

Update from the Definitive Map Team

A report by the Head of Regulatory Services to Kent County Council's Regulation Committee on Tuesday 15th May 2012.

Recommendation:

I recommend that Members receive this report.

Progress with Definitive Map Team applications

1. Members have requested that a summary of the current position of applications to amend the Definitive Map and Statement (DMS) be provided annually to the Regulation Committee. A copy of the Register of Section 53 applications to amend the Definitive Map and Statement and the Register of applications to divert or extinguish public rights of way is therefore attached at **Appendix A**. The Registers are also available on line at:-

[https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/environment-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/claims%20\(website\).pdf](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/environment-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/claims%20(website).pdf) and <https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/environment-and-planning/public-rights-of-way/diversion-schedule-for-web.pdf>

2. The Registers are updated on a monthly basis to reflect progress with cases.
3. During the period April 2011 to March 2012, thirty one Public Path Orders have been confirmed and eleven Definitive Map Modification Orders. Also five routes have been created through agreement with the landowner. In total eight cases have been referred to the Planning Inspectorate resulting in three being determined by Public Inquiry and five being determined by written representations. Of these cases all but one were confirmed by an Inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. There are two further Public Inquiries due to place over the coming months and a further six cases are due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for determination.
4. There are currently twenty eight unallocated diversions/extinguishments and fourteen unallocated section 53 applications (claims). The average wait between receipt of an application and allocation to an officer is currently twenty four months for diversions and twenty four months for section 53 applications. The backlogs have remained the same for diversions and have slightly increased for section 53 applications due to a shift in priorities as explained by Graham Rusling at the meeting on 7 September 2011 and also due to the production of a new DMS (described below).

Production of a new Definitive Map and Statement

5. The current version of the DMS has a relevant date of 1 April 1987. The Ordnance Survey (OS) base map upon which the public rights of way information is recorded dates from 1979. This was the most up to date OS information available at a scale of 1:10,000 at that time.

6. Considerable development and change in land use has occurred in the County since 1979. The current map fails to reflect this and is increasingly out of date and difficult to interpret in areas affected by development. Mapping technology has also advanced hugely during this period. It is imperative that the DMS is as up to date as possible as this is the legal and conclusive record showing public rights of way which people have to reply upon.
7. The Countryside Access Service is nearing the completion of a lengthy project to bring the DMS up to date, making full use of the mapping technology now available.
8. The project has involved the creation of an electronic record and the careful checking of that new data set. Any modifications i.e. diversions, extinguishments, additions, upgrades/downgrades which have been made to the 1987 Map will be incorporated within the new map.
9. During the summer months a consultation will take place providing the opportunity to examine a draft of the updated DMS and to raise queries about anything contained within it. All members will be informed of the consultation at that time.
10. Following the consultation it is anticipated that the updated DMS will be completed in December and circulated in the New Year.

Recommendation

11. I RECOMMEND Members receive this report.

Background documents:

Appendix A – Registers of applications

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