

25 Request for Scrutiny regarding Delays in Adding Paths to the Council's Definitive Map as Rights of Way

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report providing Members with information on a request for scrutiny which had been made by Shadwell Parish Council concerning alleged delays in getting paths added to the Council's definitive map as rights of way.

The Chair welcomed Parish Councillor Robert Dyson to the meeting to explain in more detail the concerns of Shadwell Parish Council.

Martin Farrington, Chief Recreation Officer and Joanne Clough, Countryside and Access Manager were in attendance to respond to questions from the Board.

Councillor Dyson informed the Board that there were two issues: one relating to a footpath close to a property which the new owner of the property had closed, claiming it was on private land. The other issue related to an existing permissive footpath on some land belonging to Leeds City Council. In both instances the Parish Council had applied to Leeds City Council for these footpaths to be placed on the definitive map but were told that there would be between an 8 and 10 year delay in dealing with the applications. It was considered that this delay would be detrimental to any application succeeding and the Parish Council was therefore requesting that scrutiny look into the resources committed to this area.

The Chair reminded the meeting that the Scrutiny Board did not have executive powers to make any decision on this matter and could only make recommendations.

The Chief Recreation Officer informed the meeting that the intention was to submit a formal report on the issues to the September meeting of the Board. Members therefore agreed that any decision on holding a scrutiny inquiry should be deferred until the September meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report and request for scrutiny by Shadwell Parish Council be noted.
- (b) That the decision on whether further scrutiny would be appropriate be deferred until the September meeting of the Board when a report from the City Development Department would be submitted.

(Note: Councillor Taggart arrived at 11.05am during the consideration of this item and Councillors Wilkinson and Ogilvie left the meeting at 11.15am at the conclusion of this item.)