
- ☐ I run
- ☐ I cycle
- ☐ I ride my horse
- ☐ I get there via a train
- ☐ I drive my car
- ☐ I get a taxi
- ☐ I get a bus
- ☐ I get a lift
- ☐ I use community transport
- ☐ I do something else …………………………………….........(indicate what)

Q7: **Which type of route do you prefer to use?** Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ A long distance promoted trail
☐ A town walk
☐ A promoted circular route
☐ The general public rights of way network
☐ All of the above
☐ I don't have a real preference

Q8: **What problems, if any, have you encountered whilst using the public rights of way in Powys?** Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Signage and waymarking (poor or missing)
☐ Surface or vegetation (poor or overgrown areas)
☐ Intimidation (from other users or landowners)
☐ Stiles or gates (in a poor state or inappropriate for user)
☐ Obstructions or barriers (blocked by fallen trees/gated or boulders preventing access)
☐ Inaccurate information (on leaflets or given by a member of staff)
☐ Animals (dogs not on leads or bulls, sheep etc preventing access)
☐ Something else (please go to Q8a)

Q8a: Please give details.

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Q9: **What are your views on the suitability of the public rights of way network in Powys for each type of the following users?** Please choose the appropriate response for each:

	excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
Walker	○	○	○	○	○
Horse rider	○	○	○	○	○
Person with a mobility difficulty	○	○	○	○	○
A family with a pushchair/young children	○	○	○	○	○
Horse-drawn carriage	○	○	○	○	○
Motorcyclist	○	○	○	○	○

	excellent	good	average	poor	very poor
A 4 x 4 driver	○	○	○	○	○
Dog walkers	○	○	○	○	○

By suitability we mean 'ease of use'

Q10: The Countryside Services section deals with a number of things to promote and improve the rights of way network. This includes:

- **the repair and maintenance of paths and furniture**
- **taking appropriate enforcement action when a user of the network has found an obstruction to a path**
- **promoting long distance routes/trails**

We'd like to know your level of satisfaction with any that you have experience or knowledge of. Draw a line through for any that don't apply to you.

Please choose the appropriate response for each item:

	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
The quality and standards of network surfaces	○	○	○	○
The quality and standard of the furniture e.g. stiles and gates	○	○	○	○
Signage e.g. Waymarks and signposts	○	○	○	○
The quality of practical improvement work that you see whilst out using the network	○	○	○	○
Evidence of any enforcement action that has been taken to remove obstructions to a path etc.	○	○	○	○
Promotional information (leaflets, noticeboards) that give details re the network and what we do to look after it	○	○	○	○

	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Information about long distance trails	○	○	○	○
Our staff response to you if you contact the service i.e. professionalism, politeness etc.	○	○	○	○
Use and maintenance of the definitive map including diversions or dealing with modification orders	○	○	○	○
Open Access advice and assistance	○	○	○	○
Overall rating of the whole service	○	○	○	○

Q11: Where would you normally get information from about the public rights of way network in Powys? Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Tourist information centres
☐ Ordnance survey maps
☐ A local library
☐ The internet
☐ A guidebook or leaflet
☐ Local knowledge
☐ A bookshop
☐ A club or association e.g. Ramblers, fishing club
☐ A friend or family member
☐ A local hotel/guesthouse/B&B
☐ The Rights of Way team in Powys County Council

Q12: What discourages you from using the public rights of way? Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ I don't know where the routes are
☐ The routes don't go where I want to go
☐ The paths I use can be obstructed sometimes
☐ The condition/surface of the path can be an issue
☐ I don't like crossing someone else's land or walking through a farmyard
☐ I feel intimidated
☐ I don't want to get caught in bad weather conditions
☐ I'm worried about getting lost

☐ There is a lack of organised walks
☐ I have concerns over my safety
☐ There are too many stiles to negotiate for me to enjoy using the network
☐ There is a lack of public transport to get me to a right of way
☐ Other rights of way users
☐ Something else (please go to Q12a)

Q12a: Please give details:

Q13: How often do you use open access land? Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Regularly - (daily, weekly, monthly)
☐ Sometimes - (every couple of months - once or twice a year)
☐ Never

Open access land is land which the public have a right of access. It is registered common land and 'open land' and includes NRW Forestry land which is shown on OS maps in yellow.

Q14: What would, or does deter you from using access land? Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ I don't know where the routes are
☐ The routes don't tend to go where I want to go
☐ Bad weather
☐ There is a lack of organised walks
☐ I have concerns over my own safety
☐ I feel intimidated
☐ I am worried about getting lost
☐ The condition of the network surface is an issue
☐ There are too many stiles on the network
☐ There is a lack of public transport to get me to the start of a right of way
☐ Something else (Please go to Q14a)

Q14a: Please give details?

The network in the future

Q15: **In simple terms there are six key aspects of the work that is conducted by the team to improve the rights of way network.   Please place in order of importance and number each box in order of preference from 1 to 6**

- The surface i.e. the quality and condition of the network's paths/trails ☐

- The signage that is on display to guide people ☐

- The furniture that allows people to navigate certain parts of the network e.g. gates, stiles ☐

- The upkeep and clearance of vegetation ☐

- Sustaining the long distance promoted trails e.g. Offa's Dyke, Wye Valley Walk ☐

- Reducing obstructions on the network e.g. blocked access issues which can be caused by disputes re- landowners and users ☐

Q16: **In more detail what do you think our priorities should be for the future of the rights of way network.** Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 13

- Waymarking and signage - maintaining and erecting more waymarkers to help people navigate the network on the public rights of way at entrances to access land ☐

- Information & promotional work - doing more to publicise and promote the network to both landowners and the general public. e.g. information boards, website ☐

- Practical improvement work - this would focus on making the network more easily accessible for people with mobility difficulties ☐

- General maintenance - opening up and maintaining routes and trails including installing gates and stiles and clearing overgrown vegetation ☐

- Resolving anomalies - working with landowners to resolve issues around things like access to cul de sacs paths etc. ☐

- Unrecorded routes -discovering and recording unrecorded routes ☐

- Definitive map work - updating and improving the definitive map where there is evidence to suggest this is needed ☐

- Active travel work - provide paths which link to pulbic transport, places of work, shops and other amenities ☐

- Access management - work to improve user access to common land and open country ☐

- Health routes - target work on routes which can be used and promoted for exercise and recreation ☐

- School routes - increase links for access to the network by and for schools and their pupils ☐

- Education - to increase their knowledge and awareness of the countryside ☐

- Promoted routes - sustain the provision of promoted local and long distance trails ☐

Q17: The council has some discretionary powers to carry out work in relation to access land. If funding becomes available in the future, what do you think our priorities for this work should be? Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 3

- Waymarking and signage - putting waymarkers up and maintaining them on public rights of way and at entrances to access land ☐

- Management plans - reviewing management plans for commons under local authority powers/County Council ownership for nature conservation, grazing and public access ☐

- Maintaining furniture - maintaining gates and other path furniture that allows access onto, or across access land ☐

Open access land is land which is registered as common land or open land or is owned by the NRW Forestry and is shown on OS maps as yellow areas.

Q18: What type of information would you find useful with regard to the rights of way network?

Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ More printed leaflets / information sheets which I can pick up and carry with me on a route /trail
☐ More information boards which are positioned at the start of a route or at a half way point
☐ Leaflets about guided walks that I could take part in.
☐ Information posted on the council's website which shows all the routes and the definitive map etc.

Q19: **The council currently processes applications for diverting a right of way around a person's property or new housing developments or for conservation purposes.**

Looking at the list below please rank in order of importance. Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 9

- Farmyard diversions ☐
- Diversions due to a new housing or road development ☐
- Diverting rights of way from a person's private garden ☐
- Diversions around woodlands or forests ☐
- Diversions which protect wildlife/flora or fauna i.e. conservation ☐
- Diverting rights of way to link with open access land ☐
- Diversion to avoid high maintenance costs ☐
- Packages that would resolve anomalies e.g. linking dead end paths to the network or roads ☐
- Diversions to make paths more convenient to use e.g. by moving them off ☐
- steep ground

Q20: **The council also processes applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders, where someone believes that the DM is incomplete or incorrect and has evidence to support that. We must deal with all of these applications by law, but we do give some high priority to others. How do you think we should do that?** Please number each box in order of preference from 1 to 6

- By date or receipt ☐
- Applications that have strong supporting evidence ☐
- Applications affecting sites where development is proposed ☐
- Applications where someone's privacy or business are affected ☐
- Applications where adding or upgrading a public right of way should add significantly to the network e.g. a missing link ☐
- Applications where the possible error has meant that the public cannot use the path at all e.g. the path on the map passes through a very old building ☐

Q21: **With limited resources in the Countryside Services budget, prioritising our workload is something we are having to do much more of. We cannot do everything we want to do but have considered some options. To help us we would like to know your views on what matters most.**

We will now ask you a series of dilemma questions. Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Open up routes on the definitive map which up to now have received no maintenance work at all

☐ Maintain the routes that are already opened up and improve their standard

Q21a: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority.   Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Create new long distance promoted routes

☐ Create new, local circular routes

Q21b: Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Keep the priority community approach

☐ Provide a priority rating for each individual public right of way

☐ No answer

*The **current priority community** approach is developed by receiving a report that is given a rating.   Each rating is added to each community area and the total rating for that community is then divided by the length of public rights of way.   This gives a final priority rating and then work is undertaken in this community before moving onto the next.*

*There are approximately **12,000 individual public rights of way** and each one would need to be individually rated to determine its priority.*

Q21c Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Negotiate wherever possible to open obstructed public rights of way

☐ Serve formal enforcement notices and discuss works afterwards

☐ No answer

*The landowner has a responsibility to keep public rights of way open and unobstructed.
The council has enforcement powers but tends to negotiate the opening up of paths as much as possible before taking enforcement action. This does however take up a lot of time and resources.*

By taking enforcement action first, rather than negotiating, this is likely to reduce officer time and resources but could well result in opening up less paths due to increased number of prosecutions where there is non-compliance by the land owner.

 Q21d Please read the two options and choose the one that you feel should take priority. Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Recreational trails should be given priority over other rights of way as resources allow

☐ Equal priority should be given to recreational trails and other public rights of way

☐ No answer

About you

We would now like to ask some questions about you as a person. This should only take a few minutes to complete. By collecting this type of information and comparing it across many different types of people, we are able to see patterns that can tell us about where we can do things better, to meet people's needs.

The information you provide will be treated in the strictest of confidence and used only for making statistical comparisons. You don't have to answer any question that you don't want to; however, the more that you can tell us, the better our information will become, so please try to provide us with as much as you possibly can.

All questions are optional. Please leave blank any that you prefer not to answer.

What is your home postcode? ………………………….

 If you'd rather not give your full postcode, please let us know the first part (e.g. SY16).

What is your gender? Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Male   ☐ Female

What is your age? Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Under 16   ☐ 16-17   ☐ 18-19

☐ 20-24   ☐ 25-34   ☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54   ☐ 55-64   ☐ 65-74

☐ 75 or over   ☐ No answer

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions, illnesses or impairments, lasting, or expected to last, 12 months or more? Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ Don't know

In answering question this question, please include any sensory deficit, non-temporary mobility problems such as dyspraxia and cerebral palsy, developmental conditions such as Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, conditions associated with learning impairment such as Down's syndrome or dyslexia, difficulties associated with injury as well as common conditions and illnesses if they have lasted or are expected to last 12 months or more. Any seasonal conditions such as hay fever which recur and have lasted or are expected to recur in the future should also be included.

If you answered 'Yes' to question the above does your condition, illness or impairment/ do any of your conditions, illnesses or impairments reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities?

☐ Yes, a lot   ☐ Yes, a little   ☐ Not at all

In answering this question you should consider whether you are affected whist receiving any treatment or medication for your condition or illness and/or using any devices such as a hearing aid, for example.

Do you have any health conditions, illnesses or impairments which affect you in the following areas? Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Vision (for example blindness or partial sight)

☐ Hearing (for example deafness or partial hearing)

☐ Mobility (for example walking short distances or climbing stairs)

☐ Dexterity (for example, lifting and carrying objects or using a keyboard)

☐ Learning or understanding/concentrating (for example associated with Dyslexia or Down's syndrome)

☐ Memory

☐ Mental Health

☐ Stamina or breathing or fatigue

☐ Socially or behaviourally (for example, associated with autism, attention deficit disorder or Asperger's Syndrome)

☐ Other:

In answering this question you should consider whether you are affected whist receiving any treatment or medication for your condition or illness and/or using any devices such as a hearing aid, for example.

Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh? Please choose ALL that apply. Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Understand spoken Welsh   ☐ Speak Welsh   ☐ Read Welsh

☐ Write Welsh   ☐ None of the above

What is your main language? Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ English   ☐ Welsh   ☐ Other:

How would you describe your national identity? Please choose **all** that apply:

☐ Welsh   ☐ English   ☐ Scottish

☐ Northern Irish   ☐ British   ☐ Irish

☐ Polish   ☐ Other:

What is your ethnic group? Please choose JUST ONE of the options below that best describes your ethnic group or background.

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ White   ☐ Mixed /Multiple ethnic groups   ☐ Asian / Asian British
☐ Black /African /Caribbean/British   ☐ Other Ethnic group   ☐ No answer

IF AGED 16 OR OVER: What is your current marital or same-sex civil partnership status?

Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Single, that is, never married and never registered in a same-sex Civil Partnership
☐ Married
☐ In a registered same-sex Civil Partnership
☐ Other

What is your religion? Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ No religion   ☐ Christian (all denominations)   ☐ Buddhist
☐ Hindu   ☐ Jewish   ☐ Muslim
☐ Sikh   ☐ Other

Which of these best describes what you are doing at present? Please choose **only one** of the following:

☐ Working full-time (30 hours or more per week)
☐ Working part-time (less than 30 hours per week)
☐ Self-employed; full or part-time
☐ On a government supported training scheme
☐ Full time education (school, college or university)
☐ Unemployed and available for work
☐ Permanently sick or disabled
☐ Wholly retired from work
☐ Looking after the home
☐ Caring for a child or adult
☐ Otherwise not in paid work
☐ No answer

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Consultation Feedback report (which will set out the public response to our proposals), please enter your email address in the space below. A paper reference copy of this report will also be available in each of our libraries and will also be published online at www.powys.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

Please write your email address or home address here:

Thank you for completing this survey.

Please return the completed application form to:-

Mark Stafford-Tolley
Countryside Access Officer
Gwalia Offices
Ithon Road
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6AA

or e-mail rights.of.way@powys.gov.uk