

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE): Protect our Pathways Campaign
Report by Waterways and Recreation Officer

Summary: This report seeks to set out the CPRE's response to reduce funding for public rights of way by Norfolk County Council.

Recommendation: The aim of this report is to provide the Broads Local Access Forum with information regarding the CPRE campaign.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In response to Norfolk County Council's changing stance on public rights of way CPRE Norfolk has launched a new campaign aimed at maintaining the public rights of way footpath network throughout the county.
- 1.2 On Thursday 17 May 2012 members of the public attended a campaign launch held at the Jubilee Hall in Loddon. The audience included Local Access Forum members as well as a Broads Authority officer, who listened to both the campaign launch and the response from Norfolk County Council's National Trail Officer.

2 CPRE Campaign

- 2.1 The campaign is centred around raising awareness of footpaths and their condition in Norfolk. The CPRE is encouraging members of the public to be proactive by reporting footpath problems both to themselves and Norfolk County Council. Below is a quote from the CPRE website highlighting the aims and objectives of the campaign.

"What CPRE Norfolk is doing to help"

"While CPRE Norfolk accepts that public sector cuts have forced the county council to make difficult decisions, we will campaign to ensure this issue remains high on the council's agenda for further improvements in service."

"We will campaign for..."

- More frequent inspection and maintenance of ALL public rights of way.
- Quicker responses to complaints and better enforcement.

- Re-instatement of action to resolve problems, including damage or loss of finger posts, misleading signs, unauthorised vehicle use or overgrown field edges.
- We will develop the network of local footpath wardens to monitor and maintain paths in their parish.”

3 CPRE Concerns

3.1 The CPRE also highlights on the website their concerns regarding the funding reductions and its impact on the footpaths. Below is a quote from the CPRE website identifying the main issues on footpaths as a result of the funding reductions.

“How funding cuts will affect our paths

- Reduced maintenance
- Reduced enforcement standards
- Slower response to complaints”.

3.2 The CPRE has also advertised Norfolk County Council’s rights of way contact details to encourage members of the public to report problems.

3.3 The CPRE has produced a supporting leaflet covering the “Protect Our Paths” project to which a link has been provided below.

<http://www.cprenorfolk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/CPRE-Protect-our-Paths-Leaflet.pdf>

Background papers:	None
Author:	Russell Wilson
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Broads Plan Objectives:	TR2, TR3
Appendices:	None