

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Dorset Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) is a statutory document setting out a strategy for improving its network of Public Rights of Way, wider access and outdoor public space.

Before confirming a public path creation, diversion or extinguishment order a council or the Secretary of State must have regard to any material provision of a rights of way improvement plan prepared by the local highway authority.

Five themes have been identified for improving access in Dorset of which the following are particularly relevant to the present case and should be considered in relation to this application:

Theme 1: The ROWIP's links with other strategies

- Theme 1.4 Ensure that PRow/sites are protected and enhanced in building and road development and effectively incorporated into the LDF process as essential green infrastructure.
- Theme 1.6 Improve accessibility of the network
- Theme 1.9 Ensure that the work of Dorset County Council and partners continues to protect and enhance Dorset's natural and cultural heritage

Theme 3: Providing a safer and more accessible network

- Theme 3.9 Identify road severance locations and seek opportunities to make improvements
- Theme 3.10 Work with partners to address road safety and incorporate PRow into various initiatives
- Theme 3.11 Seek opportunities to develop networks of paths and public outdoor space consisting of attractive, safe off-road routes enabling people of all ages, needs and abilities to walk/ride safely in and around their village/town, out to neighbouring settlements and into and about the wider countryside
- Theme 3.12 Seek opportunities to increase cycling networks
- Theme 3.13 Seek opportunities to increase bridleway networks
- Theme 3.14 Better integrate PRow/sites with public transport and well designed car parks – facilitating sustainable transport, tourism and economy and environmental protection