**ADEPT Rights of Way Managers Group meeting, 12 July 2018**

The ROWMG working group met in Birmingham on 12 July – venue kindly hosted by Birmingham City Council.

DEFRA provided an update on the progress of the work of the SWG and proposals under the Deregulation Act 2015. As a result of changes in staff, the target date for implementation of the Deregulation package is Summer 2019.

DEFRA’s [25 Year Environment Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan) was discussed, in particular how the PROW network contributes to realising the objectives of Chapter 3 – ‘Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing’.

A presentation was delivered by GeoPlace on a proposal for the creation of a map detailing all PROW recorded on the National Street Gazetteer, to be accessible to the public through a web browser. The objective is to reduce the burdens on LAs which will arise as a result of the implementation of the Deregulation Act 2015 and the commencement of the 2026 cut-off date. The Group agreed this would be of benefit and all PROW officers will be able to have access to the system prior to it being released publicly.

Following the Group’s [article](https://flickread.com/edition/html/5b081eb9690fd#50) in Highways Magazine (June 2018), an item was discussed on the possible benefits of identifying routes in use by the public but not recorded in Highway Authority databases. Companies such as Strava are open to partnering with Public bodies and sharing their public data to achieve a greater understanding of how transportation networks are utilised.

PROW level crossings were discussed and it was agreed that there would be benefit in completing the draft memorandum of understanding with Network Rail.

Dates of future meetings at Birmingham were agreed: 11 October 2018; 24 January 2019.

**Paul Newark**

**Chair**