



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 7TH DECEMBER, 2017

NOTE: A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD FOR MEMBERS ONLY

AT 10:00AM.

Location

Siambr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

*** NOTE**

This meeting will be webcast

<http://www.gwynedd.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Contact Point

Lowri Haf Evans

01286 679878

lowrihafevans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED 29/11/17)

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (10)

Councillors

Elwyn Edwards
Berwyn Parry Jones
Catrin Elen Wager
Simon Glyn

Annwen Hughes
Linda Morgan
Gethin Glyn Williams

Aled Wyn Jones
Edgar Wyn Owen
Gruffydd Williams

Independent (5)

Councillors

Peter Antony Garlick
Kevin Morris Jones
Vacant Seat - Independent

Keith Jones
Mike Stevens

Llais Gwynedd (2)

Councillors

Robert Glyn Daniels

Owain Williams

Lib / Lab (1)

Stephen W. Churchman

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 7

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 10.10.17 be signed as a true record.

5. REVIEW OF RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

8 - 63

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig

Consider the Cabinet Members Report

6. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

64 - 75

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig

- a) Background and purpose
- b) Present a scoping summary for a scrutiny investigation
- c) Nomination of members to serve on the investigation

7. PLANNING SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION UPDATE

76 - 78

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig

To receive a report back from the Cabinet Member on the implementation of the Scrutiny Investigation's recommendations

Agenda Item 4

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PWYLLGOR CRAFFU CYMUNEDAU10 October 2017

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2017

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Stephen Churchman, Glyn Daniels, Peter Garlick, Simon Glyn, Annwen Hughes, Aled W Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Edgar Wyn Owen, Mike Stevens, Catrin Wager, Gruffydd Williams and Owain Williams

OFFICERS: Gareth James (Members' Manager - Support and Scrutiny) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support Officer)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

- a) In relation to item 5 on the agenda – Mair Rowlands (Cabinet Member - Corporate Support) and Catherine Roberts (Delivery Manager Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Partnership)
- b) In relation to item 6 on the agenda - Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment), Dafydd Gibbard (Senior Manager Corporate Property) and Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager)
- c) In relation to item 6 on the agenda - Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of the Environment Department) Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager) and Alun Lewis Evans (Public Protection Manager (Welfare)
- ch) In relation to item 7 on the agenda - Councillor Gareth Griffith (Cabinet Member - Highways and Municipal) and Gwyn Morris Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Elwyn Edwards, Berwyn Parry Jones, Linda Morgan, Gethin Glyn Williams and Councillor Dafydd Meurig - Cabinet Member, Environment

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of this committee, that took place on 21.6.2017, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

- a) A report was submitted by the Cabinet Member updating the Committee on the Partnership's work. It was explained that the Partnership was required to formally report annually to the Committee giving an overview of the Partnership's main strategic developments over the year, together with the commissioning work that sets the framework for the priorities. It was added that this ensured that the Partnership delivered its obligations in accordance with sections of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006, by working with the Police, Health Service, Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Attention was drawn to the following main messages that stemmed from the 2016/17 activities together with the year's main achievements. Specific attention was given to the North Wales e-newsletter for the substance misuse field that was developed by the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Team. The Team had received praise from the Welsh Government and the newsletter was further developed to be an interactive website with the Team leading regionally on this.

The main milestones for 2017-2018 were highlighted and the Scrutiny Committee was asked to support the priorities listed in the report together with the future direction of the work. It was added that any schemes / projects that appeared yellow was because they had not been completed, were transferred to the plan for 2017-2018 or were included in regional projects.

- b) In response to a question regarding how the Partnership was complying with the plan, it was noted that the establishment of the Safe Communities Board had ensured that a strategic assessment was developed via use of current data and that the service responded locally.

In response to a question regarding a 'call block', it was noted that it was possible to get equipment from the Council's Trading Standards Unit and in response to cybercrime it was noted that a project had not been identified within the Partnership, however, the Police and the Trading Standards Unit were working together on this issue.

In response to a question regarding the lessons learnt in a situation of Domestic Homicide, it was noted that the Partnership had a statutory duty to conduct a review of every domestic homicide. It was highlighted that a report of the lessons learnt together with the recommendations and the work programme would be presented to the Home Office. Once the Home Office received the report it would then be shared with other Partnerships.

In response to a question regarding seasonal crime, it was noted that the Police were aware of the situation and planned for the busiest seasons. It was highlighted that the Police used a special formula to find out where priority is required. It was added that no more resources were available and therefore it was necessary to make the best out of every situation.

RESOLVED

- **To accept the report and support the Partnership's priorities and future work direction.**

6. PEST CONTROL SERVICE - INCOME

- a) A report was presented by the Head of Environment giving Members an update on the progress of the Council's Pest Control Service to generate more income. Members were reminded that as part of the Environment Department's programme of efficiency savings that consideration had been given to abolish the service. Following the resolution of the Communities Scrutiny Committee in January 2016, to make the service financially self-sufficient, a framework and plan was formulated to generate additional income. The plan was submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in June 2016, where the recommendations were accepted. Further, the Cabinet resolved to increase the Service's income target rather than abolishing it.

Attention was drawn to the nature of the service proposed and also to the detailed work made to consider the options available to ensure a self-sufficient service. New fees were presented for all aspects of the work in September 2016, together with a marketing campaign with the support of the Communications Unit. Work arrangements and the costs attached to them were reviewed. Although it was not possible to fully report on the impact of the adaptations, it was reported that an increase of approximately £10 had already been made over half the 2016/2017 financial year. It was added that the Department was confident of reaching the target of £40k by the end of this financial year.

It was highlighted that the Service would keep an eye on demand that was dependent on several factors beyond their control. It was reported that there was a back-up plan to increase income if the work flow was insufficient.

- b) During the discussion the following observations were noted:
- That it was necessary to improve the marketing element and to consider a dynamic logo/brand/motto
 - That it was necessary to consider a service that would add value for the future - one that would make a profit rather than merely being self-sufficient.
 - It was necessary to challenge national companies in the context of commercial contracts
- c) In response to a question regarding any observations by the public regarding their discontent about the service, it was reported that the feedback collected thus far was very heartening and was the best within the Property Department.

In response to a question regarding street pest control, it was reported that this work did not attract income, however, if pests were a threat to public health the matter would be prioritised and the Service would work jointly with the Public Protection Service to deal with the problem.

- ch) The report was welcomed and the service was praised. It was added that the service was going in the right direction.

RESOLVED to accept the report.

7. WALES FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AUDIT

- a) Submitted – the report of the Head of Environment updating Members on the progress made by the Public Protection Service in addressing the recommendations of the Food Standards Agency's audit that took place in February 2016.

It was reported that the Service had provided a detailed action plan to address the 34 recommendations. It was highlighted that 21 of the recommendations had been

addressed thus far with the work to meet the other 13 continuing. It was added that some of the recommendations that had not been addressed were dependent on referring more resources to the Service. It was reported that the Service had seen a substantial reduction in staff as a result of the cuts system, however, it continued to try and prioritise work. Despite this, it was noted that low risk establishments did not receive inspections within the time-schedule recommended by the Food Standards Agency. It was also reported that the qualifications of the Food Standards Agency, which was an independent body inspecting an ideal situation, was high, but the service now offered training to address this.

It was noted that there were over 2000 food establishments within the rural area of Gwynedd and 1500 of these were inspected annually. In terms of performance, it was reported that 98% of the food establishments across the County scored between 3 and 5 which was very good. It was added that the service also looked to ensure that it was possible for officers to work more effectively by being out in the field rather than to duplicate administrative/additional work in the office. It was noted that food establishments appreciated the Service and offered positive feedback on the work. It was added that the Service supported the local economy by undertaking these inspections.

- b) During the discussion the following observations were noted:
- Concern that the Service did not have sufficient resources to fully achieve the requirements of the Food Standards Agency.
 - There was a need to improve staff qualifications
 - It was necessary to frequently monitor the situation
 - That priority should be given to high risk establishments
 - Consideration should be given to charging a fee for visits or a penalty for non-compliance
- a) In response to a comment regarding improving qualifications, it was noted that a series of training sessions had been conducted and the service was likely to attain the expected level.

In response to a comment regarding charging a fee for visits, it was noted that this had been discussed nationally, however, as the work was statutory, it was not possible to generate income. It was added that there was not much scope to charge a fee for work in this field but there was a right to provide advice and it may be possible to consider this.

RESOLVED

- **That the Committee was content that the majority of the recommendations had been achieved, however, there was concern regarding the lack of resources to achieve the statutory work within the time-schedule which created a risk to the Council and the the County's residents.**
- **That the service achieved good work under challenging circumstances.**
- **To propose that the Department presents more information and facts in order to challenge the need for more resources to address the statutory requirements.**

8. WASTE ENFORCEMENT

- a) Submitted - the report of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal Services requesting the Committee's support to establish a Task team of Committee Members to investigate Waste Enforcement issues in order to advise the Committee on the way forward.

Attention was drawn to the background of the proposal where a Member's proposal had been adopted by the Full Council in March 2017, for the Cabinet Member to consider introducing effective sanctions as a matter of priority for residents who dispose of their litter on the wrong day or in the wrong way.

It was suggested that four members of the Panel were needed to join the relevant officers on the Task Team.

RESOLVED

- **To accept the principle**
- **To programme and prioritise the Committee's workload in the Informal Meeting as three investigations / work groups now needed to be undertaken.**
- **To nominate Councillors Stephen Churchman, Keith Jones, Mike Stevens and Catrin Wager as members for the Street Enforcement Task Team.**

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and concluded at 12pm

Agenda Item 5

COMMITTEE	Communities Scrutiny Committee
DATE	7 December 2017
TITLE	REVIEW OF RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Dafydd Meurig
PURPOSE	Report on the progress with the work of preparing a review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and to ask the opinion of the Committee on a draft version of the Statement of Action.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 It was reported to this Committee in September 2016 and then in March 2017 about the intention to review the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on what needs to be done and to ask for guidance on the draft Statement of Action.

1.2 The ROWIP is a strategic document to be used by Local Authorities in order to plan for the management, development and promotion of their rights of way network. Gwynedd's current ROWIP was prepared between 2004 and 2007 and was adopted by the Council and published in October 2007.

1.3 The lifespan of the ROWIP is ten years and, in 2016, Welsh Government presented guidelines for Local Authorities to review their Plans. The Scrutiny Committee has already approved the revision of the current ROWIP and the publication of a new plan in accordance with the guidelines before November 2018.

1.4 The work of preparing the ROWIP has been divided into two parts, namely:

Part 1: Review - in this report, attention is given to the following requirements

- Evaluate to what extent the previous ROWIP's objectives were achieved,
- Assess the network's current condition and its history,
- Determine to what extent the local rights of way satisfy the public's requirements now and in the future.

Part 2: Statement of Action - this report presents the main themes that will guide the Statement of Action as well as a draft list of the action steps that will, in turn, be the basis of the work programmes.

1.5 It must be noted that the ROWIP review is taking place at a time where Welsh Government is considering a change in legislation in the field of access and they have already held two public consultations regarding the change in access legislation. There is no certainty that there will be a change in legislation and, if so, when it would be operational. Therefore, the ROWIP review must proceed in the context of the current legislation.

2. GATHERING INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT

2.1 In order to have an idea of the current situation in terms of the condition of the rights of way network and to have the public's opinion, the following was undertaken:

Public Consultation - the intention of the consultation was to gather the opinion of Gwynedd residents and others on access requirements. A digital survey was prepared, along with a paper version that was available at Siopau Gwynedd, libraries and leisure centres throughout the County. The questionnaire was promoted on the Council's website and through social media. The consultation was held between the 10th of July and the 1st of September 2017.

1,386 valid responses were received, with the vast majority (97.1%) being received online. A full report on the results of the consultation is included in Appendix 1.

Assessment of the network's current condition - the national guidelines do not set a necessity on Local Authorities to hold a detailed review of their network. Nevertheless, it is not believed reasonable to consider preparing a new ROWIP without undertaking an overview of the network's physical condition. Unlike when the original plan was being prepared, resources were not available this time to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the network. At that time, full-time officers were appointed and approximately 35% of the network was assessed. This time, data from three main sources was used, namely:

- Information gathered by the Council's Officers
- Information gathered by the National Park Officers
- Information gathered by members of the Ramblers Association as part of their national campaign *Pathwatch*.

The information relates to 998km of paths, or 26% of the Network.

Other consultations - in addition to the above, the opinion of the three Local Access Forums in the Gwynedd area was sought and Gwynedd community and town councils were consulted over the 2016/17 period.

3. PART 1: THE REVIEW

3.1 This part of the report contains an overview of the review's findings to the matters noted in The information is used as a foundation to prepare a draft Statement of Action which is included in part 4 of this report. There will be an opportunity to give more detailed consideration to the results in the draft ROWIP that will be prepared over the coming months.

3.2 **Evaluate to what extent the previous ROWIP was achieved:** Appendix 2a notes the action areas that were included in ROWIP 2007 with an explanation of whether they have been achieved or not.

Observations: It is reasonable to conclude that the majority of actions have been fully or partially achieved. However, in considering the steps that have not been fully or partially implemented, the following factors should be considered:

- There are several actions, for example proposals 1/3 and 4/4, that offer different options which are dependent on resources, funding or staff. Overall, the proposals that needed the most resources have not been achieved. It is estimated that implementing the ideal proposals in the previous ROWIP would need a minimum of £8 million additional funding.
- It could be argued that it is unreasonable to draw up such a comprehensive work programme over such a long period when influences cannot be anticipated, such as:
 - a change in the financial climate

- change in the priorities of key bodies, such as Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales
- Not all actions are measurable.

It is important to draw attention to the successes over the past 10 years and some of these are included in Appendix 2a. The majority of the plans were financed through Welsh Government grants and European funds.

3.3 **Evaluation of the network's condition:** See Appendix 2b

Observations

- In response to question 3.10 (problems on rights of way), 61.2% of those who answered had come across a problem when using rights of way. Of the problems identified, the main problems were a lack of signage or misleading signage. This shortcoming is also emphasised in the condition survey
- Intentional obstructions were a serious or very serious problem in the opinion of 53.4% of those who answered the questionnaire.
- It can be seen in the response to question 25 (prioritisation of resources) that there is some dissatisfaction with the categorisation system and, indeed, a relatively low number were in support of keeping the current stance of prioritising categories 1 and 2 only. The categorisation system was a method of responding to the financial situation and was aimed at identifying the most popular routes that served communities or created convenient and attractive networks for local people and tourists. It must be acknowledged that the categorisation system needs to be assessed and updated to reflect the changes and developments such as the Coastal Path that has taken place over the past 10 years. However, it is difficult to think of another option for the prioritisation of resources that is practical and fair, and that could be adopted.

3.4 **The extent to which the local rights of way satisfy requirements now and in the future:** Reference is made to Appendix 1, Rights of Way Questionnaire Report.

Conclusions

- In response to question 3.16: "Do you believe that the existing rights of way network is suitable and meets the needs of most users?"
The response was 44% yes, 41% no and 15% did not respond.
This response seems to show that there is quite an equal division between satisfaction with the existing network and a wish to see change. Of those who were of the opinion that the network does not meet their needs, a high number believed that more multi-purpose routes are needed that would be suitable for horse riding and cycling.
- The desire for more multi-purpose routes is an aim that should be supported, but it must be acknowledged that the current legislation is often an obstacle to change the status of paths, for example, to change the status of a footpath to a bridleway that would also allow cycling.
Attention is drawn to Welsh Government's proposal in its consultation document, "Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Consultation", that the legislation should be changed to allow cycling and horse riding on every footpath. The Council's observation on the proposal was that it would be impractical to implement this and would likely cause disagreements between users and land managers.

- The demand for local circular routes is high amongst people that responded to question 3.12 in the questionnaire.

4. PART 2: STATEMENT OF ACTION

- 4.1 In the Statement of Action, there is a need to identify the main work themes and the actions and this will be the basis to prepare more detailed work programmes. Unlike the previous plan, most of the work programme will be drawn-up for a year or two rather than a period of 10 years. Operating in this way will lead to more realistic and achievable work programmes.
- 4.2 In preparing the Statement of Action, consideration is given to the observations in part 3 of this report.
- 4.3 It is inevitable that consideration must be given to the Statement of Action in the context of resources. The Committee's attention is drawn to the following:
- In 2007/08, the core budget for maintaining rights of way was £351,000. In 2017/18, it has reduced to £175,000 which includes support for the community councils. With the reduction in budgets, prioritisation was given to category 1 and 2 paths only. Unfortunately, it is inevitable that the financial situation will lead to a decline in the network's condition over the coming years. These figures do not include the National Park's expenditure on paths nor the grant received towards maintaining the Coast Path.
 - Until 2016/17, £70,000 per year was earmarked towards supporting maintenance work by community councils. In 2017/18, the contribution was reduced to £35,000.
 - In 2007/08, there were 16.5 full-time members of staff involved in the management, maintenance and development of rights of way and other access opportunities, e.g. Lonydd Glas. In 2017/18, the number of full-time staff has reduced to 8.5, with 2 members of staff on temporary contracts.

4.4 Draft Statement of Action.

<p>Main Theme 1. Maintain the existing network</p>
<p>Action 1.1 Prioritise resources to maintain paths within category 1 and 2. Paths that are promoted by the Council and SNPA fall into these categories, as well as other routes such as the Lonydd Glas network. There will be a need to re-visit this action following a review of the categorisation system.</p>
<p>Explanation Although there is some criticism of the categorisation system; in the short term, this is the most practical system that would enable the most popular routes to be in an acceptable condition. It must be acknowledged that a lack of maintenance on the rest of the network would lead to further deterioration in the condition of many paths as well as a backlog of work and costs if they are going to be restored to an acceptable standard.</p> <p>During the life of the ROWIP, this stance could be reviewed in response to any change in legislation or resource availability.</p>
<p>Action 1.2 Continue to work with community and town councils to support work of maintaining paths that are important locally.</p>
<p>Explanation An engagement exercise over winter 2016/17 showed that the vast majority of town and community councils were eager to see popular paths maintained. There was an understanding amongst many councils that access opportunities were important for the economy and for the well-being of local people. Having a collaboration agreement with the councils reduces the workload of the Council and the SNPA.</p>
<p>Action 1.3 Support work by volunteers and local organisations to support rights of way.</p>
<p>Explanation Gwynedd and Anglesey's Well-being assessment conveys the importance of the Natural Environment for the people of Gwynedd, and there is recognition that participating in practical work within their communities is beneficial to individuals' health and well-being.</p> <p>Individuals and organisations already contribute towards maintaining rights of way and observations were received in response to the questionnaire asking the Council to offer more volunteering opportunities.</p>

Theme 2: Managing the network

Action 2.1

Review and update the Public Rights of Way Policy document.

Explanation

The document should be updated in order to reflect the changes in resources and emphasis since 2007.

Action 2.2

Review and update the system of categorising rights of way.

Explanation

The categorisation system was established over 10 years ago with the input of Town and Community Councils. The purpose of categorisation was to prioritise the available maintenance resources. With a reduction of 50% in the budget since 2007/08, the need to prioritise is more important than ever. It is emphasised that the Council's statutory duty to maintain a right of way remains, regardless of the category of the path.

It is apparent by now that the existing categories, in many cases, do not reflect local use and priorities; especially when considering potential connections for Active Travel plans and local routes.

Action 2.3

Strengthen collaboration arrangements with Snowdonia National Park Authority.

Explanation

A lot is already being done jointly between Gwynedd Council and the National Park. It is sensible during a time when resources are scarce for practical steps to be taken to make the best use of staff skills and resources from both bodies to benefit Gwynedd's economy and communities.

Main Theme 3: Maintain and update the definitive map and statements

Action 3.1

Continue to maintain and update the official definitive map and statements

Explanation

The official definitive map and statements is a record of the existence and status of rights of way which has been prepared and adopted following a thorough and prolonged legal process. The definitive map and statement is the most important evidence by far if doubt is raised about the existence or status of rights of way.

Action 3.2

Support applications to amend the official map to create new rights of way or to confirm higher rights if the changes are of significant benefit to the highest number of users.

Explanation

The existing system of creating or changing rights of way status can be complicated and burdensome in terms of staff time and resources. The Council must give consideration to each application to amend the official map but applications that bring the greatest benefit to the largest number of users should be prioritised.

Main Theme 4: Upgrade and enhance the network

Action 4.1

Support the development of circular routes that serve local communities or connect popular destinations and attractions.

Explanation

The questionnaire shows that circular routes are important to many users as they are a convenient resource for leisure and keeping fit. It would be possible to include some routes within work programmes to develop Active Travel routes.

Action 4.2

Support more multi-purpose routes - walking, wheelchair, cycling and horse riding - if it can be shown that the routes benefit the largest possible number of users.

Explanation

The questionnaire shows a high demand for multi-purpose routes, but nevertheless, routes that will bring the greatest benefit to the largest number of users must be prioritised. It is likely that some routes could be developed within the Active Travel work programmes. Advantage should be taken of grant schemes where possible to implement large improvements and to collaborate with organisations that represent users.

Action 4.3

Continue to operate in accordance with the principle of the least restrictive option.

Explanation

Since 2007, action has been taken in accordance with the least restrictive principle (install gates instead of stiles or no furniture at all), access provisions that meets the needs of less able users should continue to be delivered.

Main Theme 5: Information and promotion

Action 5.1

Provide an on-line map which shows the rights of way network and access opportunities.

Explanation

By now, it is normal to turn to the web to obtain information. Currently, the Council does not provide comprehensive information for the people of Gwynedd on the Council's website regarding the access opportunities available for them. Information is available on the National Park's website, and the main routes promoted are on the Snowdonia Mountains and Coast website.

Action 5.2

Collaborate with other Departments within the Council and other agencies to promote and market Gwynedd's rights of way and natural assets.

Explanation

Tourism is a key part of Gwynedd's economy which supports over 15,000 jobs. 60% of tourists have noted that walking is the main reason they visit Gwynedd.

5. THE NEXT STEPS

5.1 Following receiving the Committee's observations on the Draft Statement of Action, these are the anticipated next steps:

- Give the National Park an opportunity to make observations on the draft Statement of Action,
- Consult with the Local Access Forums,
- Submit a complete draft version of the ROWIP to this Committee during spring 2018 and receive support to use it for a public consultation,
- A consultation period on the draft for a minimum of 12 weeks. The aim is to conduct the consultation during May, June and July 2018,
- September / October 2018 - return to the Committee with a final version of the ROWIP,
- Before the end of November 2018, receive approval from the Council and the National Park to adopt and publish the new Plan.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 The Committee is asked for its opinion on the draft Statement of Action and to approve the next steps towards preparing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

6.2 Submit a progress report to the Scrutiny Committee in approximately six month's time.

Rights of Way Questionnaire

Submission Date: 2017-10-09

Authors: Research and Analytics Team

Content

	Page
Introduction	3
Methodology	5
Response to the questionnaires	6
Your use of rights of way	7
Your views	16
Your views on rights of way	23

1. Introduction

Gwynedd Council, jointly with the Snowdonia National Park Authority, intend to review and update the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

The ROWIP is a strategic document to be used by Local Authorities in order to plan for the management, development and promotion of their rights of way network. The ROWIP sets a framework to identify, prioritise and plan for improvements to the rights of way network and access to the countryside for the benefit of walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, individuals with mobility problems and others.

Rights of Way include public footpaths, bridleways and byways (usually narrow lanes, often unsurfaced) but they do not include roads.

As part of the review, the service was eager to ascertain the views of the public to assist them to plan for how they could improve and maintain the Rights of Way network in Gwynedd. The responses to the questionnaire will therefore be considered when reviewing the ROWIP.

The Categorisation System

This procedure of categorising rights of way has been adopted by Gwynedd Council in order to assist to prioritise resources towards maintaining the rights of way network. The majority of the county's rights of way fall into one of four categories. Currently, the Council gives priority to paths in categories 1 and 2, namely approximately 45% of the network.

Category 1

The majority of these paths are extensively used and form links within towns, villages or between public transport facilities, car parks and attractions. They include:

- Paths and routes promoted by Gwynedd Council and the National Park including the Coast Path.
- Paths that connect urban areas or paths within urban areas.
- The Lonydd Glas network and the paths with high potential to be developed into "Active Travel" paths.

Category 2

Popular paths mainly used for recreational purposes including paths around communities, circular walks or access to open land or beaches. These include:

- Paths promoted by Gwynedd Council, the National Park and community organisations including Community Councils.
- Paths that are less likely to be suitable for development into "Active Travel" paths.

Category 3

These are paths that are rarely used, but nevertheless form links between paths in categories 1 and 2. They are paths with the potential to be used to promote walking between communities or to form a part of a route that can be promoted in the future.

Category 4

Paths without any obvious use or potential where an alternative provision of paths in higher categories is available. Usually, they do not have much potential to create useful links or form part of a promoted route. They also include paths with doubt regarding their status where it is unlikely that this will be resolved.

The questionnaire is part of preparatory work for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan review, which the Council is required to prepare in accordance with the Countryside and Access Act 2000. As part of the review, the service was eager to ascertain the views of the public to assist them to plan for how they could improve and maintain the Rights of Way network in Gwynedd. This report analyses the results of the questionnaire.

2. Methodology

In order to discover the views of Gwynedd residents on access needs to feed into the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, a questionnaire was used as a way of gathering information.

This questionnaire is based on the Wales outdoor leisure review conducted by Natural Resources Wales.

The questionnaire response period ran from 10 July to 1 September 2017.

A digital questionnaire was available on the 'Have your say' page, namely the consultation site on the Council's website, in order to gather the views of the general public.

Paper copies of the questionnaires were provided in each in every Siop Gwynedd, along with libraries and leisure centres across the county.

The consultation was promoted through the 'Have your say' page and through the Council's social media pages, namely Facebook and Twitter. The questionnaire was also promoted by Snowdonia National Park.

Responses were received through the post and through on-line questionnaires.

3. Response to the questionnaires

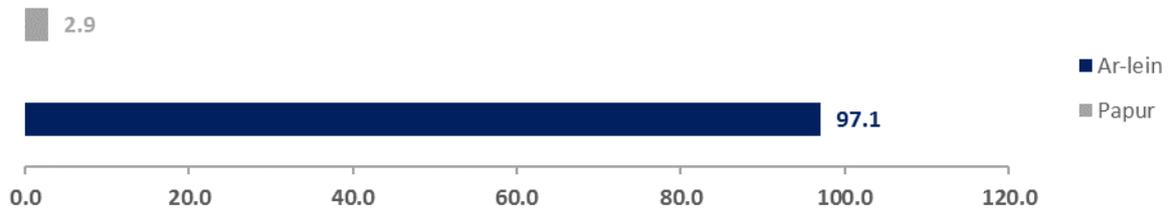
This section of the report will analyse the responses to the questionnaires.

3.01 How were the responses received?

A total of 1,386 valid responses were received to the questionnaire.

In *Graph001* you can see a breakdown of how the questionnaires were filled in. It is seen that the vast majority, namely 97.1% (Number=1,346) of the responses have been filled in on-line. Whilst the number of paper answers, 2.9% (N=40) are low in comparison.

Graph001



Your use of Rights of Way

3.02 Question 1. How often do you use rights of way for some of the activities below?

It can be seen from the table below that the most popular use made of rights of way was for walking - with almost half (43.6%) of responders noting that they walked every day, and almost one in every five (18.0%) noting that they walked twice a week. The second most popular activity was cycling - but people do this less often than walking (just over 25% do this at least once a week). The numbers who horse-ride is very low in comparison, almost 15% do this at least once a week.

Tabl001

	Daily	Twice a week	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Never	No response
Walking	43.6%	18.0%	18.2%	6.8%	6.9%	2.0%	4.5%
Cycling	5.3%	9.7%	11.5%	9.7%	16.2%	18.0%	29.6%
Riding	6.3%	4.2%	4.3%	0.8%	4.6%	43.7%	36.1%
Horse and cart	0.6%	0.2%	0.6%	0.5%	2.0%	50.6%	45.4%
Other	2.4%	2.5%	2.1%	0.8%	2.3%	38.5%	51.4%

3.03 Question 2. If other – please note what activity?

Some activities being noted apart from the above were running, kayaking / canoeing and driving.

3.04 Question 3. If you have noted 'Never' for any of the above, what is your main reason/s for not using Rights of Way?

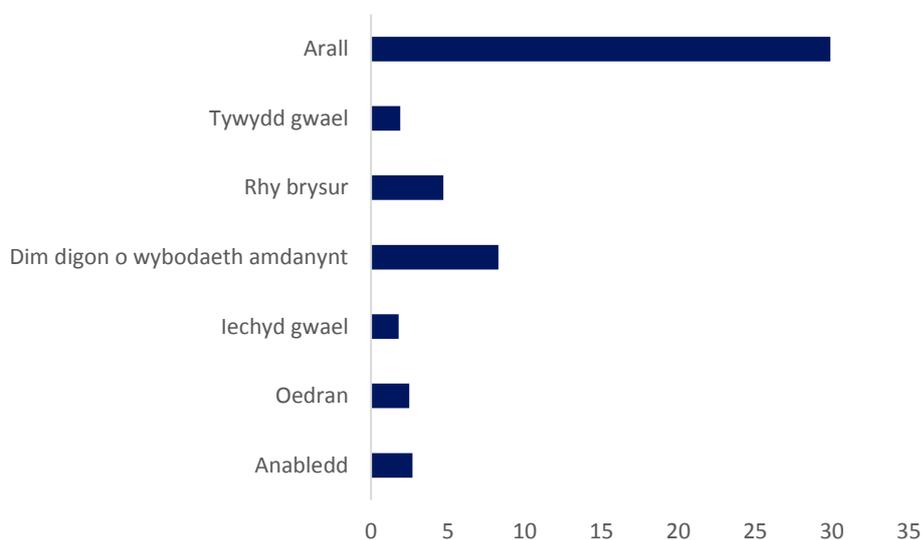
Note from the table below that the reason most people give for not using rights of way is that there is insufficient information about them (8.3%, N=115). Please see all responses in *Table002*.

Table002

	Number	Percentage
Disability	37	2.7
Age	34	2.5
Poor health	25	1.8
Insufficient information about them	115	8.3
Too busy	65	4.7

Poor weather	26	1.9
Other	415	29.9
<i>The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question</i>		

For those who noted 'Other', namely 29.9% (N=415), the reason given was that they did not own a horse and cart or bicycle.



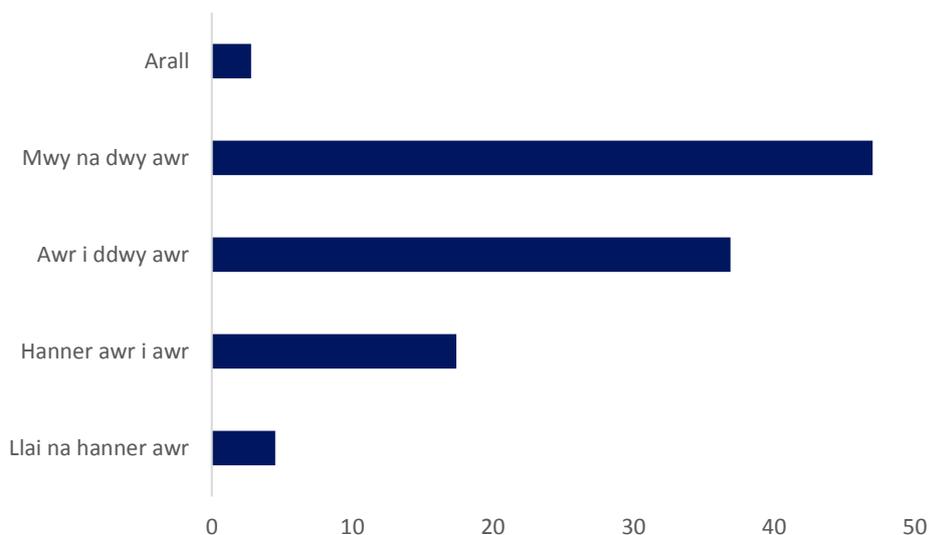
3.05 Question 4. How much time do you spend doing these activities at a time?

The most common answer to this question was 'more than two hours' with almost half (47.0%, N=652) of the responders noting this. Just over a third of the responders (36.9%, N=512) noted that they did the activities for an hour to two hours, with almost one in every five responders (17.4%, N=241) noting that they did the activities for half an hour to an hour.

Table003

	Number	Percentage
Less than half an hour	62	4.5
Half an hour to an hour	241	17.4
An hour to two hours	512	36.9
More than two hours	652	47.0
Other	39	2.8
<i>The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question</i>		

Of those who had noted 'other' the answers varied from noting that they did activities throughout the day to noting that the times they did activities varied, dependent on the activity and the situation.



3.06 Question 5. What's your main reasons for using a Right of Way?

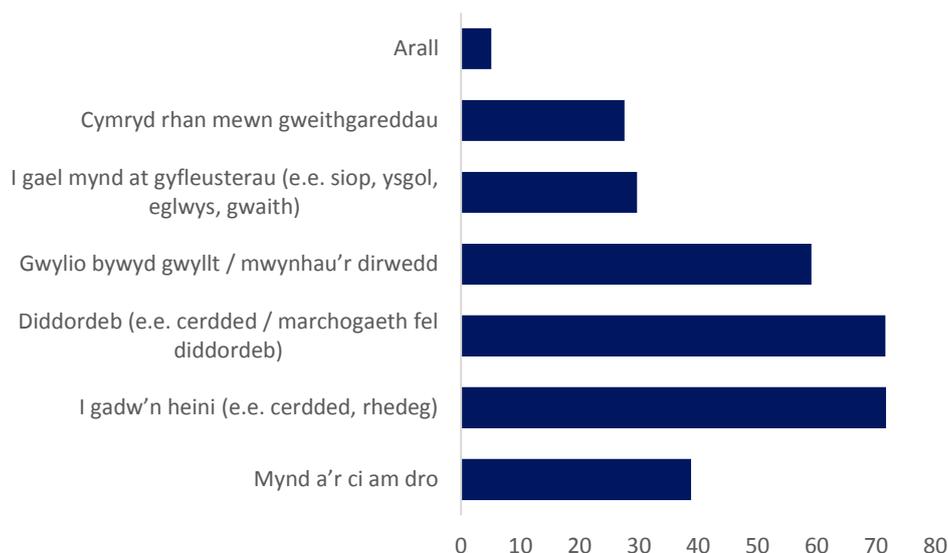
Note that almost three-quarters of the responders used rights of way to keep fit (71.7%, N=994) and because of their interests (71.6%, N=993). A large number also use them to watch wildlife / enjoy the landscape (59.1%, N=819).

Table004

	Number	Percentage
Taking the dog for a walk	538	38.8
To keep fit (e.g. walking, running)	994	71.7
Interests (e.g. walking / horse-riding as an interest)	993	71.6
Watching wildlife / enjoying the landscape	819	59.1
To access facilities (e.g. shop, school, church, work)	412	29.7
Taking part in activities	382	27.6
Other	71	5.1
Total		
<i>The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question</i>		

Of those who noted 'other', the reasons included things such as working / going to work and to avoid roads.

Graph003



3.07 Question 6. Which of these methods of going to the countryside do you prefer?

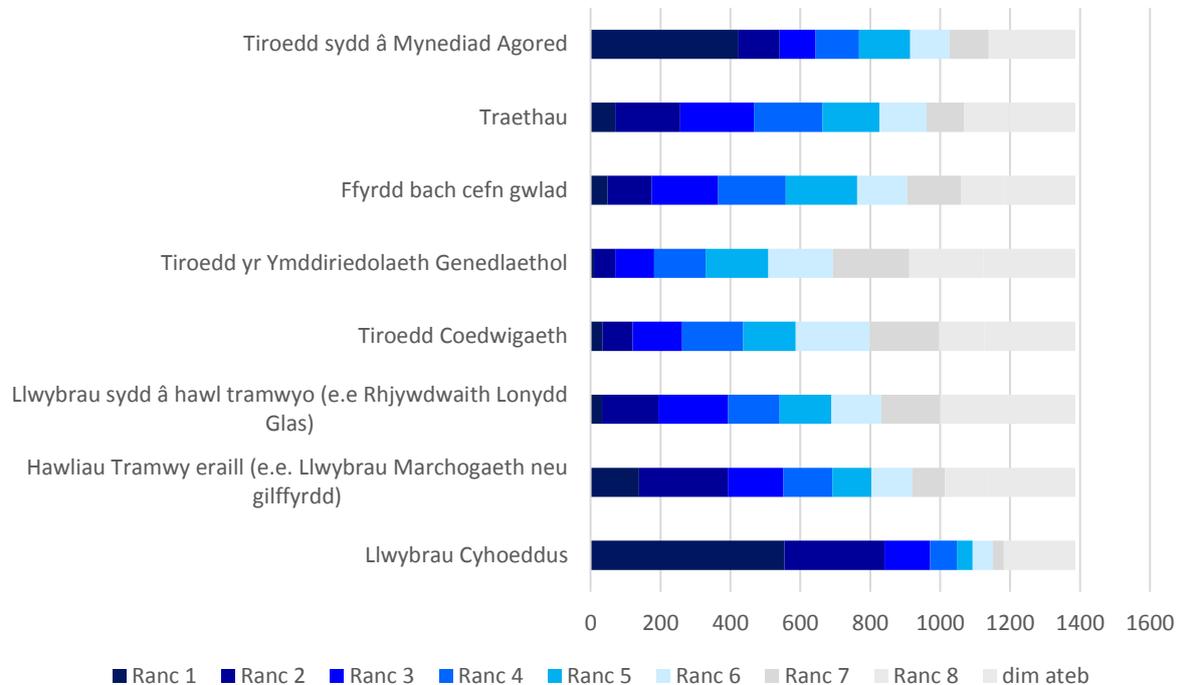
This question asked responders to rank the methods from 1 to 8. Note that the methods ranked highest are public paths and lands with open access. Those ranking lowest are the lands of the national trust, beaches and forestry lands.

Table005

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6	Rank 7	Rank 8
Public Footpaths	555 (40.0)	286 (20.6)	130 (9.4)	77 (5.6)	45 (3.2)	58 (4.2)	31 (2.2)	41 (3.0)
Other Rights of Way (e.g. Bridleways or Byways)	139 (10.0)	254 (18.3)	159 (11.5)	140 (10.1)	111 (8.0)	117 (8.4)	94 (6.8)	122 (8.8)
Paths with a right of way (e.g. Lonydd Glas Network)	33 (2.4)	161 (11.6)	200 (14.4)	147 (10.6)	148 (10.7)	143 (10.3)	168 (12.1)	128 (9.2)
Forestry Lands	35 (2.5)	85 (6.1)	142 (10.2)	175 (12.6)	150 (10.8)	212 (15.3)	198 (14.3)	129 (9.3)
National Trust Lands	10 (0.7)	61 (4.4)	111 (8.0)	147 (10.6)	180 (13.0)	185 (13.3)	218 (15.7)	212 (15.3)
Small rural lanes	49 (3.5)	126 (9.1)	190 (13.7)	193 (13.9)	205 (14.8)	143 (10.3)	155 (11.2)	123 (8.9)
Beaches	71 (5.1)	186 (13.4)	210 (15.2)	196 (14.1)	163 (11.8)	135 (9.7)	107 (7.7)	131 (9.5)

Lands with Open Access	421 (30.4)	120 (8.7)	103 (7.4)	124 (8.9)	146 (10.5)	113 (8.2)	112 (8.1)	104 (7.5)
<i>The percentages will not add up to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question</i>								

Graph004



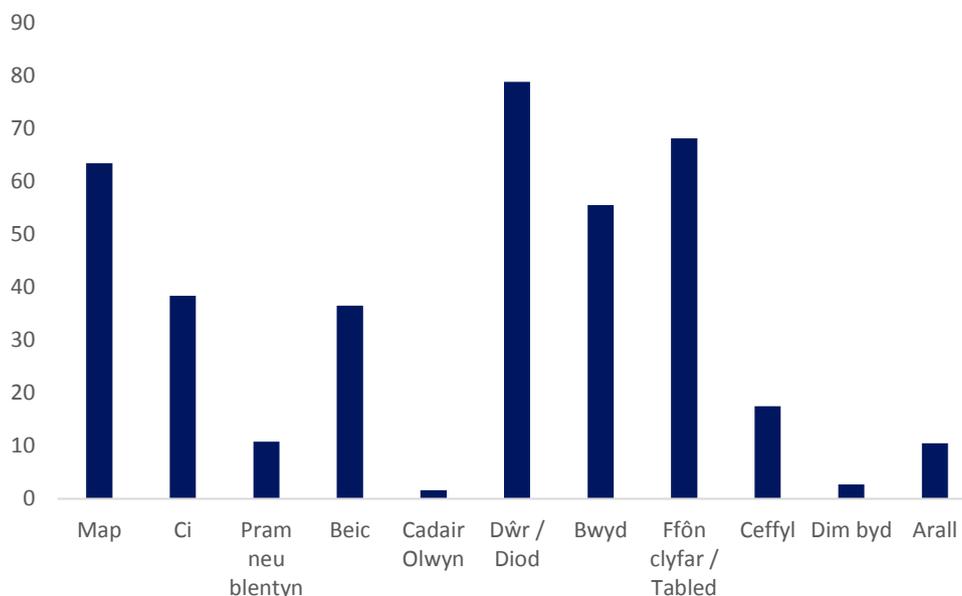
3.08 Question 7. If you use Rights of Way, which of the following would you take with you/use?

Note from the table below that the things that people were most likely to take with them when using rights of way were water/a drink (78.8%, N=1,092), a smart phone or tablet (68.1%, N=94\$) and a map (63.4%, N=879). A small number noted that they would take a wheelchair (1.6%, N=22). Some of the 'other' answers included suitable clothing, binoculars and a compass.

Table006

	Number	Percentage
Map	879	63.4
A dog	532	38.4
A pram or child	149	10.8
Bicycle	506	36.5
Wheelchair	22	1.6
Water / A drink	1092	78.8
Food	769	55.5
Smart phone / tablet	944	68.1
Horse	242	17.5
Nothing	38	2.7
Other	146	10.5
<i>The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question</i>		

Graph005



3.09 Question 8. Have you come across any problems when using rights of way in Gwynedd?

Over half (61.2%, N=848) of the responders have come across problems when using rights of way in Gwynedd.

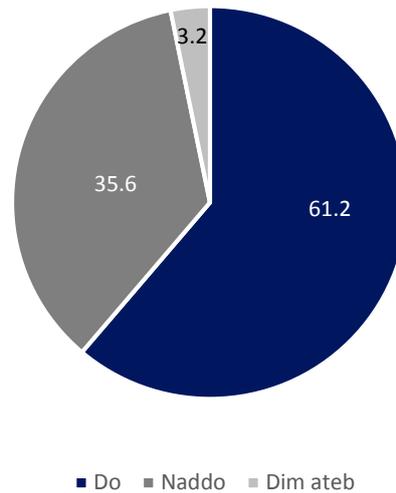
Table007

	Number	Percentage
--	--------	------------

12

Yes	848	61.2
No	493	35.6
No response	45	3.2
Total	1386	100%

Graph006



3.10 Question 9. Have you come across the problems below whilst using rights of way in Gwynedd?

Those who answered 'Yes' in question 8 were asked to respond to this question.

The reasons most often noted as serious problems, namely a score of 5, was path intentionally obstructed (36.6%, N=261), lack of signage or misleading signage (29.3%, N=216), and overgrowth / fallen trees (28.0%, N=215).

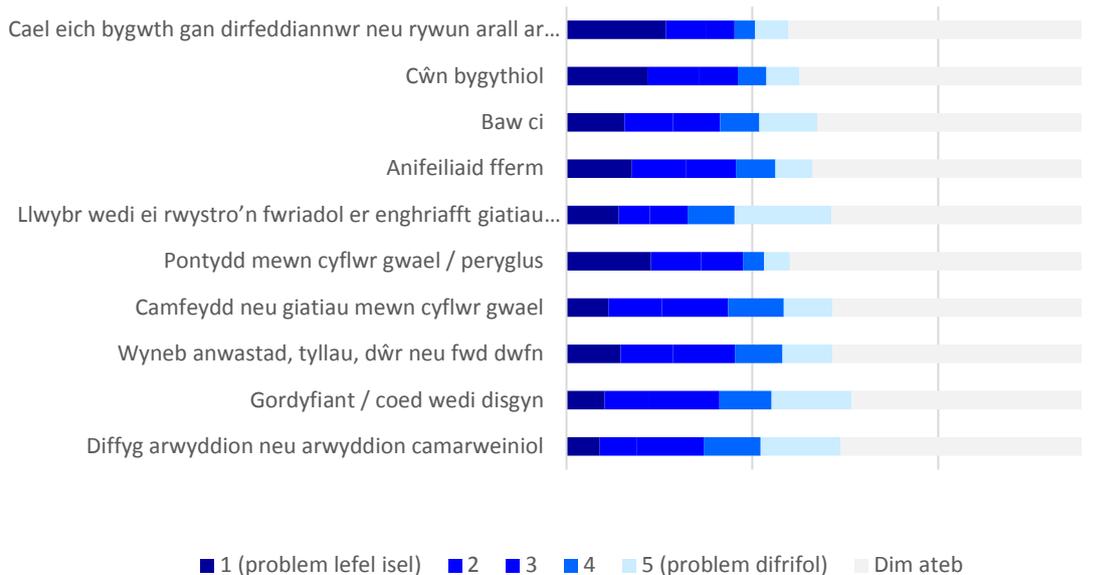
The ones that were low level problems to the responders were being threatened by landowners or others on the path (44.6%, N=267), bridges in poor/ dangerous condition (37.8%, N=227), and threatening dogs (34.8%, N=218).

Table008

	1 (low level problem)	2	3	4	5 (serious problem)
Lack of signage or misleading signage	90 (12.2%)	98 (13.3%)	181 (24.5%)	153 (20.7%)	216 (29.3%)

Overgrown / fallen trees	103 (13.4%)	117 (15.3%)	192 (25.0%)	140 (18.3%)	215 (28.0%)
Uneven surface, holes, deep water or mud	146 (20.4%)	141 (19.7%)	166 (23.2%)	128 (17.9%)	135 (18.9%)
Stiles or gates in a poor condition	113 (15.8%)	144 (20.1%)	178 (24.9%)	150 (20.9%)	131 (18.3%)
Bridges in poor / dangerous condition	227 (37.8%)	135 (22.5%)	113 (18.8%)	57 (9.5%)	69 (11.5%)
Path intentionally obstructed e.g. locked gates or a fence across the path	141 (19.8%)	84 (11.8%)	101 (14.2%)	126 (17.7%)	261 (36.6%)
Farm animals	176 (26.5%)	146 (22.0%)	134 (20.2%)	106 (16.0%)	101 (15.2%)
Dog fouling	156 (23.1%)	131 (19.4%)	126 (18.7%)	106 (15.7%)	156 (23.1%)
Threatening dogs	218 (34.8%)	140 (22.3%)	103 (16.4%)	77 (12.3%)	89 (14.2%)
Being threatened by a landowner or by someone else on the path	267 (44.6%)	110 (18.4%)	75 (12.5%)	56 (9.4%)	90 (15.1%)

Graph007



3.11 Question 10. Note below if you have any further observations on the problems you have encountered when using rights of way.

Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 8 were asked to respond to this question.

Some of the matters arising were blocked / closed paths, overgrown paths, lack of wheelchair access, lack of signage / path unclear, rubbish.

Your views

3.12 Question 11. What type of paths are most important to you?

Rate their importance from 1 to 5, where '1' equates to your most important and '5' equates to your least important.

Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 8 were asked to respond to this question.

Note from the table below that the type of paths that are most important to the responders are circular routes (43.5%, N=311) and local journeys in my area (42.0%, N=303). The type of paths that were least important to people were paths from one place to another (24.7%, N=168) and long-distance journeys (16.6%, N=113).

Table009

	1	2	3	4	5
Long-distance journeys	178 (26.1%)	112 (16.4%)	152 (22.3%)	126 (18.5%)	113 (16.6%)
Paths from one place to another (A to B)	169 (24.7%)	129 (18.9%)	173 (25.3%)	108 (15.8%)	104 (15.2%)
Circular Paths	311 (43.5%)	106 (14.8%)	93 (13.0%)	75 (10.5%)	130 (18.2%)
Themed journeys or journeys from a leaflet	120 (18.8%)	118 (18.5%)	166 (26.0%)	125 (19.6%)	110 (17.2%)
Local journey in my area	303 (42.0%)	116 (16.1%)	88 (12.2%)	64 (8.9%)	150 (20.8%)
Accessible paths	238 (35.2%)	99 (14.6%)	120 (17.7%)	67 (9.9%)	153 (22.6%)

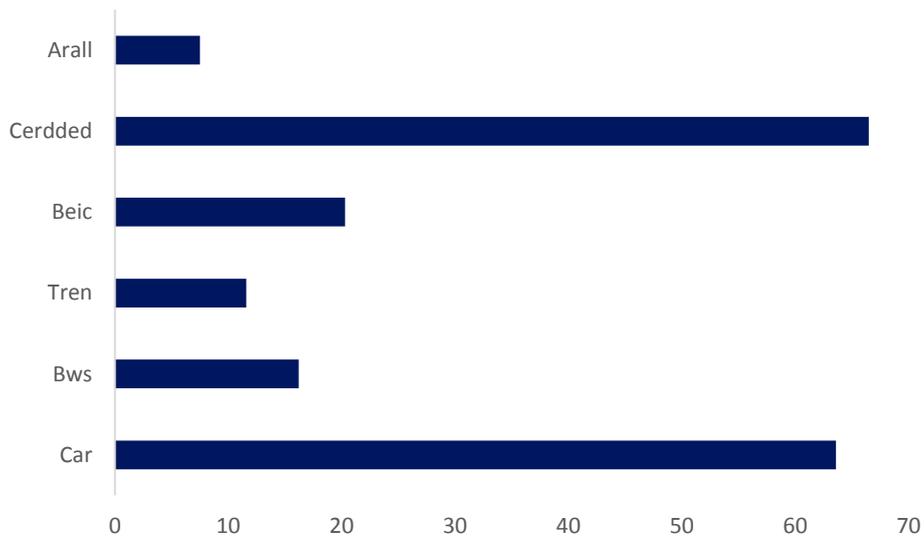
3.13 Question 12. How would you reach the walking path?

Note that the majority of responders reach the walking path either by walking (66.5%, N=922), or by using a car (63.6%, N=881).

Table010

	Number	Percentage
Car	881	63.6
Bus	225	16.2
Train	161	11.6
Bicycle	281	20.3
Walking	922	66.5
Other	104	7.5

Graph008



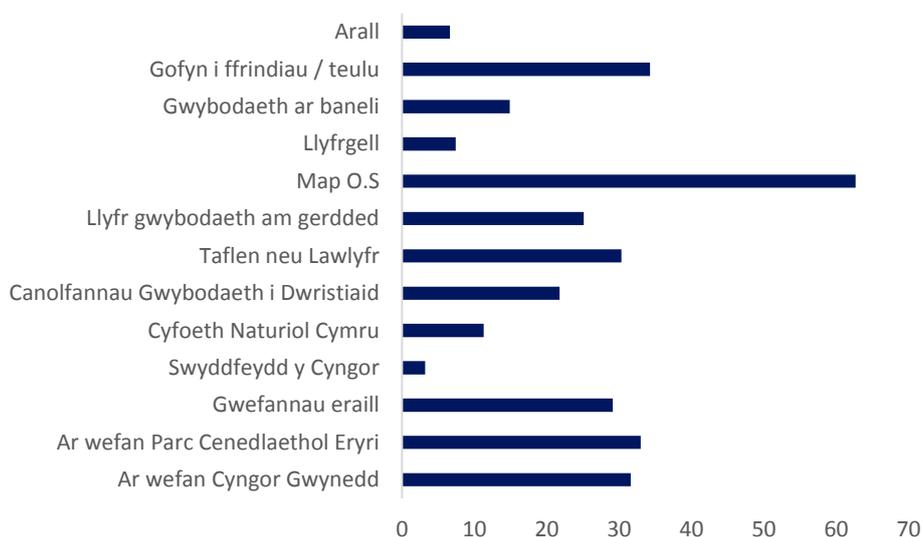
3.14 Question 13. Where would you search for information about Rights of Way?

The majority of responders noted that they would search for information about rights of way on an OS map (62.7%, N=869). Some of the other most common answers were asking friends / family (34.3%, N=476), on Snowdonia National Park's website (33.0%, N=457), and on Gwynedd Council's website (31.6%, N=438).

Table011

	Number	Percentage
On Gwynedd Council's website	438	31.6
On Snowdonia National Park's website	457	33.0
Other websites	404	29.1
Council Offices	44	3.2
Natural Resources Wales	157	11.3
Tourist Information Centres	302	21.8
Leaflet or Handbook	420	30.3
Walking guide book	348	25.1
O.S. Map	869	62.7
Library	102	7.4
Information on panels	207	14.9
Asking friends / family	476	34.3

Graph009



3.15 Question 14. What information about Rights of Way is most important to you?

The information about rights of way that is most important to the responders is general information about public footpaths, their use and general countryside (17.5%, N=243). A high number also rank the exact location of the starting point of paths as an important factor (16.6%, N=230). There was not much difference in the other categories, except that a number had ranked specific legal rights as less important (18.5%, N=256).

Table012

| Rank |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | |

General information about public footpaths, their use and general countryside	243 (17.5%)	157 (11.3%)	96 (6.9%)	90 (6.5%)	83 (6.0%)	73 (5.3%)	69 (5.0%)	50 (3.6%)	67 (4.8%)	64 (4.6%)
Specific legal rights	66 (4.8%)	96 (6.9%)	49 (3.5%)	55 (4.0%)	52 (3.8%)	63 (4.5%)	75 (5.4%)	81 (5.8%)	107 (7.7%)	256 (18.5%)
Exact location of the starting point of paths	230 (16.6%)	212 (15.3%)	147 (10.6%)	126 (9.1%)	80 (5.8%)	78 (5.6%)	44 (3.2%)	39 (2.8%)	29 (2.1%)	17 (1.2%)
Journeys from specific locations and their distance	81 (5.8%)	151 (10.9%)	166 (12.0%)	131 (9.5%)	145 (10.5%)	98 (7.1%)	78 (5.6%)	53 (3.8%)	49 (3.5%)	16 (1.2%)
Paths marked with panels	65 (4.7%)	118 (8.5%)	128 (9.2%)	118 (8.5%)	127 (9.2%)	125 (9.0%)	94 (6.8%)	78 (5.6%)	71 (5.1%)	30 (2.2%)
Pamphlets about paths	25 (1.8%)	56 (4.0%)	94 (6.8%)	116 (8.4%)	106 (7.6%)	119 (8.6%)	117 (8.4%)	129 (9.3%)	109 (7.9%)	59 (4.3%)
The suitability of paths for different needs	77 (5.6%)	90 (6.5%)	103 (7.4%)	76 (5.5%)	78 (5.6%)	96 (6.9%)	127 (9.2%)	115 (8.3%)	117 (8.4%)	67 (4.8%)
Number and types of gates and stiles	17 (1.2%)	49 (3.5%)	70 (5.1%)	79 (5.7%)	65 (4.7%)	80 (5.8%)	99 (7.1%)	161 (11.6%)	167 (12.0%)	117 (8.4%)
Traffic and access to paths	39 (2.8%)	95 (6.9%)	106 (7.6%)	108 (7.8%)	125 (9.0%)	108 (7.8%)	111 (8.0%)	100 (7.2%)	80 (5.8%)	72 (5.2%)
Facilities nearby (toilets, car parks, refreshments)	312 (22.5%)	64 (4.6%)	82 (5.9%)	84 (6.1%)	89 (6.4%)	82 (5.9%)	86 (6.2%)	78 (5.6%)	80 (5.8%)	91 (6.6%)
<i>The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question</i>										

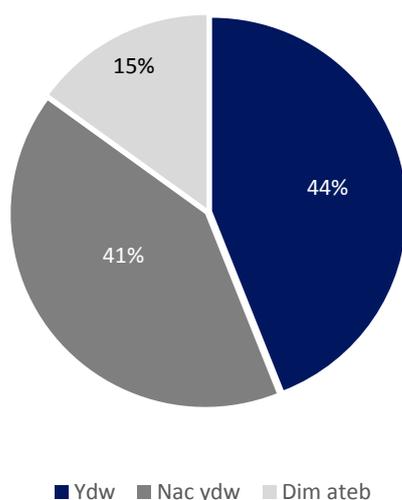
3.16 Question 15. Do you believe that the existing rights of way network is suitable and meets the needs of the majority of users?

These answers were relatively equal, with a slightly higher percentage, 44.0% (N=610) noting that existing rights of way were suitable, and 41.0% (N=568) noting that they did not believe that they were suitable.

Table013

	Number	Percentage
Yes	610	44.0
No	568	41.0
No response	208	15.0
Total	1386	100%

Graph010



3.17 Question 16. What do you believe are the main steps that should be taken to improve the network?

Those who had answered 'No' in question 15 were asked to respond to this question.

A higher percentage agreed with the observations that more land should be designated as open land, and that legislation should be changed to make it easier for Local Authorities to create, abolish or divert rights of way. A high percentage of the responders strongly disagreed with the statement that

there were too many paths, the majority of them are not used and the popular paths should be focussed on (16.6%, N=230).

Table014

	Strongly agree	Good idea but not a high priority	No specific opinion	Disagree, not a priority	Strongly disagree
There are too many paths, the majority of them are not used and the popular paths should be focussed on	39 (2.8%)	57 (4.1%)	80 (5.8%)	109 (7.9%)	230 (16.6%)
More cycling paths are needed	237 (17.1%)	115 (8.3%)	88 (6.3%)	37 (2.7%)	50 (3.6%)
More horse-riding paths are needed	204 (14.7%)	60 (4.3%)	158 (11.4%)	61 (4.4%)	52 (3.8%)
Need for more paths that area suitable for wheelchairs	174 (12.6%)	137 (9.9%)	174 (12.6%)	15 (1.1%)	15 (1.1%)
Cyclists and horses should be approved on the majority of footpaths	253 (18.3%)	75 (5.4%)	48 (3.5%)	73 (5.3%)	93 (6.7%)
The legislation should be changed to make it easier for Local Authorities to create, abolish or divert rights of way, e.g. move a path away from a farmyard or create a new section of the Coast Path.	260 (18.8%)	133 (9.6%)	64 (4.6%)	32 (2.3%)	51 (3.7%)

More land should be designated as open land	315 (22.7%)	112 (8.1%)	65 (4.7%)	26 (1.9%)	23 (1.7%)
Tourists and tourism businesses should contribute towards maintaining rights of way	184 (13.3%)	152 (11.0%)	105 (7.6%)	41 (3.0%)	54 (3.9%)

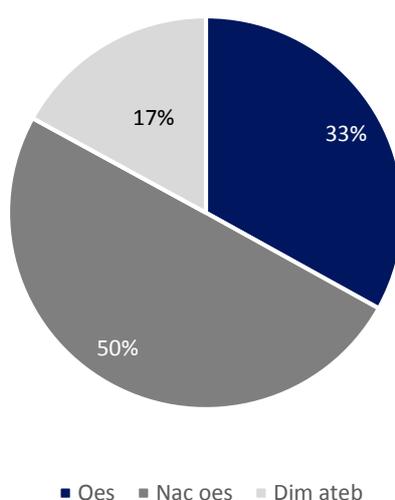
3.18 Question 17. Are there specific areas or locations where more paths are needed or change the status of a path to allow for multi-use?

The majority of responders noted that there were no specific areas or locations where more paths were needed or for the status of paths to be changed to allow for their use (49.9%, N=692).

Table015

	Number	Percentage
Yes	459	33.1
No	692	49.9
No response	235	17.0
Total	1386	100%

Graph011



3.19 Question 18. Provide a brief description and explain the benefit to users.

Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 17 were asked to answer this question.

The type of emerging themes in the responses to the question was to have more multi-use paths and more horse-riding and cycling paths, with many responders giving specific examples of where new paths could be created or to change paths that currently exist.

Your views of Rights of Way

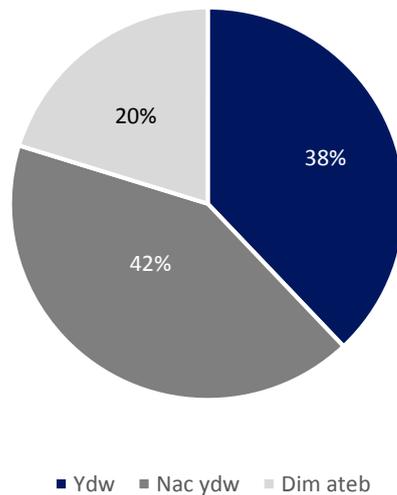
3.20 Question 19. Do you know what the 'Definitive Map' is?

Note that the majority of responders do not know what the 'definitive map' is (41.8%, N=580).

Table016

	Number	Percentage
Yes	526	38.0
No	580	41.8
No response	280	20.2
Total	1386	100%

Graph012



3.21 Question 20. Have you ever looked at Gwynedd's Definitive Map?

Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 19 were asked to answer this question.

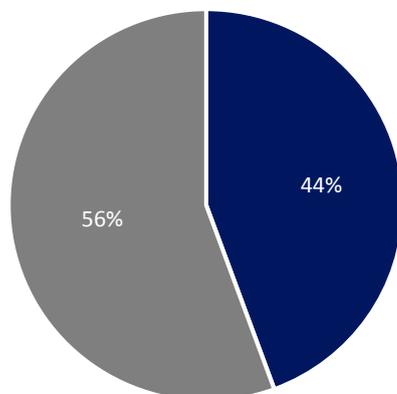
Of those who knew what the definitive map was, 44.4% (N=232) of them had looked at Gwynedd's definitive map.

Table017

	Number	Percentage
Yes	232	44.4
No	291	55.6

Total	523	100%
--------------	-----	------

Graph013



■ Do ■ Naddo

3.22 Question 21. Did you get a satisfactory answer from looking at it?

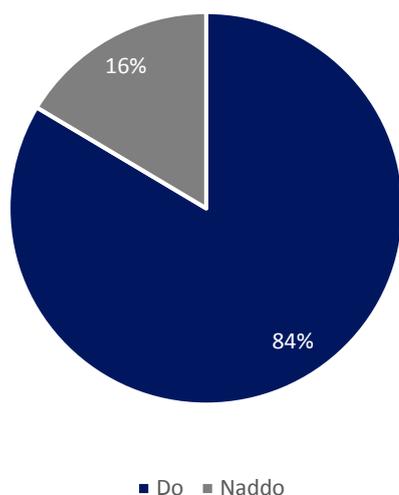
Those who had answered 'Yes' in question 20 were asked to answer this question.

Of those who knew of the definitive map, and had looked at Gwynedd's definitive map, 83.6% (N=189) had obtained a satisfactory answer from looking at it.

Table018

	Number	Percentage
Yes	189	83.6
No	37	16.4
Total	226	100%

Graph014



3.23 Question 22. What was the main problem?

Those who had answered 'No' in question 21 were asked to answer this question.

Of those who had said that they had not obtained a satisfactory answer from it, the observations included points such as it was difficult to understand, not up-to-date, and that a larger scale map was needed.

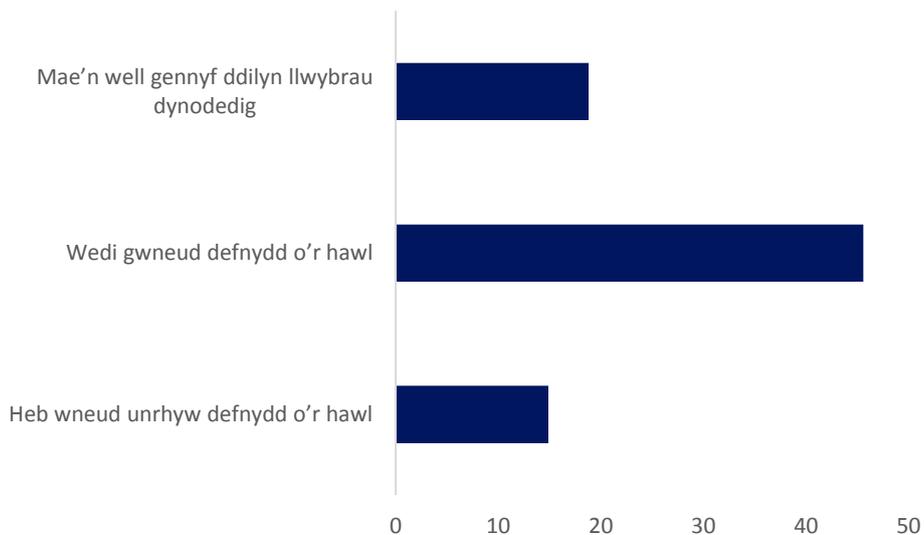
3.24 Question 23. Parts of Gwynedd have been designated as Open Access land (mainly mountain land and highlands). Since that designation in 2005, have you used it?

Note that almost half (45.6%, N=632) of the responders have made use of the open access land right. Almost one in every five responders (18.8%, N=260) have said that they prefer to follow designated paths, whilst 14.9% (N=206) of the responders have said that they have not made any use of the right.

Table019

	Number	Percentage
Have not made any use of the right	206	14.9
Have made use of the right	632	45.6
I prefer to follow designated paths	260	18.8
No response	288	20.8
Total	1386	100%

Graph015



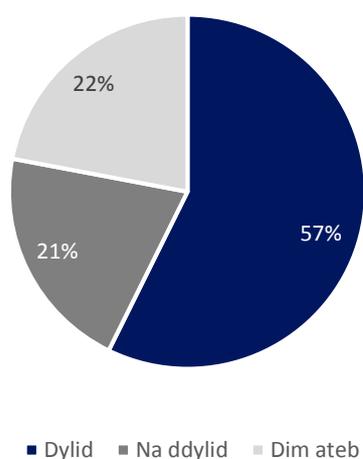
3.25 Question 24. Should more land be designated as Open Access Land?

The majority of the responders (57.3%, N=794), note that more land should be designated as open access land.

Table020

	Number	Percentage
Yes	794	57.3
No	287	20.7
No response	305	22.0
Total	1386	100%

Graph016



3.26 Question 25. Over recent years, Gwynedd Council and the National Park have faced cuts to their budgets for maintaining and improving rights of way. How would you like to see the two bodies prioritising resources over the coming years?

Note below that the most popular options for future priorities is prioritising work on the definitive map and applications to amend the map (21.8%, N=302) and maintaining every path on the definitive map as required and not prioritise work in accordance with the categorisation procedure (17.5%, N=243). The two least favoured options are maintaining paths within Category 1 only (24.9%, N=345) and maintaining paths within categories 1 and 2 only.

Table021

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Rank 6	Rank 7	Rank 8	Rank 9	Rank 10
Maintain paths within Category 1 only	29 (2.1%)	31 (2.2%)	32 (2.3%)	27 (1.9%)	40 (2.9%)	23 (1.7%)	40 (2.9%)	56 (4.0%)	95 (6.9%)	345 (24.9%)
Maintain paths within Categories 1 and 2 only	59 (4.3%)	60 (4.3%)	49 (3.5%)	48 (3.5%)	52 (3.8%)	55 (4.0%)	57 (4.1%)	96 (6.9%)	276 (19.9%)	27 (1.9%)
Maintain every path on the definitive map as needed and not prioritise work in accordance with the categorisation procedure	243 (17.5%)	162 (11.7%)	108 (7.8%)	77 (5.6%)	70 (5.1%)	59 (4.3%)	48 (3.5%)	56 (4.0%)	34 (2.5%)	22 (1.6%)
Resources should be prioritised for promoted paths and paths that attract visitors to the area,	78 (5.6%)	117 (8.4%)	100 (7.2%)	98 (7.1%)	76 (5.5%)	69 (5.0%)	95 (6.9%)	120 (8.7%)	37 (2.7%)	31 (2.2%)

e.g. Coastal Paths, Snowdon paths, National Park's recreational paths, Lonydd Glas and local circular routes										
Make use of existing paths to establish more circular paths and long promoted journeys	119 (8.6%)	208 (15.0%)	128 (9.2%)	102 (7.4%)	89 (6.4%)	65 (4.7%)	61 (4.4%)	47 (3.4%)	24 (1.7%)	9 (0.6%)
Priority should be given to resolving conflict and problems by collaborating with landowners and users	25 (1.8%)	50 (3.6%)	94 (6.8%)	92 (6.6%)	95 (6.9%)	100 (7.2%)	122 (8.8%)	91 (6.6%)	68 (4.9%)	55 (4.0%)
More resources should be given to Community and Town councils or voluntary organisations to enable us to maintain the rights of way network	85 (6.1%)	115 (8.3%)	119 (8.6%)	124 (8.9%)	93 (6.7%)	95 (6.9%)	76 (5.5%)	62 (4.5%)	35 (2.5%)	30 (2.2%)

More emphasis should be placed on enforcement work to maintain and open rights of way which will lead to taking legal action against landowners	51 (3.7%)	82 (5.9%)	98 (7.1%)	96 (6.9%)	95 (6.9%)	91 (6.6%)	95 (6.9%)	71 (5.1%)	61 (4.4%)	76 (5.5%)
The definitive map and other Information about the network should be available on the Council's website	42 (3.0%)	104 (7.5%)	134 (9.7%)	123 (8.9%)	117 (8.4%)	108 (7.8%)	75 (5.4%)	63 (4.5%)	42 (3.0%)	24 (1.7%)
Prioritise the work on the definitive map and applications to amend the map (change the status of a path, register unrecorded paths)	302 (21.8%)	34 (2.5%)	43 (3.1%)	63 (4.5%)	76 (5.5%)	106 (7.6%)	82 (5.9%)	77 (5.6%)	58 (4.2%)	51 (3.7%)
<i>The percentages will not add to 100 as this is a multiple-choice question</i>										

3.27 Question 26. To close, if you have any questions or additional observations about this questionnaire or about rights of way and countryside access in Gwynedd, please note them below.

Here are some of the main themes emerging in response to the above question.

30

A high number of the answers emphasised the importance of the paths. The responders referred to the use they and local residents made of the paths. A number of the responders were also eager to note that a number of tourists used the paths and visited the area specifically as a result. A number said that the maintenance of paths should be a priority for Gwynedd Council and that more, not less, should be done. A number of responders also praised a specific path or paths. A small number criticised a specific path or paths.

Another common response to this question was criticism of the questionnaire. A number had found it difficult to fill in, in particular the questions where there was a need to prioritise. Others believed that some questions were too closed and others said that a "don't know" option was needed for some of the questions.

A number of responders proposed that volunteers could help with the work of path maintenance. Some proposed that Gwynedd Council could provide training in this respect.

A number believed that more needed to be done to promote the Gwynedd paths network by means of pamphlets and the website. A small number of responders proposed that a complete open source Map of the network was required.

Cyclists proposed that they needed a better provision. Those who were not cyclists said that cycle paths were important so that bicycles were kept off the main road as this could be dangerous.

Those who were horse-riders said that they needed a better provision and paths were cars were not present.

Some responses stated that rights of way were essential in order to encourage more people to travel in more sustainable ways.

A few responses said that steps needed to be taken to prevent vehicles from destructing paths.

A number of responses were complaining that there was a lack of signage on the paths.

A few responses said that there needed to be a way to discover whether or not a path led to farmland, this was very important for dog owners.

Some responses said that they had contacted the Council regarding paths in the past and that they had not received a response. Other responses praised the service provided by the Council.

Some responders suggested lobbying Welsh Government to shoulder some of the financial responsibility for the maintenance of the network.

The report was prepared by

Research and Analysis Team

Corporate Support Department
Gwynedd Council, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

E-mail: ymchwil@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Tel: 01286 679619
www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ymchwil

Appendix 2a

Evaluation of the delivery of the previous ROWIP

The following tables contain the Action Themes and Action proposal contained in the original ROWIP document

Action Theme 1 : Condition of the rights of way network			
Ref	Action proposal	10 year estimate	Comment
1/1a	Ensure that paths in categories 1,2 and 3 are properly sign posted and waymarked	£155k	Action has not been completed in full as priority has been given to paths in categories 1 and 2. Issues relating to signage continue and is highlighted in the path condition data.
1/1b	Ensure that the whole network (i.e. categories 1-5) is properly signposted and waymarked.	£217k	Has not been implemented, priority given to paths in categories 1 and 2
1/2a	Undertake remedial work on muddy and waterlogged paths in categories 1,2 and 3	£378k	Not implemented in full, priority given to paths in categories 1 and 2. Many issues arise due to problem on land adjacent to paths.
1/2b	Undertake remedial work on all muddy and waterlogged paths (categories 1 -5)	£525k	Has not been implemented, see 1/2a.
1/3a	Resolve all other types of defects (such as defective furniture and obstructions) on paths in categories 1,2 and 3	£1,170k	Has not been implemented in full, priority given to paths in categories 1 and 2.
1/3b	Resolve all other types of defects (such as defective furniture and obstructions) on paths in categories 1-5.	£1,636k	Has not been implemented, see 1/3a.
1/4a	Maintaining paths in categories 1, 2 & 3 in their current state.	£3,420k	Not implemented in full, priority given to paths in categories 1 and 2.

1/4b	Maintaining the whole network (i.e. paths in categories 1-5)	£4,500k	Has not been implemented, see comment 1/4a.
1/4c	Maintenance with deterioration in condition	£3,150k	The core budget for maintenance has allowed part of the network (mostly categories 1 and 2) to be maintained but the condition of paths in lower categories shows signs of deterioration

Action Theme 2 : The definitive Map and statement			
Ref	Action proposal	10 year estimate	Comment
2/1	Design and implement an anomaly resolution programme – additional member of staff required to resolve 200 map anomalies which require Definitive Map Modification Orders	£288k (staff)	Has not been implemented, priority given to the most contentious issues.
2/2	Lost Ways – additional member of staff required to process resultant orders	£288k (staff)	Not implemented, Welsh Government has not enacted the legislation relating to “Lost Ways”.
2/3	Produce consolidated map, consolidate changes from existing definitive map onto new map, with relevant data.	Within existing resources	Not implemented, this action dependent on action 2/1.
2/4	Work towards producing an up to date electronic version of the working definitive map	Within existing resources	Completed in full, map available on the Council’s mapping systems.

2/5	Clear backlog of applications for Definitive map Modification Orders – 45 cases currently on file	Within existing resources	Backlog has not been cleared as new applications are received on a regular basis, typically 3 per year.
-----	---	---------------------------	---

Action Theme 3 : Managing the network

Ref	Action proposal	10 year estimate	Comment
3/1	Develop a robust policy for enforcement actions / prosecutions	Within existing resources	Achieved in part, aspects of enforcement are addressed in the Policy the Policy document
3/2	Produce a range of clear policies on the management of rights of way	Within existing resources	Delivered in full, elements of enforcement are addressed in the Policy the Policy document
3/3	Introduce a regular path inspection regime based on the categorization system – new officer required	£252k (staff)	Full survey of path network not delivered due to lack of staff resources. Local surveys are carried out linked to improvement work.
3/4	Appoint a volunteer co-ordinator to develop schemes within Gwynedd to improve the rights of way network – new officer required.	£234k (staff)	Not delivered due to lack of staff resources to support volunteer actions. However, volunteers are used by the Council and the National Park to carry out path maintenance and improvements.
3/5	Produce a guide for protecting and enforcement purpose using Cheshire County Council example as a model of good practice.	Within existing resources	Not delivered, elements of enforcement are addressed in the Policy the Policy document
3/6	Negotiate a formal agreement with SNPA to establish a more integrated working approach	Within existing resources	An agreement has been agreed to in principle, a closer working relationship has evolved.

3 /7	Encourage partnership working with other Council departments, community councils and other agencies	Within existing resources	Working relationships have strengthen over the years,
------	---	---------------------------	---

Action Theme 4 : Understanding user needs			
Ref	Action proposal	10 year estimate	Comment
4/1	Make appropriate upgrades based on user needs	Schemes costed individually	Targeted improvements have been deliver using external funding
4/2	Review crossing points throughout network – identify opportunities to make improvements and implement safer road crossings	Schemes costed individually	Crossing Improvements have been made as part of major projects such as the Coast path and development of the Lonydd Glas.
4/3	Liaise with landowners + managers to minimise conflict – arrange and host workshops with landowners to discuss issues that affect landowners	Within existing resources	No formal workshops have been held, staff are fully aware of building and maintaining good relationships within landowners.
4/4a	Seek least restrictive option – replace existing stiles with gates where appropriate (100 per year)	£531k	This target has not been reached. In order to replace stiles with gates the Council must have the co-operation and permission of the landowner. There are often legitimate reasons relating to stock control for retaining stiles.

4/4b	Seek least restrictive option – replace existing stiles with gates, where appropriate (50 per year)	£265k	This target has not been reached. See comment 4/4a
4/4c	Seek least restrictive option – replace existing stiles With gates where appropriate.(20 per year)	£ 106k	Significant progress has been made towards reaching this target.
4/5a	Surface improvements to selected paths – identify paths which could be made suitable for people of all abilities, undertake surface improvements and promote (10km per year)	£2,250k	This target has not been reached,
4/5b	Surface improvements to selected paths – identify paths which could be made suitable for people of all abilities, undertake improvements and promote (5km per year)	£1,125k	Progress has been made towards achieving this action.
4/5c	Surface improvements to selected paths – identify paths which could be made suitable for people of all abilities, undertake improvements and promote (1km per year)	£225k	This target has been reached
4/6	Disability training for R.O.W officers – ensure that staff training is up to date regarding disability equality	Within existing resources	The action has been delivered
4/7	Engage with various user and disability groups – consult with representatives to help identify potential routes	Within existing resources	There is on-going dialog and contact with a range of user groups regarding improving access.

Action Theme 5 : Current Access Provision			
Ref	Action proposal	10 year estimate	Comment
5/1	Expand area based review to cover whole county and undertake resulting order work	£576 (staff)	Action not achieved as it required 2 additional members of staff
5/ 2	Undertake resulting access link provision projects and area based reviews	£288 (staff)	This action has not been achieved as it required an additional member of staff
5/3	Continue to provide / improve access to Access land - seek to improve the accessibility of existing rights of way into Access land	Dependent on grant	Action has been largely achieved with the assistance of grant support by former Countryside Council for Wales
5/4	Integration with safe routes to school / work - determine which specific paths are used for school and work commuting and identify potential improvements	Within existing resources	Action partly reached, the recent Active Travel Act will result in further improvements.

Action Theme 6 : Promotion and Publicity			
Ref	Action proposal	10 year estimate	Comment
6 /1a	Incorporate more information (e.g. distances, destination) on posts and signs as appropriate (20 per year @ £200 per post)	£36k	This target has not been achieved
6/1b	Incorporate more information (e.g. distances, destination) on posts and signs as appropriate (10 per year @ £200 per post)	£18k	This target has not been achieved
6/1c	Incorporate more information (e.g. distances, destination) on posts and signs as appropriate (5 per year @ £200 per post)	£9K	This target has been reached
6/2	Examine existing promoted routes – undertake a review of the promoted routes and explore potential links and extensions	Within existing resources	Action largely achieved
6/ 3	Identify further health walks – explore new / alternative routes to ensure that public rights of way and access help to deliver health benefits	Within existing resources	Action largely achieved with external funding
6/4	Create a new range of short promoted routes – use existing networks where possible but also provide new links where needed	Schemes costed individually	Action largely achieved with external funding
6/5	Develop a quality interactive website – review , amend / re-arrange and maintain existing website to promote the work of the Countryside and Access Unit	Within existing resources	This action has not been achieved

Note : existing resources refer to the situation as of 2007 / 08

Examples of access improvements

<p>Development of the Gwynedd section of the Wales Coast Path</p>	<p>Approximately £4m invested in the project since 2007/ 08. Funded largely by Welsh Government and by European Convergence funds Work continues to improve the path with maintenance now funded (at 75%) by annual grant.</p>
<p>Improving and upgrading the network</p>	<p>Work to improve and upgrade the network to meet the ROWIP actions has been achieved with “ROWIP” grant made available to local authorities since 2008. Gwynedd has received £1,007,882 to deliver improvements at over 100 locations throughout the County. Recent projects include support for the Dol y Bont bridge at Dinas Mawddwy. The ROWIP funding will not be available after 2017 / 18.</p>
<p>Improving and developing the Lonydd Glas and similar routes</p>	<p>These route provide easy to use paths for walkers, cyclists, wheelchair users and equestrian use at some locatryon. Approximately £5.5 million has been invested in improving the Lonydd Glas network and in new routes such as Lon Gwyrfai and the Tregarth to Bethesda link. The majority of funding has been from external grants.</p>

Atodiad / Appendix 2b

Y Rhwydwaith Hawliau Tramwy sy'n cael ei reoli'n bennaf gan Gyngor Gwynedd ac APCE

The rights of way network primarily managed by Gwynedd Council and the SNPA

Statws / status	Defnydd / users	Hyd / length (km)
Llwybr troed Footpath	Cerddwyr Walkers	3,350km
Llwybr ceffyl Bridleway	Cerddwyr , marchogaeth ceffyl , beic Walkers , horse riders, cyclists	310km
Cilffordd Gyfyngedig Restricted by-way	Cerddwyr , marchogaeth ceffyl, beic , ceffyl a throl Walkers, horse riders, cyclists , horse and cart	79km
Cilffordd sy'n agored i bob traffic Byway open to all traffic	Cerddwyr , marchogaeth ceffyl, beic, ceffyl a troll, cerbydau a pheiriant Walkers, horse riders, cyclists , horse and cart, motorised vehicle	39km
Lonydd Glas a llwybrau drwy ganiatâd Lonydd Glas and permissive paths	Cerddwyr, beic , marchogaeth ceffyl (mewn rhai lleoliadau) Walkers, cyclists, horse riders (some locations)	60km ≥
Tir mynediad Access land	cerddwyr walkers	105,029ha

Yn ychwanegol i'r uchod mae cyfleodd mynediad yn cael ei ddarparu gan yr Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol a rai cyrff eraill ac ar draethau Gwynedd.

In addition to the above access is provided by the National Trust and other organisations and on Gwynedd's beaches.

Cat 1 : cyfanswm hyd archwilwyd / total length surveyd - 150km % y categori / % of category = 30%	
<i>Math o broblem / Issue Type</i>	<i>Nifer o broblemau / No Issues</i>
Arwyddion ochr lon ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Roadside Sign	24
Cyfeirbyst ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Waymark	23
Camfa ysgol / Ladder stile	1
Camfa un neu ddwy step Stile one step or two step	1
Camfa garreg / Stone stile	0
Giât fochyn /Kissing gate	1
Giat / Gate < 1.2m	0
Giat /Gate 1.2m - 2m	2
Giat / Gate >	0
Grisiu / Steps	2
Pontydd / Bridge < 2m	2
Pontydd / Bridge 2m - 5m	0
Pontydd / Bridge > 5m	3
Wyneb mewn cyflwr gwael / Poor Surface	36
Gordyfiant o'r ochr / Overgrowth Sides	20
Tyfiant ar y wyneb / Surface Vegetation	6
Wal neu ffens ar draws y llwybr Cross Path Wall / Fence	8
Planhigion ymledol / Invasive	5
Fallen Tree	2
Alongside Path	6
Defnydd tir / chwarel / coedwigaeth Land Use / Quarry / Forestry	0
Arall Other	10

Cat 2 : cyfanswm hyd archwilwyd / total length surveyed - 344 km	
% y categori / % of category = 31%	
<i>Math o broblem / Issue Type</i>	<i>Nifer o broblemau / No Issues</i>
Arwyddion ochr lon ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Roadside Sign	22
Cyfeir byst ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Waymark	23
Camfa ysgol / Ladder stile	4
Camfa un neu ddwy step Stile one step or two step	8
Camfa garreg / Stone stile	1
Giât fochyn /Kissing gate	3
Giat / Gate < 1.2m	3
Giat /Gate 1.2m - 2m	3
Giat / Gate > 2m	7
Grisiau / Steps	1
Pontydd / Bridge < 2m	10
Pontydd / Bridge 2m - 5m	3
Pontydd / Bridge > 5m	4
Wyneb mewn cyflwr gwael / Poor Surface	69
Gordyfiant o'r ochr / Overgrowth Sides	14
Tyfiant ar y wyneb / Surface Vegetation	22
Wal neu ffens ar draws y llwybr Cross Path Wall / Fence	35
Planhigion ymledol / Invasive	3
Coed wedi cwmpo / Fallen Tree	29
Wal neu ffens wrth ochr y llwybr Wall or fence alongside Path	31
Defnydd tir / chwarel / coedwigaeth Land Use / Quarry / Forestry	0
Arall Other	10

Cat 3 : cyfanswm hyd archwilwyd / total length surveyed - 527 km
% y categori / % of category = 24%

<i>Math o broblem / Issue Type</i>	<i>Nifer o broblemau / No Issues</i>
Arwyddion ochr lon ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Roadside Sign	86
Cyfeirbyst ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Waymark	35
Camfa ysgol / Ladder stile	19
Camfa un neu ddwy step Stile one step or two step	26
Camfa garreg / Stone stile	1
Giât fochyn /Kissing gate	17
Giat / Gate < 1.2m	24
Giat /Gate 1.2m - 2m	21
Giat / Gate > 2m	10
Grisiau / steps	1
Pontydd / Bridge < 2m	31
Pontydd / Bridge 2m - 5m	1
Pontydd / Bridge > 5m	1
Wyneb mewn cyflwr gwael / Poor Surface	46
Gordyfiant o'r ochr / Overgrowth Sides	27
Tyfiant ar y wyneb / Surface Vegetation	34
Wal neu ffens ar draws y llwybr Cross Path Wall / Fence	71
Planhigion ymledol / Invasive	1
Coed wedi cwmpo / Fallen Tree	22
Wal neu ffens wrth ochr y llwybr Wal o'r fende alongside Path	7
Defnydd tir / chwarel / coedwigaeth Land Use / Quarry / Forsetry	17
Arall Other	29

Cat 4 : cyfanswm hyd archwilwyd / total length surveyed - 344 km
% y category / % of category = 31%

<i>Math o broblem / Issue Type</i>	<i>Nifer o broblemau / No Issues</i>
Arwyddion ochr lon ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Roadside Sign	22
Cyfeirbyst ar goll / wedi torri Missing / Damaged Waymark	23
Camfa ysgol / Ladder stile	4
Camfa un neu ddwy step Stile one step or two step	8
Camfa garrag / Stone stile	1
Giât fochyn /Kissing gate	3
Giat / Gate < 1.2m	3
Giat /Gate 1.2m - 2m	3
Giat / Gate > 2m	7
Grisiau / steps	1
Pontydd / Bridge < 2m	10
Pontydd / Bridge 2m - 5m	3
Pontydd / Bridge > 5m	4
Wyneb mewn cyflwr gwael / Poor Surface	102
Gordyfiant o'r ochr / Overgrowth Sides	14
Tyfiant ar y wyneb / Surface Vegetation	22
Wal neu ffens ar draws y llwybr Cross Path Wall / Fence	35
Planhigion ymledol / Invasive	3
Coed wedi cwmpo / fallen Tree	29
Wal neu ffens wrth ochr y llwybr Alongside Path	31
Defnydd tir / chwarel / coedwigaeth Land Use / Quarry / Forestry	0
Arall / Other	10

Sylwadfau o'r holiadur

- Dywedodd 61.2 % eu bod wedi dod o draws problem wrth ddefnyddio hawliau tramwy.
- Roedd 35.6% yn dweud nad oeddyn wedi wynebu problem .
- O'r rhai oedd wedi wynebu problem y broblem mwyaf oedd
 - llwybr wedi ei rwystro'n fwriadol 35.6%
 - diffug arwyddion 29.3%
 - gordyfiant / coed wedi disgyn 28%

Rights of Way Questionnaire

About You

Introduction

This report is provided as an appendix to the report that analyses the responses to the rights of way questionnaire in order to see the profile of the people who responded to the questionnaire.

Results

Gender

As seen from the table below 40.6% of the respondents were females and 36.4% of the respondents were male.

	Number	Percentage
Male	505	36.4
Female	563	40.6
Other	9	0.6
No answer	309	22.3
Total	1,386	100.0

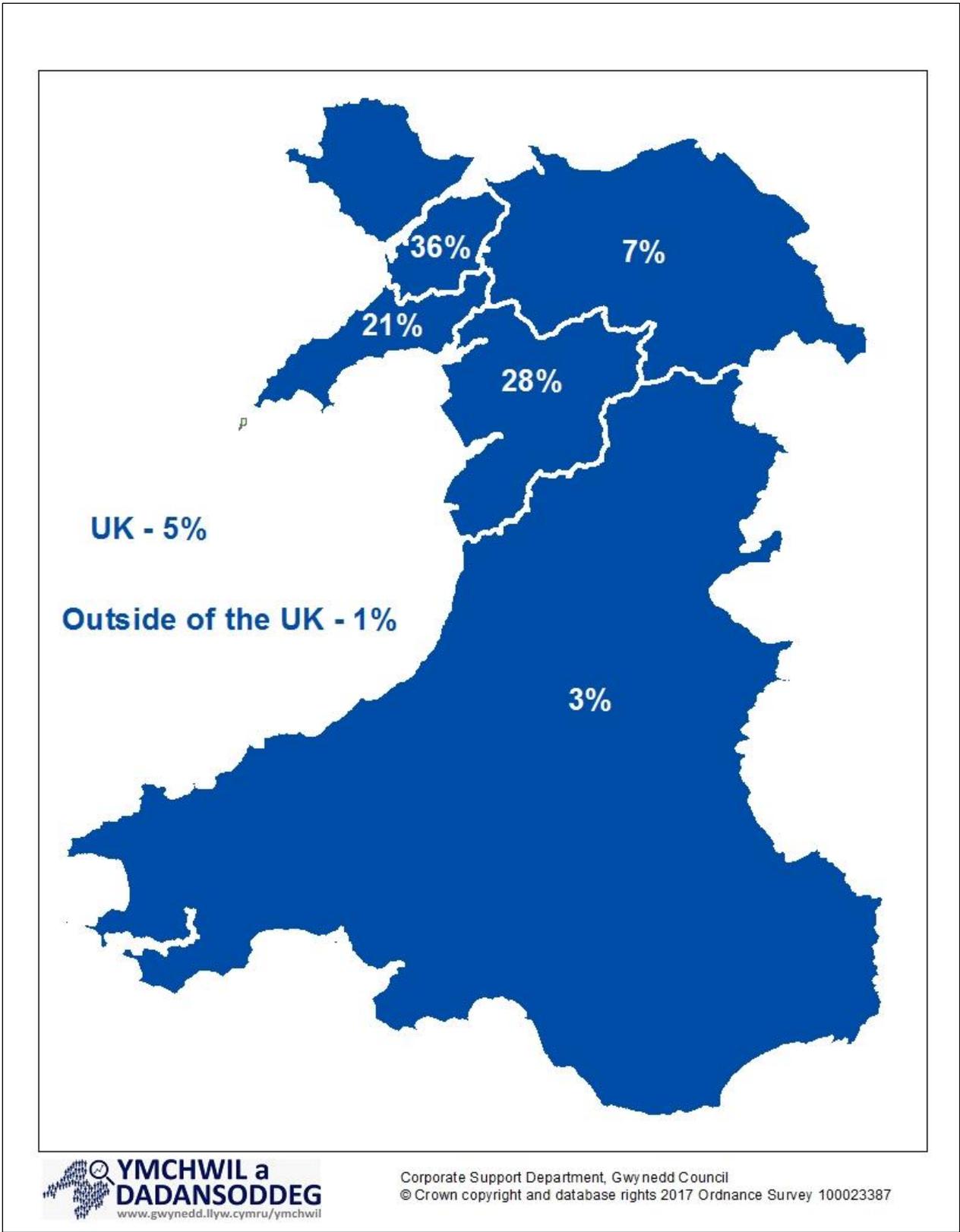
Age

Nearly 1 in 5 respondents were in the 50-59 age group, with 18.8% (N=261) of the respondents aged 60-69. Over half of the respondents (54.5%, N=756) were over 40 years old.

	Number	Percentage
Under 18	6	0.4
18-29	68	4.9
30-39	151	10.9
40-49	230	16.6
50-59	265	19.1
60-69	261	18.8
70 or over	93	6.7
Prefer not to say	13	0.9
No answer	299	21.6
Total	1,386	100.0

Location

Of the 1,386, only 849 indicated where they lived. From those 849, most of them live in Gwynedd as seen from the map below (85%).



Identity

Over a third of the respondents identified themselves as Welsh (33.6%, N=466).

	Number	Percentage
Welsh	466	33.6
English	158	11.4
Scottish	10	0.7
Northern Irish	1	0.1
British	381	27.5
Other	43	3.1
No answer	327	23.6
Total	1,386	100.0

Ethnicity

Most of the respondents were white (71.6%, N= 993).

	Number	Percentage
White	993	71.6
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	12	0.9
Asian	7	0.5
Black / African / Caribbean	1	0.1
Other	17	1.2
No answer	356	25.7
Total	1,386	100.0

Disability

The majority of respondents indicated that they did not consider themselves to have a disability (54.5%, N=894), whilst 5.8% (N=81) indicated that they had a disability.

	Number	Percentage
Yes	81	5.8
No	894	64.5
Prefer not to say	66	4.8
No answer	345	24.9
Total	1,386	100.0

Agenda Item 6

COMMITTEE	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	7 December 2017
TITLE	SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – CREATING AND MAINTAINING DISTINCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES – UPDATE
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr. Dafydd Meurig
PURPOSE	Raise awareness of the context and provide an update

1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 Under planning legislation, the development plan includes planning policies for each area. The Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan was adopted on 31 July 2017. It is relevant to the Anglesey and Gwynedd planning authority area (not including the Park area). The Plan is the primary consideration for making decisions on planning applications.
- 1.2 The Plan includes a range of policies, as well as land allocations for main uses like housing, employment and retailing. The Plan therefore:
- Guides the Local Planning Authorities to make logical and consistent decisions about planning applications by providing a policy framework that meets the needs of our communities and is consistent with national policy, and
 - Guides and facilitates development to suitable locations during the period up to 2026.
- 1.3 The Plan includes policies for the Local Planning Authorities to make consistent and transparent decisions about development proposals. Nonetheless, it cannot include all the detailed advice that officers and prospective applicants require in order to formulate proposals locally. In order to provide this detailed advice Supplementary Planning Guidance is required to support the Plan.
- 1.4 The purpose of this paper is to raise the Committee Members' awareness and provide an update about the following:
- i. what is Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG);
 - ii. the planning policy basis for the SPG Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities, which includes guidance on how to apply Policy PS 1;
 - iii. the broad process to prepare the SPG Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities;
 - iv. draft timetable to prepare the SPG;
 - v. a preliminary outline of the SPG.

2 WHAT IS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE?

- 2.1 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) provide more detailed guidance about the application of policies in the Joint Local Development Plan in specific circumstances or areas.
- 2.2 The SPG is not part of the Joint Local Development Plan. SPGs will not be independently examined, but it **must** be consistent with the Joint Local Development Plan (the Plan) and national planning policy. The SPG includes cross-references to specific policies and/or proposals in the Plan. **SPGs should not include new policies.** Their preparation must consider the need for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 2.3 SPGs can do the following:
- Provide important guidance that expands on topic specific policies in order to help implement the Plan (e.g. effect on the well-being of the Welsh language, local market housing).
 - Deal with details and numeric guidance/ thresholds (e.g. parking standards, thresholds for planning obligations). Formula details can change within SPG in order to ensure that the Plan continues to be up-to-date and in order to facilitate flexibility.
 - Provide additional detailed guidance about the type of development expected on a site allocated in the Plan for development. This can take the form of a development brief or a masterplan.
- 2.4 Based on the above, only policies and proposals in the Plan have special status (priority) in making decisions about planning applications. However, after they are adopted, and provided they have been through the process described in section 4 below, SPG will be applied as material planning consideration when dealing with planning applications.

3 What is the policy basis for the Supplementary Planning Guidance: Maintaining and creating distinctive and sustainable communities?

- 3.1 Various policies of the Plan have an important role to play in supporting the maintenance and creation of distinctive and sustainable urban and rural communities, and therefore ensure that the Councils meet their statutory duty to promote sustainable development.
- i. ensure appropriate development in the right place at the right time;
 - ii. ensure that sufficient land is available to provide homes and employment opportunities for local people, and helping to maintain urban and rural services;
 - iii. ensure that the Plan provides a land use planning policy framework that contributes to protect and promote the Welsh language;
 - iv. provide a framework to address the challenges posed by climate change, for example, by including the need to produce renewable energy;
 - v. protect and improve the natural and historic environment and safeguard the countryside and open spaces.

By and large, they support communities to be economically, socially, culturally and environmentally sustainable. The next diagram gives a simple picture of the elements considered essential for distinctive and sustainable communities.

Diagram 1: Essential elements for distinctive and sustainable communities



- 3.3 In terms of the Welsh language, sustainable development is concerned with promoting conditions within communities that are important for the language planning cornerstones, such as language transfer in the home (or language socialization in the family), and the provision of the necessary social context to use Welsh as part of normal social fabric.
- 3.4 Bearing in mind the requirement that the SPG has to be consistent with the Plan and national planning policy, here is a copy of the strategic objective that is relevant to the Welsh language and culture. Policy PS 1 is also included, which provides a local policy framework for considering the effect of development on the well-being of the Welsh language:

Strategic Objectives

- Safeguard and strengthen the Welsh language and culture and promote its use as an essential part of community life.
- Ensuring that development in the Plan area supports the principles of sustainable development and creates sustainable communities whilst respecting the varied role and character of the centres, villages and countryside

STRATEGIC POLICY PS 1: WELSH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The Councils will promote and support the use of the Welsh language in the Plan area. This will be achieved by:

- 1. Requiring a Welsh Language Statement, which will protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language, where the proposed development falls within one of the following categories:***
 - a. Retail, industrial or commercial development employing more than 50 employees and/or with an area of 1,000 sq. m. or more; or***
 - b. Residential development which will individually or cumulatively provide more than the indicative housing provision set out for the settlement in Policies TAI 1 – TAI 6; or***
 - c. Residential development of 5 or more housing units on allocated or windfall sites within development boundaries that doesn't address evidence of need and demand for housing recorded in a Housing Market Assessments and other relevant local sources of evidence.***
- 2. Requiring a Welsh Language Impact Assessment, which will set out how the proposed development will protect, promote and enhance the Welsh Language, where the proposed development is on an unexpected windfall site for a large scale housing development or large scale employment development that would lead to a significant workforce flow;***
- 3. Refusing proposals which would cause significant harm to the character and language balance of a community that cannot be avoided or suitably mitigated by appropriate planning mechanisms;***
- 4. Requiring a bilingual Signage Scheme to deal with all operational signage in the public domain that are proposed in a planning application by public bodies and by commercial and business companies;***
- 5. Expect that Welsh names are used for new developments, house and street names.***

4 WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO PREPARE, SCRUTINISE AND ADOPT THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE?

- 4.1 Here is an overview of the arrangements:

- i. Whilst preparing the SPG, we shall address the feedback we received when we engaged with individuals and organisations about current SPGs during June – August 2016.
- ii. Whilst preparing the SPG, we shall consider examples of SPGs adopted by other Planning Authorities.
- iii. Whilst preparing the SPG, we will include development management colleagues and other services within the Councils (e.g. language development units, research and information unit) and partners (Menter Iaith Môn, the Welsh Language Commissioner's Office).
- iv. Whilst preparing the SPG, we shall consider the revised Technical Advice Note 20 (2017), which is also a planning consideration.
- v. Present papers to relevant Scrutiny Committees/ Working groups within both Councils.
- vi. Present a draft SPG to the Joint Local Development Plan Panel for scrutiny and feedback before publishing it for public consultation.
- vii. Publish a draft SPG for a six weeks public consultation. A notice will be published on both Councils' websites. We shall send the notice to: Community and Town Councils; Councillors; groups, organisations and individuals with an interest in the topic; adjoining Planning Authorities; Welsh language Subdivision, Welsh Government.
- viii. We shall submit the conclusions of the Strategic Environment Assessment and the Habitat Regulations Assessment 'screening' process to Natural Resources Wales.
- ix. We shall consider every representation submitted during the public consultation period before preparing a final draft SPG.
- x. We shall submit the final draft SPG to the Joint Planning Policy Committee for its formal adoption.
- xi. The adopted SPG will include a consultation statement that will record the work to prepare and consult publically and will refer to the amendments made as a result of public consultation.
- xii. We shall evaluate the efficiency of the SPG alongside the Policy that it supports as part of the annual monitoring process of the Plan.

5 WHAT IS THE DRAFT TIMETABLE TO PREPARE THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: MAINTAINING AND CREATING DISTINCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

5.1 Here is the draft timetable:

Task	When?
i. Prepare the consultation draft SPG	October 2017 – January 2018
ii. Discuss with, and receive views from, a Scrutiny Working Group	December 2017 – January 2018
iii. Joint Local Development Plan Panel – scrutinise a consultation draft version before publishing it for public consultation	26 January 2018
iv. Public consultation – 6 weeks	February – March 2018
v. Consider comments, in consultation with Scrutiny Committee	April 2018
vi. Joint Planning Policy Committee - adopt the SPG	May 2018 ¹

¹ The definitive timetable will depend on the number and scope of the comments submitted at the public consultation stage

6 WHAT IS THE PRELIMINARY OUTLINE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE: MAINTAINING AND CREATING DISTINCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES?

6.1 Here are possible headings for the SPG:

Part 1 – general information

- i. What is a distinctive and sustainable community
- ii. What can be built and where
- iii. Planning considerations relevant to all development proposals
- iv. Planning considerations for specific types of development
- v. Additional information to be submitted with a planning application

Part 2 – requirements of Policy PS 1

- vi. Process to prepare and present a planning application
- vii. Defining term sin Policy PS 1, e.g. large development, an unexpected windfall site, significant harm, mitigation measures
- viii. Framework to prepare a Welsh Language Statement – how and who
- ix. Framework to prepare a Welsh Language Impact Assessment – how and who
- x. Possible mitigation and improvement measures
- xi. Arrangements to assess a Welsh Language Statement, Welsh Language Impact Assessment report, - the case officer's role, the Joint Planning Policy Unit's role, Gwynedd Council's Language Service's role, Isle of Anglesey County Council Strategic Policy Unit's role and Menter Iaith Mon's role
- xii. Approve or refuse a planning application
- xiii. Monitoring arrangements

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Note the information in the report

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	7 December 2017
Title	Supplementary Planning Guidance – Maintaining and Creating Unique and Sustainable Communities
Purpose	Adopt a Brief and elect Members for the Working Group
Author	Geraint Owen, Head of Democratic Services

Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee are requested to :

- **Give detailed consideration to the enclosed Brief;**
- **Agree on a Brief for the Scrutiny Investigation;**
- **Elect Members for the Scrutiny Working Group**

Planning and the Welsh Language (C10) REVISED DRAFT

A	<p><u>What is the matter being considered as a scrutiny issue?</u></p> <p>In the meeting of full Council on 28 July 2017, the Joint Local Development Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey 2011-2026 was adopted.</p> <p>In the same meeting it was decided to prioritise the preparation of the Supplementary Planning Guidance – Maintaining and Creating Unique and Sustainable Communities in order to give guidance to support the application of Policy PS1 of the Plan. The SPG is not a policy document but rather a document which puts substance to the Policy in order to give guidance on how the Council (and Anglesey County Council) intend to implement the Policy.</p> <p>The Environment Cabinet Member held a Briefing Session for Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Language Committee on 22 September 2017. The Scrutiny Forum decided on 19 October 2017 to hold a Scrutiny Investigation.</p> <p>Since the Scrutiny Forum took the decision, the Technical Advice Note 20 (2017) has been published by the Welsh Government, which supersedes the earlier version (2013). The TAN is a relevant planning consideration.</p>
B	<p><u>Aim of the Investigation</u></p> <p>There are two parts:</p> <p><u>Part 1 (this specifically for the draft SPG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that the consultation Process on the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPA) is an inclusive one; - Scrutinise the draft framework for preparing the Welsh Language Statement and a draft framework for preparing Welsh Language Effect Assessment; - Scrutinise how it is intended to implement the SPG in the context of the requirements of the new TAN20; - Consider an Overview of the comments received by the public during public consultation on the draft SPG in order to present an opinion to the Joint Planning Policy Committee before the final SPG is adopted. <p><u>Part 2 (this specifically in the National policy/advice context)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collect evidence to form ideas and suggestions for the consideration of Gwynedd Council’s Environment Cabinet Member in order to influence National policy and planning guidances in the future.
C	<p><u>Context</u></p> <p><u>Part 1 (this specifically for the draft SPG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National planning policy requirements in terms of preparing SPG and their contents

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant policy requirements in the Joint Local Development Plan, including Policy PS1, to create conditions that will allow sustainable communities to thrive - Relevant comments from the public consultation on the consultative draft SPG. <p><u>Part 2 (this specifically in the National policy/advice context)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Part 4 of the Wales Planning Policy (9 November 2016 edition) and Technical Advice Note 20 (2017) - Relevant legislative planning requirements in terms of the Welsh language - Other relevant legislative requirements and relevant National and local strategies in terms of the Welsh language. -
CH	<p><u>Good Practice and Learning Lessons</u></p> <p><u>Part 1 (this specifically for the draft SPG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not a direct matter for the Working Group. The report that presents the draft frameworks will give feed-back to the Working Group on the findings of the Joint Planning Unit and Welsh Language Services on good practice considered when preparing the frameworks. <p><u>Part 2 (this specifically in the National policy/advice context)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider what is the role of the land use planning system in Wales to influence on the future of the Welsh language - Consider what is the role of the land use planning system in other countries and areas in influencing the future of language - Identify barriers and good practice
D	<p><u>Information and Gathering Evidence</u></p> <p><u>Part 1 (this specifically for the draft SPG) (in order to prepare frameworks for preparing the Welsh Language Statement and Welsh Language Effect Assessment to be presented to the Scrutiny Working Group)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning Manager (Joint Planning Policy Unit – Gwynedd and Anglesey) - Gwynedd Council Welsh Language Services Manager - Welsh Language Commissioner - Welsh Language Sub-department, Welsh Government <p><u>Part 2 (this specifically in the National policy/advice context)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Government Planning Policy Officer - Lawyer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh Language Commissioner - Eusko Jauriaritza (Basque Country Government) - Udaras na Gaeltachta (Irish Language promotion organisation) - Third Sector/Language Movements, e.g. Welsh Language Society, Cylch yr Iaith - Specialist Language Planners, e.g. Bangor University - Other Local Authorities in West and North Wales - Developers
DD	<p><u>Analysis</u></p> <p><u>Part 1 (this specifically for the draft SPG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scrutinise the draft frameworks for Welsh Language Statement and Welsh Language Effect Assessment <p><u>Part 2 (this specifically in the National policy/advice context)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weigh up the evidence gathered from those interviewed
E	<p><u>Writing the Report</u></p> <p><u>Part 1 (this specifically for the draft SPG)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (Working Group): Discuss the draft framework for preparing the Welsh Language Statement and draft framework for preparing the Welsh Language Effect Assessment - Present a report on the findings and recommendations of the Working Group to the Joint Local Development Plan Panel - (Scrutiny Committee) Discuss comments received during the period of public consultation on the draft SPG - Present a report on the findings and recommendations of the Communities Scrutiny Committee to the Joint Planning Policy Committee <p><u>Part 2 (this specifically in the National policy/advice context)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note with evidence the main findings of the Working Group for February and March - Formulate and record recommendations - Present Report to Scrutiny Committee for comments and confirmation - Present Report to Environment Cabinet Member - Publish the Final Report as the basis for discussions with the Welsh Government or for discussion with other relevant stakeholders.

F	<u>Timetable:</u>	
17 November 2017	Joint Development Plan Panel	Update on thr role of SPG, Process, timetable and outline of possible content of SPG
7 December 2017	Communities Scrutiny Committee	Update on thr role of SPG, Process, timetable and outline of possible content of SPG
End of November	Scrutiny Working Group	
Rhagfyr 2017	Gweithgor Craffu	- ystyried fframwaith drafft sy'n adnabod gofynion ar gyfer Datganiad Iaith Gymraeg.
Dechrau Ionawr 2018	Gweithgor Craffu	- ystyried fframwaith drafft sy'n adnabod gofynion ar gyfer Asesiad Effaith Iaith Gymraeg
26 Ionawr 2018 (papurau yn barod erbyn 19/1/18)	Panel Cynllun Datblygu Lleol ar y Cyd	- Ystyried Prif Ganfyddiadau ac Aelodau'r Gweithgor Craffu - Ystyried CCA drafft ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus
Chwefror - Mawrth 2018	Ymgynghoriad Cyhoeddus	- Uned Polisi Cynllunio ar y Cyd yn derbyn, cofnodi ac ystyried sylwadau & adnabod newidiadau drafft mewn ymgynghoriad efo swyddogion iaith a swyddogion cynllunio
Chwefror 2018	Gweithgor Craffu	- Ystyried tystiolaeth i baratoi papur i Lywodraeth Cymru i ddylanwadu ar NCT 20
Mawrth 2018	Gweithgor Craffu	- Ystyried tystiolaeth i baratoi papur i Lywodraeth Cymru i ddylanwadu ar NCT 20 a llunio argymhellion.
Ebrill 2018	Pwyllgor Craffu Cymunedau	- Ystyried canfyddiadau'r ac argymhellion y Gweithgor a gynhelir ym mis Chwefror a Mawrth 2018 - Ystyried sylwadau a dderbyniwyd am y CCA drafft
Mai 2018	Pwyllgor Polisi Cynllunio ar y Cyd	- Ystyried canfyddiadau'r Pwyllgor Craffu am sylwadau'r ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus am y CCA - Ystyried drafft terfynol o'r CCA a'i fabwysiadu

COMMITTEE	COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	7 December 2017
TITLE	UPDATE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING A SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO PLANNING
CABINET MEMBER	Cllr. Dafydd Meurig
PURPOSE	Provide and up-date following the Investigation report published in March 2017

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A Planning Scrutiny Investigation Report was published in March 2017. This was as a result of meetings between Members who were a part of the Investigation with the Cabinet Member and the Senior Planning Manager to agree upon the specific fields of the investigation implemented over four meetings. The specific field were divided into the five sections referred to in the table below.

2. MAIN FINDINGS OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION

- 2.1 The main findings of the Investigation are noted below with a note of the evidence behind that finding and then the recommendation subsequently made by the Investigation along with an update on the situation.

2.2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

THE SERVICE'S PERFORMANCE: The planning process must operate within a statutory framework as well as within the Unitary Development Plan (Local Development Plan in 2017). Consequently, the system is quite restrictive.

Evidence:

- Primary Legislation
- Subordinate Legislation
- Relevant planning policies and guidelines
- Unitary Development Plan.

Recommendation to the Cabinet Member: It is recommended that the Cabinet Member ensure the Council regularly monitors the impact of the Local Development Plan (once it has been approved). Furthermore, training must be secured for Members and members of town and community councils to raise awareness and understanding of planning matters, giving consideration, where relevant, to input from external sources.

Update: The monitoring framework for the Plan has been identified and approved by the Planning Inspector. It is used annually to consider the impact of the Plan's policies. The framework will provide the foundation to the Monitoring Report submitted to the Council before the end of October every year.

An awareness raising session about the content of the Plan was held for all Council Members at the beginning of July 2017. An awareness raising session about the Plan was held for all Planning Committee Members during November 2017. Arrangements are being made to take advantage of a proposal from Planning Aid Wales to hold a second series of workshops for town and community Councils on planning matters early in 2018.

2.3 THE SERVICE'S PERFORMANCE

Findings: The service performs well in general, with an increasing number of applications being submitted. Following the discussions, it was concluded that there was a clear interconnection between the work of the Council's planning service and building control service.

Evidence

- 2015-16 performance report
- Observations on the difficulty in achieving the aim when contacting through Galw Gwynedd

Recommendation to the Cabinet Member: The Cabinet Member is recommended to review Ffordd Gwynedd to ensure that the public receives the best possible service when trying to contact an officer, and to review the interconnection between planning and building control to ensure a full and streamlined service for the public.

Update: Both Units commenced the Ffordd Gwynedd Exercise, but due to matters such as the long-term sickness of some Team members and the impact of that on the Unit's capacity, it was resolved to defer the Exercise and to review the situation at the beginning of 2018.

2.4 CONSIDERATION FOR THE ECONOMY

Findings: The Council does not pay due attention to economic matters when determining planning applications in accordance with the Unitary Development Plan.

Evidence

- Gwynedd Unitary Development Plan (Part 2) and policies relevant to that section
- Evidence in the investigation that the economy had been given due attention when making decisions

Recommendation to the Cabinet Member: A recommendation is made to the Cabinet Member to ensure that matters related to economy receive due and specific attention in the report in order to ensure that Members understand the impact on the economy e.g. a separate heading for the economy so that it does not become overwhelmed by the "principle of the development".

Update: Matters relating to the economy receive due and prominent attention as part of the reports on planning applications.

2.5 THE DELEGATION SCHEME

Findings: Gwynedd Delegation Scheme thresholds seem low in comparison to other organisations and this is highlighted in the number of applications referred to the Planning Committee

Evidence:

- Comparative performance of Wales in 2015-16

Recommendation to the Cabinet Member: The Cabinet Member is recommended to amend the thresholds of the Delegation Scheme as noted in Appendix 3.

Update: This work and the recommendations to amend the thresholds further has received the support of Planning Committee Members and it is intended to proceed to formalise the amendments through the appropriate procedure.

2.6 **USER EXPERIENCE**

Findings: Arrangements for providing advice to prospective developers is appreciated and provides developers with options to amend an application as required.

Evidence:

- 2015-16 Satisfaction questionnaires.

Recommendation to the Cabinet Member: The Cabinet Member is recommended to continue with the good work and that the Cabinet Member receives a regular update of the lessons learnt from the process.

Update: The good work is continuing and the situation is monitored regularly including reporting to the Scrutiny Committee.