

Overview

Surrey County Council is responsible for around 2164 miles (3482 km) of public rights of way. These paths are both in the countryside and urban areas. They are important for enjoying and exploring, for travelling to work or school and for health and wellbeing. They are part of what makes Surrey a special place to live, work and enjoy.

A public right of way is a path that anyone, by law, has the right to use. There are four types:

- Footpaths for walking, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs
- Bridleways for walking, horse riding, cycling, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs
- Restricted byways for walking, horse riding, cycling, mobility scooters or powered wheelchairs and horse-drawn carriages
- Byways for all modes including motorised vehicles

Every council that is responsible for public rights of way must have a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). This sets out how public rights of way meet the needs of the public, now and in the future. Our current Rights of Way Improvement Plan dates from 2014 and needs to be reviewed.

Why your views matter

Your council's views will help us to make sure that our new Rights of Way Improvement Plan meets the needs of everyone in Surrey.

Your feedback will help to develop the priorities and actions of the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan, which will be produced in 2024. Once the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been finalised and approved by the council it will be published on Surrey County Council's website.

Please complete our survey by 10 March 2024.

Please only submit one official response for your council.

If you wish to respond as an individual, please visit <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/environment-and-infrastructure/rowip-public> for our public survey. This also closes on 10 March 2024.

The process of producing the new ROWIP is being supported by an external consultant. If you need to discuss the process of preparing the new ROWIP please contact sccrowip@blackwoodbayne.co.uk. Alternatively, please contact Surrey County Council at sccrowip@surreycc.gov.uk or on 0300 200 1003.

This survey is to support the Improvement Plan only. If you want to report an issue on a public right of way please click on this link: Contact us or report an issue on a Right of Way - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk) <https://rightsofway.surreycc.gov.uk/> or call 0300 200 1003.

Section 1

Please enter the name of the town or parish council you are replying on behalf of:
(Required)

HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Please provide your name
(Required)

PIPPA AUGER

Please provide your contact details in case we need to get in touch with you. This could be an email address or a phone number

01428 654305
deputy.clerk@haslemeretc.org

In what capacity are you representing the parish or town council (choose all that apply). Note – this should be the official response of the council
(Required)

Please select only one item

- Parish or town clerk
- Chair
- Parish or town councillor
- Footpaths / access warden
- Other (please specify)

If other selected, please specify below:

Does your parish have a public rights of way officer, warden or other representative?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide further details on the role of your public rights of way officer, warden or other parish council representative.

Do you pay for any maintenance work on public rights of way in your parish?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide further details. On average, how much do you pay annually? Do you have an annual budget? What works do you pay for?

Do you have volunteers who help with the maintenance and improvement of public rights of way in your area?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide further details on what work your volunteers carry out. Please provide an estimate of how many work days volunteers contribute to works on public rights of way

Does your council promote any routes?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide further details or a link to your promoted routes.

Section 2

How satisfied are you with the following aspects of public rights of way in your parish?

	Very dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Vegetation clearance (paths are not overgrown) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reinstatement and clearance of paths through crops <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Waymarking of routes – the directional signing along routes <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fingerposts at the end of public rights of way where the route leaves the road <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The condition of stiles and gates <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surface condition <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility for less mobile users <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paths being free from obstructions (not including crops) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Would your council be interested in exercising your powers as a Parish Council under Section 43 Highways Act 1980 to maintain public rights of way, or to increase your involvement in other ways?

Please select only one item

- Yes
- ✓ No

Please provide reasons for your answer below:

We don't have the manpower in place to maintain the public rights of way.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? The public rights of way network in our parish is:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree or disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
An important asset for residents in our parish <i>Please select only one item</i>	✓	○	○	○	○
Important to support the health and well-being of residents in our parish <i>Please select only one item</i>	✓	○	○	○	○
Important for travelling to work and school <i>Please select only one item</i>	✓	○	○	○	○
Important for enjoying and exploring nature <i>Please select only one item</i>	✓	○	○	○	○
Important for tourism and the visitor economy <i>Please select only one item</i>	✓	○	○	○	○

Do you feel that over the last 10 years the general condition of public rights of way in your parish has:

Please select only one item

- Improved
- Stayed the same
- Declined
- Not sure / don't know

Please provide reasons for your answer below.

Section 3

Have you reported a public rights of way issue to Surrey County Council in the past 12 months?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- Yes (go to Section 4)
 - No (go to Section 5)
-

Section 4

How would you rate the service of Surrey County Council when you reported an issue?

	Very poor	Poor	Neutral	Good	Very good	Not applicable
Ease of reporting the issue <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ease of tracking the progress of your report online <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall service you received <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How could we have improved your experience of reporting a problem on a public right of way?

You couldn't. The website is straightforward, and it is easy to track progress online. When we have emailed the Rights of Way officer direct, he has been very responsive and informative.

Section 5

We aim to provide a public rights of way network that serves the needs of Surrey County residents. To do this, we may need to prioritise where we spend our available budget while delivering on our responsibilities under (within) the law. In your opinion how important are each of the following:

	Not at all important	Of little importance	Neither important or unimportant	Important	Very important
Maintaining the current public rights of way network <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting and improving the public rights of way network through changes due to development and major infrastructure projects <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving access for those living with disabilities <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving access for people to improve their health and well-being <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving public rights of way for commuting, to work, school or other facilities <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there other areas which you think should be a priority?

Do you have any additional comments which will help us to draft the Rights of Way Improvement Plan?

No

Please tell us of any specific public right of way issues or improvements in your parish. Please provide route numbers (if possible) and/or a precise description of the location of the route.

Continue separately if necessary and email to sccrowip@blackwoodbayne.co.uk or sccrowip@surreycc.gov.uk