

Future Generations Evaluation (includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation</p> <p>Ruth Rourke Countryside Access Manager</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644860 E-mail: ruthrourke@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2019 – 2029)</p>
<p>Name of Service</p> <p>Tourism, Leisure, Culture & Youth</p>	<p>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed</p> <p>27 August 2019</p>

1. **Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.

Well Being Goal	How does the proposal contribute to this goal? (positive and negative)	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Chapter 14 of the Draft ROWIP is dedicated to “A Prosperous Wales”.</p> <p>The draft ROWIP can help towards a robust infrastructure that enables development and encourages economic growth leading to regeneration and attraction of new business. It has a significant role in supporting sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The ROWIP as a statutory document informs, supports and adds weight to policies within Monmouthshire’s</p>	<p>- Maximise positive opportunities by continuing to work with partners as well as other key organisations including the local community, volunteer groups and local businesses.</p> <p>The Draft Rowip identifies there are a limited number of off road facilities available for horse riders and cyclists. Stakeholders are requesting an increase in the number of bridleways and multi purpose routes. This is addressed within the ROWIP by various actions which</p>

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	<p>Local Plan and community plans to help achieve economic benefits. Working with partners both locally and regionally on schemes like Bleanavon World Heritage Site Management Plan will not only provide jobs and training opportunities but deliver landscape interpretation and access improvements leading to sustainable economic growth in the region.</p> <p>Rights of Way are identified within the Plan as an important tourism product with the ability if better maintained to expand upon the number of visitors to the county. The economic value of cycling, walking, green spaces and horse riding is identified and there is identified demand for a growth in this provision. By Improving walking and cycling opportunities social and health benefits can be achieved especially when working more proactively with communities and volunteers.</p>	<p>seek to expand and improve the amount of network available to all users, but particularly for cyclists and horse riders. This is consistent with the Countryside Access Policy and operational management priorities.</p> <p>There are various Statements of action within the ROWIP which seek to improve and maintain economic development such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping to keep spend by visitors (e.g. walkers and cyclists) in the local area through linkages with local businesses, thereby supporting Monmouthshire’s small business sector. • Maintaining primary promoted routes to a high standard to safeguard economic benefits and tourism product. • Developing walking/ riding products and promoting countryside sites and walking product more effectively
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>The ROWIP promotes and support the sustainable management of the rich and varied cultural landscape of Monmouthshire. Policies and actions will enhance and maintain biodiversity locally and help contribute to a resilient Wales.</p> <p>Chapter 15 of the RoWIP is “Future Focused”. It identifies the service is under pressures, some variable, some not. It looks at issues which have, or will have in</p>	<p>The ROWIP contains environmental impact and mitigation measures, such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with external partners to ensure the development of the rights of way network maximizes its contribution to wider landscape, biodiversity, visitor interpretation and educational objectives.

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	<p>the future, an increasing affect on access, such as the impact of climate change and agricultural changes.</p> <p>The ROWIP seeks to address these issues in a variety of ways including partnership work, the adoption of an asset management approach, linking to strategies and policies such as the Green Infrastructure Strategy to tackle climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and continue to promote use of countryside Access Biodiversity Technical Guidance • Identifying flood risk areas and likely impact on grow and to put in place mitigation measures • Exploring natural flood management potential as part of wider landscape initiatives to address row issues and secure future access .
<p>A healthier Wales People’s physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Chapter 11 is about “Active Healthy Lifestyles”. This is based on extensive literature research as outlined in Appendix 3 and 5, an outdoor disability and health Assessment undertaken by Ridgeway Associates and a public consultation.</p> <p>The draft ROWIP shows what is required to get inactive people outdoors and to improve the health of residents and those with disabilities. The new ROWIP sets out policies and actions for the management of rights of way and countryside sites to reduce barriers to residents/visitors using the outdoors and to achieve a network of well promoted, useable paths, to help residents improve their health and well-being.</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities will also be further encouraged especially working with community and other volunteer groups who can play an important part in identifying improvements, leading health walks,</p>	<p>The ROWIP aims to encourage active lifestyles through a range of measures such as:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing and removing barriers that prevent use, • working in partnership with planners, developers and others to create well designed, accessible environments that encourage active travel, walking, cycling and horse riding. • Supporting implementation of health improvement initiatives • Identifying partners in schools, outdoor education and colleges to promote the health benefits of countryside access to pupils and students in innovative ways.

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	helping with maintenance and promotion of the network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging active travel to schools by promoting and enhancing PROW & cycle routes thus educating responsible lifestyles and reducing obesity. • Look at installing furniture and maintaining picnic benches/seats to enable more use of sites/row for those with disability or health issues. • Tackle health disadvantage by promoting access to the natural environment and green space beyond urban areas, providing connectivity to nature and heritage. • Better promotion and distribution of health walks and targeted information.
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	Assessments show that a new ROWIP will holistically address the present and future needs of the communities within Monmouthshire by setting out clear policies and actions that address the economic, social and environmental issues facing the area.	- Maximise opportunities for engagement with a range of key stakeholders.
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	n/a	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	Assessments show that rights of way play an important	Promotes countryside access to others so that they can

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Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	role in heritage and culture for local communities and tourists. The draft plan reflects this and will importantly provide the means for which access to the countryside for various recreational activities can be undertaken.	maximise opportunities to for volunteering and participation a wide range of outdoor activities.
<p>A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	Preparation and development of assessments in order to draft a new ROWIP has included full up front community, partner and stakeholder engagement. Now the draft has been prepared another 3 month consultation will follow.	

2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	The plan establishes the need for long-term planning and management arrangements to ensure that outcomes in the plan if made are sustainable in the future.	The assessments present actions to protect, maintain and improve access to the countryside both now and for future generations. The assessments recognise the long-term challenges of social, economic and environmental regeneration within Monmouthshire.

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Sustainable Development Principle	How does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle?	What has been done to better to meet this principle?
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>The assessments and consultations identified that it is important to work in partnership with others both locally on a community basis and with volunteers, but also regionally and nationally with organisations such as Natural Resources Wales and neighbouring authorities. Several new partners were identified. This is reflected in the new plan.</p>	<p>The assessments have been widely promoted in social media and the press. There has been three consultations, one workshop and a set of three questionnaires. The assessments have been prepared in collaboration with partner organisations, the local community and other key stakeholders including the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum. The resulting ROWIP includes the results of the public consultation and will now be subject to a further 3-month public consultation before being finalised.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The extensive consultations undertaken before and during the writing of the assessments has ensured that the local community and wider partners have been fully involved in the delivery of the assessment reports. The ROWIP review process requires that a further 3 month consultation is now undertaken on the draft rowip to ensure views are adequately portrayed.</p>	
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Assessment three identifies resources, issues and looks at opportunities to maintain and improve countryside access. Appendix 1 & 3 show how the last ROWIP has been instrumental in accessing substantial grant funding and improving the management of rights of way. Rights of way are severely under resourced, but a the draft ROWIP not only acknowledges the evidence in the appendices but gives opportunities to work with others and look at ways of addressing resource issues.</p>	
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Positively impacting on people, economy and environment and trying to benefit all three</p>	<p>The primary focus of the ROWIP is identifying the needs of the people now and in the future, using rights of way to benefit the economy, the environment and to provide the means for which the public can access our rich cultural heritage.</p>	<p>The draft ROWIP ensures contribution to all 7 of the national well-being goals.</p>

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3. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
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Age	<p>The Public Rights of Way (PROW) network and Countryside Sites are used by a variety of age groups which vary from parents with children and babies to elderly walking groups.</p> <p>Under represented groups that are less likely to visit the countryside are the younger and older age groups. Younger people are more likely to visit a park and older people head to the coast or woodlands. For those who report no visits outdoors, the over 65 age group site the main barriers were old age and physical disability. For younger adults (16-44) the main barrier was lack of time. There is a significant growth in the numbers of horse riders aged between 16 and 24. Particularly horse riding is relevant to under 16's and women over age of 45 who otherwise would be sedentary. To encourage under- represented groups to visit the countryside and use the PROW network the ROWIP looks to address the barriers preventing use.</p> <p>Older age groups tended to use word of mouth and traditional maps and guides. Research also showed that a high percentage of those young people who are disabled and those aged 55+ found poor maintenance of stiles/gates, overgrown vegetation and lack of information the biggest barriers to use. The ROWIP seeks to address this and these are high priority in our maintenance prioritisation policy.</p>	<p>It is our policy to have a least restrictive access policy to make paths accessible to all. It is also our policy to increase the number of bridleways and multi-purpose paths available so more people can cycle, ride a horse or walk. However these are all encumbrance on landowners agreement.</p> <p>Results from the public consultation showed that the main age group that responded to the questionnaire was aged 60-74 (68%). Only 1 respondent was in the age group 19-24. (More younger people targeted in appendix 1). 8% of respondents were in age group of 25-44, 16% were 45-59, 68% were aged 60-74 and 8% were 75+. We received a number of responses in our consultations which related to age, the main comments included that "not everyone uses a computer and older people still want printed material".</p> <p>Also there is a need to work with schools to get younger age groups interested in the PROW network and promote technological driven measures to appeal to younger age groups.</p> <p>None</p>	<p>In order to break down barriers for underrepresented age groups we need to let people know what is available to them through better promotion and sharing of information. More accessible information and increasing knowledge and confidence has been identified as a need from the analysis of our research, which includes young and older age groups to encourage use.</p> <p>Policy promotes provision of accessible routes to encourage Active Heathy Lifestyles and travel and facilitate access to green spaces to provide physical and mental health and well-being benefits for all age groups. It also looks to increase number of bridleways and multi- purpose paths.</p> <p>Policy also sets out specific objectives to remove age related barriers to improve accessibility and increase the use of PROW network in a number of ways such as applying LRA policy (no stiles) ,increasing signage etc</p>

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Disability	<p>The Draft ROWIP specifically identifies disability stakeholder measures to increase engagement with the outdoors. It identifies the accessibility of rights of way to the blind or partially sighted persons and others with mobility problems and considers barriers they face to using rights of way and other outdoor facilities such as country parks.</p> <p>The opportunities provided by designated access land and NRW Forests were particularly valued given their suitability for all ability access. There was recognition among disabled Stakeholders that good work had been done to make certain paths accessible to disabled people and there is a wide range of resources available within the county.</p> <p>The results also showed that there is a correlation between increased use of the PROW Network and access to information.</p> <p>Other barriers included lack of information, negative perception, time, motivation, transport, toilets, parking, expense, obstructions, overgrowth and design. The ROWIP has actions with our partners to try and address these barriers.</p>	none	Policy/Actions within the ROWIP promote provision of most accessible 'routes for all' where possible to do so, to encourage Active Travel, and facilitate access to green space, to provide physical and mental health and well-being benefits to all users. It also looks to work with community councils and others to target vegetation clearance, surfacing and identify barriers for removal.
Gender reassignment	None	None	
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	

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Race	None	<p>The Black and Ethnic Minority Groups in Monmouthshire are a very small percentage of the population and did not engage with initial consultations.</p> <p>Barriers may include cultural differences, as some communities may not have the cultural habit of going to the countryside and may not be aware of opportunities available to them, or may simply lack interest or confidence in engaging with the ROWIP consultations.</p>	Policy is that information will be provided in formats suitable for the user. Information can be made available in alternative languages from Welsh or English.
Religion or Belief	None	None	
Sex	None	There were significant gender differences in the types of activities that people take part in. Women are more likely to go to the children to playgrounds or for a picnic. Males are generally more likely to take part in all active outdoor pursuits, particularly cycling and fishing.	Objectives have been set within the ROWIP to remove barriers and increase the accessibility of the PROW network and to ensure that accompanying material is accessible to all.
Sexual Orientation	None	None	
Welsh Language	Positive through supporting further interpretation and information provision	None	

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4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	Positive through improved physical and intellectual access, volunteering and activity for all	None	
Safeguarding	None	None	
Corporate Parenting	None	None	Policy promotes provision of accessible routes and provision of facilities to encourage outdoor recreation for families. Policy also sets specific objective to improve the accessibility of the access network, associated information and the availability of local accessible green space.

5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Numerous documents and plans such as Monmouthshire's Well Being Assessment and Wye Valley AONB Plan, BBNP assessment and draft ROWIP, consultations with Monmouthshire Local Access Forum and others. The appendices 2 & 3 contain details of documents/links to data used in the assessments.

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

The ROWIP shows the need to maintain long-term planning and management arrangements, it considers the benefits of supporting a tourism product, and providing economic, social and environmental improvements to provide improved physical and intellectual access, volunteering opportunities and activity. A 12 week consultation will now take place to ensure that the needs and views of Monmouthshire's residents are accurate and are taken account before the document is finalised.

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7. Actions. As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible	Progress
carry out 3 month consultation	September- November	Countryside Access Manager	

8. Monitoring: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:	Impacts will be re-evaluated when the results of the consultation are known October 2019
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