

ADEPT Rights of Way Managers' Group – January meeting

Representation from Network Rail (NR) attended as the Group sought to put the finishing touches to a Memorandum of Understanding with NR to secure better understanding and working relationships in dealing with rail crossing closures of public rights of way.

The Planning Inspectorate (PINs) is seeking ADEPT's views on reducing the content of its Consistency Guidelines. This is being resisted and an offer has been made to review proposed changes. Separately, the new Chief Executive of PINs is due to attend the next meeting of the Group along with one of its inspectors.

DEFRA updated on the introduction of the Rights of Way Reforms package, part of the Deregulation Act 2015, which remains delayed due to serious complications with cost recovery regulations for public path orders. It is still not known when this will be finalised and is a serious concern.

Natural England reported on its hosting of a one-off Motoring Stakeholder Working Group which was offered by the previous Minister, Rory Stewart to bring together land managers and users to consider best practice and any new thinking with regard to the use of recreational motor vehicles in the countryside. A number of individual pieces of work are to follow including the use of Traffic Regulation Orders, standards and funding, illegal use and the status of unmetalled unclassified roads.