

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
12<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport**

**SUBJECT: Question from Peter Newman**

**In 1968 the Countryside Act was published and came into law, this laid a duty on Highway Authorities to signpost all public paths where they leave a metalled road.**

**I understand that only 69 signposts were erected in the last financial year which equates to 23 each for the old Counties of Brecknock, Radnor and Montgomery.**

**Could the walking public, my organisation and other interested parties be given an estimate as to how many signposts are needed to complete the requirements under the Act, and the timescale please?**

**Response**

Thank you for your question Mr Newman and I apologise that I cannot be at full Council.

In the last three years, 325 fingerposts have been installed across Powys outside of the National Park. At the current time, Countryside Services does not hold any data outlining how many fingerposts are required to complete the requirements of the Act. The Service is currently unable to produce reliable statistics on how many public rights of way are, or are not signposted at roadside. Therefore it is not possible to estimate the timescale and resources that are required.

The BBNPA have installed or replaced more than 320 fingerposts throughout the Park since mid-2013. According to the BBNPA's 5% survey from 2016/17, an estimated 70% of fingerposts were in place throughout the Park. This data is for the whole of the National Park, however officers have indicated that they believe it to be an accurate reflection of the Powys public rights of way within the National Park area.

The BBNPA have no estimate as to the timescale to complete the requirement of the Act and have said that the existence of signposts at roadside is dynamic and fluid. Fingerposts are prone to damage or theft.