

# REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY SURVEY

**Report Reference** ET-25-13  
**Meeting Date** 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025  
**Agenda Item** 6  
**Prepared by** Corporate Support Manager / Town Clerk

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### 1.0 BACKGROUND

The committee previously agreed an action under the council's strategic plan to undertake a survey to assess the conditions of the town's public rights of way. This survey was completed by volunteers, and a report concluding this survey has now been produced.

The survey was undertaken by visual inspection of all the public rights of way in Knutsford. The survey aimed to record the present condition of the paths and identify any areas where improvement that can be made.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey identifies a number of minor improvements which can be made to the network. They are broadly in three categories:

- 1) Maintenance improvements – more regular maintenance to tackle minor issues and ensure path widths are maintained.
- 2) Infrastructure improvements – replacement of signage, repair of stiles, installation of bins and posts etc
- 3) Navigation improvements – improved clarity of the route e.g. through waymarking

A number of surveys noted that the "cycling prohibited" signs on many paths are very worn. The committee should consider whether it wishes to pursue a policy of replacing or removing such signs.

### 3.0 ACTION TO DELIVER RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations from the report have been collated into a series of suggested actions. For each action, there is the appropriate lead identified. Timeframe: Short (<1 year), Medium (1-5 years), Long (5 years+).

Ref	Action	Lead	Timeframe
PROW1	Undertake annual/biannual maintenance of PROW routes to clean signage and remove debris, vegetation and graffiti	KTC	Short
PROW2	Undertake repairs to broken stiles and signposts	CEC	Short
PROW3	Remove redundant signposts where signs are not required/to be replaced	KTC/CEC	Short
PROW3	Seek removal of barbed wire along paths where possible	CEC	Short
PROW4	Confirm official route of FP13 (Boothfields to St	CEC	Short

	Helena's)		
PROW5	Installation of litter bins at road entrances to identified paths	KTC	Medium
PROW6	Replacement of 'no cycling' signage	KTC/CEC	Medium
PROW7	Review/remove impediments to wheelchairs on urban routes	CEC	Medium
PROW8	Installation of additional footpath signage for clarity of routes where necessary	CEC	Medium
PROW9	Explore replacement of stiles with gates for accessibility	CEC	Medium
PROW10	Installation of handrail at Slaters Yard (FP23)	KTC	Medium
PROW11	Improvement of clarity of the FP13 route (Longridge to Booths Hall) as part of development	KTC / Landowner	Medium
PROW12	Upgrade River Lily Bridge to make accessible	KTC/CEC	Long
PROW13	Urban (metalled) paths to be resurfaced or repaired where required / uneven	CEC	Long

The Town Centre Committee is pursuing improvements to the town centre ginnel paths, including lighting, signposting and maintenance improvements.

## 4.0 ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGY

### 4.1 COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

Improvement of the PROW network strongly aligns with the council's strategic plan. Objective T3 is to promote awareness and use of PROW as part of contributing to the aim of promoting walking and cycling. Objective T3 was prioritised into phase two of the delivery of the strategic plan (2028-2031).

The short timeframe actions are considered appropriate for delivery in the early stage, noting they align with objective C3/C4 (enhancing the cleanliness, maintenance and attractiveness of the town).

## 5.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should:

- a) Note the Public Right of Way survey and recommendations
- b) Determine if cycling prohibited signs should be replaced where faded
- c) Consider whether any further recommendations should be arising from the report
- d) Consider the approval of the actions detailed in section three