

**RIGHTS OF WAY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**28 September 2022**

**Questions from Members of the Public**

**(A) Question for Oral Reply**

**1. From Richard Gibbons to the Chairman of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee**

In considering Agenda item 5, will members take account of recommendations in (a) LB Bromley's ROW Improvement Plan to enable/increase year-round active travel to primary/secondary schools and Bromley College in/between Hayes and Bromley Common, supporting Travel Plans; (b) active travel aspirations of LB Bromley's LIP3 transport strategy?

References:

**LBB Rights of Way Improvement Plan, 2007**

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/1243/rights-of-way-improvement-plan>

**7. Objectives and Improvements** (p36): *Improve the contribution RoW can make to sustainable travel through better connectivity to key attractors, such as schools, workplaces, retail centres, leisure sites and transport interchanges as well as parks and open spaces.*

**LBB Local Implementation Plan (LIP3)**

<https://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/1177/local-implementation-plan-lip3->

- **Executive Summary** (p7): *Walking investment will also be directed towards promoting walking to school to reduce the negative traffic and parking impacts associated with the school run and promote healthy, active lifestyles from a young age.*
- **Executive Summary** (p10): *Promoting and expanding public and active travel options for school journeys is essential to reduce school-run trips which cause congestion, local parking issues and safety concerns at the beginning and end of the school day.*
- **Walking Infrastructure** (p50): *A key Council priority is to reduce car trips to school through greater uptake of active and independent school journeys. These healthy and safe routes to schools will be created through infrastructure improvements alongside behaviour change education.*

**Reply:**

The Chairman explained that the role of the Sub-Committee was quasi-judicial in nature and was to consider the evidence before them.

**Supplementary Question from Cllr Alisa Igoe:**

Councillor Igoe commented that the Sub-Committee had only met seven times in twelve years and asked whether all cases were considered by the Sub-Committee.

**Reply:**

The Chairman responded that the Sub-Committee met to consider all relevant cases – there were likely to be more meetings in future as a pipeline of cases was building up.

## **(B) Questions for Written Reply**

### **1. From Joanna North to the Chairman of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee**

Last year's sub-committee meeting was held in private to discuss an application made by the Chair of Friends of Crofton Heath for adding two anciently mapped paths to the Definitive Map. The application routes cross a parcel just under 8 acres of woodland sold by the Norman Family (Rookery Estates) in 2019. The committee commented that it would not be possible to develop over these two paths.

Can the Sub-Committee explain in more detail their concerns regarding the "development" they refer to, and confirm when the Definitive Map will be revised to include these Bridleways?

#### **Reply:**

The meeting on 23rd September 2021 was not held in private and was in relation to the addition of a Public Footpath. A councillor raised a question about development, but this was purely hypothetical and did not relate to any actual proposal. The Definitive Map will be revised shortly.

### **2. From Nicola Brown to the Chairman of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee**

Can the Sub-Committee justify what appears to be an abuse of process, giving the public just 2 days to comment on a report, which councillors and other parties have held for a considerable period, and have already been advised to oppose.

#### **Reply:**

There is no abuse of process. The agenda and report for this meeting was published on Tuesday 20th September, five clear working days before the day of the meeting, in accordance with the legal requirements - Councillors and interested parties did not see the report before this. Councillors will consider the evidence presented in the report and come to a decision – we have not been advised to oppose anything.

### **3. From Richard Gibbons to the Chairman of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee**

Are Bromley Common & Holwood Ward Councillors aware of this meeting and agenda item 5, and likewise which local ROW user groups have been informed, i.e schools, college, walking and cycling groups?

#### **Reply:**

The Council has no legal obligation to consult these groups. Signs would have been placed on site by the Claimant to inform all users of the route of the claim.