

# Briefing Note:

## Public Rights of Way – Dedicated Locality Steward

Part of the duties of the Locality Steward team is to respond to calls for service and assess defects reported on the Public Right of Way (PROW) Network. Currently each Steward is responsible for all aspects of this activity within their area of geographic responsibility.

When considering improvements that could be made in response to and delivery of PROW maintenance, particularly to better align Herefordshire Council's County Plan and to encourage the use of the available outdoor spaces, which include the extensive rights of way network we have created a specific Steward responsible for Public Rights of Way enquiries and defect inspections.

To facilitate the creation of this role we have drawn from the pool of 13 existing Locality Steward positions and repurposed the current vacancy to recruit a dedicated Public Right of Way Locality Steward who, rather than having a specific geographic area of responsibility will take responsibility for all PROW matters countywide.

### BENEFITS

The repurposed role of a PROW steward brings many benefits in terms of service delivery.

- § We will be able to provide enhanced, role specific technical and legal training to allow the PROW Steward deal with complex issues to better 'tie in' to and complement existing Rights of Way and Enforcement processes.
- § With a single point of contact there can be better engagement, liaison and tasking of Parish Footpath Officers, other volunteers and community interest groups leveraging more benefit from volunteers and encouraging self-help – particularly where minor maintenance tasks can be self-delivered.
- § The remaining 12 geographic stewards are able to focus on areas of higher risk on the carriageway network, self-generated works and a particular focus on Community and Stakeholder engagement to support the wider needs and priorities of Herefordshire Council.
- § Increased number of defects completed on the ground as the PROW steward would have the understanding to get it right first time improving the flow of information to our operational to fix the issues.
- § The PROW Steward will still be part of the Locality Steward team providing resilience to respond to emergency calls or assist in times of high demand on the carriageway network. They will have Institute of Highway Engineer accredited training and retain the other skillsets required in addition to their PROW duties.

## CHANGES

To achieve this it has been necessary to make minor alterations to some of the existing locality boundaries.

In making these changes a review has been undertaken of the service levels based on the existing localities and their respective wards and a comparison made with the proposed changes. Analysis suggests that, with the removal of the PROW responsibilities in these areas, that there is no significant increase in demand for services in the changed localities when taking into account;

- Inspection routes in CONFIRM naturally flow into the new arrangements for a joined up schedule
- Customer enquiries volume.
- Differences in inspected 'features' such as accident and erosion sites but there is a natural variation between localities in any event.

The following changes have been proposed and a countywide map is included separately to provide an overview.

### MORTIMER LOCALITY



#### **MORTIMER**

**Lee Fishwick**

**lee.fishwick@balfourbeatty.com**

**07849641572**

Mortimer, Bircher & Leominster North & Rural

---

Currently has Mortimer and Bircher wards. Will adopt the Leominster North and Rural Ward. The steward for this area will be Lee Fishwick. Lee has been providing cover since March 2020 for the vacant Leominster Locality.

### LEOMINSTER LOCALITY



#### **LEOMINSTER RURAL**

**Colin Smith**

**colin.smith3@balfourbeatty.com**

**07856000721**

Leominster West, Leominster East,  
Leominster South and Hatton

---

Currently has Leominster North and Rural, Hatton and Bromyard Bringsty Wards. It will adopt the Leominster West, East & South wards but will drop Leominster North and Rural and Bromyard Bringsty. Colin Smith will be the Locality Steward for this area who had been previously covering the Leominster Rural locality.

## **BROMYARD LOCAITY**



### **BROMYARD**

**Mike Brookes**

**michael.brookes@balfourbeatty.com**

**07966998251**

Bromyard West, Bromyard Bringsty, Three Crosses  
Bishops Frome & Cradley

Currently has Bromyard West, Three Crosses and Bishops Frome & Cradley wards. He will adopt Bromyard Bringsty Ward.

## **TIMELINE FOR CHANGE**

Recruitment for the PROW Steward has been approved and is currently live. Interviews for this role will take place in January with a view to the anticipated start date in Mid-February.

To ensure that all necessary arrangements are made in readiness for this our IT technicians will make the relevant changes to the boundaries on our CONFIRM system on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

A new localities map will also be prepared and distributed to reflect the amendments to the boundaries.

## **FURTHER QUESTIONS**

These changes will be presented as part of the Ward Members Briefings events in January/February (dates to be finalised). Should you have any further questions on this matter, or would like to discuss further please use the following email address [herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com](mailto:herefordshireparishes@bblivingplaces.com) or feel free to discuss directly with the Stakeholder Manager, Paul Hunter, on 07850 943 617