

Foreword

By Councillor Ted Richards

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Infrastructure

I am pleased to be able to introduce the very first Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Solihull.

It is intended that this plan will be a strategic document that will provide the means over the next five years for us to be able to identify and propose real improvements to make the countryside and its rights of way more accessible and available to all.

Public rights of way are part of our heritage. With a network of over 211 kilometres of registered public rights of way available in the borough and many more in the urban areas, there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to go out and explore the many attractions of Solihull on foot, cycle or horseback. Together these routes form part of our sustainable transport network, which provides excellent opportunities not just for improving our health through exercise and recreation but also for travelling to work and facilities such as shops or the local public transport network.

We have made great strides in improving the network and have seen many positive results over the last few years. However there is still considerable work to do, and this plan lays out the steps we need to take.

We have consulted widely with many key organisations and individuals, both during the production of the Plan and the draft consultation process. You have let us know what we are doing well and where we need to improve. We have taken on board what you have told us, and I would like to thank all those who gave their time and expertise towards the development of our Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Over the next five years, we will strive to implement the key actions of this Improvement Plan that you have assisted us in identifying by seeking further funding and resources to make Solihull's rights of way network more accessible and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.



Ted Richards

Ted Richards