

REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON FOOTPATH 41 HAZEL GROVE AND BRAMHALL

Report of the Transport Strategy Manager

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Footpath Hazel Grove and Bramhall (Jackson's Lane to Happy Valley) has been increasingly raised as an issue by members of the public and councillors.
- 1.2 Following inspection and site meetings it has become clear that the necessary work is beyond the scope of the Public Rights of Way reactive budget, and other funding must be sought. The work is not significant enough in nature or urgency to be suitable for funding through the Transport Capital Programme.
- 1.3 Both the Peak and Northern Footpath Society and the Ramblers Association offer grants for Public Right of Way improvement work. To apply however we must have a detailed scheme ready to submit as part of an application for funds.

2. ASSESSMENT OF ISSUES ON FOOTPATH 41 HAZEL GROVE AND BRAMHALL

- 2.1 The relevant section of footpath is approximately 250m in length rising over 20m from the brook, most of this rise being in the southerly section of the route which is 140m in length.
- 2.2 This section of the footpath is an open field path running over apparently unused agricultural land. It is a difficult route to use due to the combination of gradient and poor underfoot conditions in the wet.
- 2.3 The walked path has deviated from the line as shown on the Definitive Map. The mapped line matches the land ownership boundary, which would seem to be consistent over time. There is a beaten down fence at this location which we believe defines the line of the route.
- 2.4 The path is an access to Happy Valley and is also a route providing access the schools on either side of the valley. It is clearly well used.
- 2.5 The main issue is the nature of the route when wet. The soil has a significant clay content, and this means the walked route becomes very slippery, with erosion slowly exacerbating the problem.
- 2.6 There are also some issues with aging and unnecessary infrastructure (bridges and stiles).
- 2.7 Preliminary discussions suggested the path could be improved by the installation of steps at various points, with some surfacing improvement work between them, and the installation of drainage at key points.

- 2.8 To be able to undertake these works will require input from the Design and Feasibility Team, who have given us an estimate of £3720 to complete a feasibility study. Allocating this amount from the Public Rights of Way revenue budget would have a significant impact on the overall revenue programme for Public Rights of Way.
- 2.9 This study would produce a topographical survey and design for the remedying of the identified issues, and an estimate for the cost of the work.
- 2.10 This would then be submitted to the external groups as part of an application for the necessary funding to undertake improvements.
- 2.11 The remaining balance in the Area Committee's Delegated Budget (Norbury & Woodsmoor) is £8,177.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Area Committee is recommended to give approval to the undertaking of a feasibility study in relation to the making of improvements to Footpath 41 Hazel Grove & Bramhall at a cost of £3,320 to be funded from the Area Committee's Delegated Budget (Norbury & Woodsmoor ward allocation).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Nicholas Robinson on telephone number or alternatively email nicholas.robinson@stockport.gov.uk