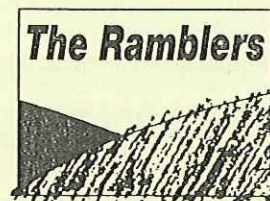


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The Ramblers' Association

Working for walkers



www.ramblers.org.uk

Shropshire Area

18th January 2010

Diversions of Public Rights of Way

Dear David,

I would like to draw the attention of Forum members to a problem in connection with the process of dealing with Diversions of Public Rights of Way. Members will realise that there are instances where the historic Rights of Way network is not really satisfactory for the present day and whilst the history of a route can be interesting and valuable it may be that some minor alteration to the Definitive line would now be of greater value. There are also instances where modern developments interfere with the ancient routes and where present landowners wish to remove public rights.

It is my understanding that the Council funds the post of the officer dealing with Diversion work from the charges levied upon private applicants for Diversions.. This can be a sensible policy, but it has a major drawback. If the officer's post depends upon funding from private applicants it must imply that applications for private advantage Diversions usually have priority over any Diversions in the interest of the general public. There must be many Diversions which officers would wish to pursue particularly in the light of Rights of Way Improvement Plans to promote public access.

It might be useful for Forum members to discuss this matter and how any conflict of priorities should be addressed

Yours sincerely,

Bill Hodges

David Wise
Secretary to the Local Access Forum
Shropshire Council

