

Wiltshire Council

Council

21 February 2017

Notice of Motion No. 41 - Protecting Wiltshire's Rights of Way For People From Councillors Steve Oldrieve and Jon Hubbard

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution:

Council notes:

- Our county is fortunate to have a significant network of historic and useful footways and right-of-way;
- This network provides a wonderful opportunity to support the council's key objectives for individual wellbeing;
- This network provides an economic benefit to the county for tourists to walk our unique landscapes

Council regrets:

- that over the life of this council the quality and access of those rights of way has significantly reduced due to the poor upkeep and lack of sufficient budget to meet residents' expectations for maintenance.
- Voluntary groups have been stymied of designated funding due to the freeze on spending caused by the financial crisis at Wiltshire Council restricting the amount of work that they are able to undertake.
- The statutory requirement of landowners to maintain rights-of-way has not been robustly enforced by the council.

Council calls for:

- £36,000 of the designated fund for maintaining rights of way is delegated down to Area Boards. The Area Boards allocate the funds, following the same principles as CATG funding.
- That Area Boards work with voluntary rights of way groups, walking groups and Parish and Town Councils to identify the needs within their local community.
- The administration enables the council's enforcement teams to fulfill their obligation to protect the rights-of-ways for Wiltshire's residents.