

By email
Ewhurst Parish Council

17 January 2025

Dear Parish Clerk

Review of East Sussex County Council's Rights of Way Access Plan

East Sussex County Council's Rights of Way Access Plan (previously known as the Rights of Way Improvement Plan or ROWIP) is an important strategic policy document, which the council is required by law to have in place. It sets out how East Sussex County Council can make sure the public rights of way network meets the needs of the public, now and in the future. More information on ROWIPs can be found at the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

A public right of way is a public highway and is part of, and connects with, the wider highway network. Although they are mainly in the countryside, there are public rights of way in towns and villages too. There are four types of public right of way:

- Public footpaths – a public right of way only for pedestrians (including dog walkers, users of wheelchairs, mobility scooters and people with buggies)
- Public bridleways – As per public footpaths, and in addition can be used horse riders and cyclists
- Restricted byways – As per public footpaths and bridleways, and in addition can be used by horse-drawn carriage drivers
- Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATs) – a public right of way for all users, including motor vehicles

East Sussex County Council is writing to inform Ewhurst Parish Council that the process of carrying out a new assessment and review of East Sussex County Council's Rights of Way Access Plan is beginning.

The process of reviewing the Rights of Way Access Plan, and the engagement being carried out before a new plan is drafted, will help East Sussex County Council to better understand the needs of the County's residents. The Rights of Way Access Plan aims to address the priorities of the area for health and wellbeing, supporting people living with disabilities and mental health issues, regeneration, growth, transport, climate change, tourism and other priorities. The views of parish and town councils are important to do this. To help us, we'd like the views of Ewhurst Parish Council. The feedback will help to develop the priorities and actions of the new Rights of Way Access Plan, which will be produced later in 2025.

I would be grateful if Ewhurst Parish Council could fill in the questionnaire below. Please submit only one official response on behalf of Ewhurst Parish Council. This link is for parish and town councils only and should not be shared with the public.

[THE LINK FOR THE PARISH SURVEY IS HERE](#) This is for parish and town councils only.

The questionnaire closes at midnight on 14th March 2025.

So that you can discuss your answers before filling in the questionnaire, a copy is appended to this letter. It is preferred that you submit your response to this questionnaire through the online link above; however, electronic or paper responses will also be accepted.

If you wish to submit an emailed response, or additional information, please email Sharon Bayne at esccrowap@blackwoodbayne.co.uk who is working on behalf of East Sussex County Council to support the development of the new Rights of Way Access Plan. Paper copies should be sent to Blackwood Bayne Ltd, 8 Herts Crescent, Loose, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0AX.

Views of Individual Councillors and Members of the Public

The views of individual councillors and members of the public are also important and welcome. To gather these, we have also set up an online public questionnaire. We would be grateful if you could publicise this questionnaire and encourage people to complete it. We have attached a poster to this email which you may wish to display on site or use on social media. The questionnaire for the public is online at:

[The link to the public survey is here.](#)

This questionnaire also closes at midnight on 14th March 2025.

If you need to discuss the process of preparing the new Rights of Way Access Plan or specific questions about the engagement exercise, please contact Sharon. She can be contacted on esccrowap@blackwoodbayne.co.uk or 01622 746316. Alternatively contact esccrowap@eastsussex.gov.uk

[Visit](#) this webpage for more information about public rights of way in East Sussex or to report an issue.

The draft Rights of Way Access Plan is due to be completed later in 2025. All parish and town councils will be invited to comment on the draft.

Yours faithfully



Andy Le Gresley
Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside