

Colaton Raleigh Parish Council

Meeting held in Colaton Raleigh Village Hall at 7.00pm on Monday 13th January 2025

Presentation given by Thomas Green, Devon County Council, Public Rights of Way Officer

Subject: Review of the Definitive Map and Public Rights of Way

Overview:

During the presentation, Thomas explained the legal requirements and processes involved in the **Definitive Map Review**, highlighting the County Council's statutory duty to maintain a legal record of public rights of way. This record is vital for ensuring public access to footpaths, bridleways, and other rights of way. The map currently in use was finalized in the early 1960s, with the definitive map being published in 1963 and remaining unchanged since that time.

Key Points Discussed:

1. Background on the Definitive Map:

- The Definitive Map is a legal document that records public rights of way.
- Our local map, which has not been updated for over six decades, was initially based on a 1950s map.
- The map records 13 footpaths and 6 bridleways within the parish.
- The current map does not reflect any changes or additions that may have occurred since its publication.

2. Current Status of the Review:

- The parish is one of the final 20 parishes out of 400 in the county to complete the review of its definitive map.
- Thomas emphasized the importance of the review process to ensure that public rights of way are accurately represented and protected.

3. Types of Changes That Can Be Made:

- **Addition of Unrecorded Routes:** Any route that has been used by the public but not previously recorded can be added to the map.
- **Upgrading or Downgrading Rights of Way:** If evidence supports it, an existing right of way may be upgraded (e.g., a footpath to a bridleway) or downgraded (e.g., from a bridleway to a footpath).
- **Deletion or Amendment:** If evidence shows that an entry is incorrect (for example, a right of way no longer exists), it can be deleted or amended.
- **Correction of Anomalies:** Any inconsistencies or differences between the map and actual usage can be corrected.

4. Next Steps in the Review Process:

- Following this meeting, there will be a **three-month period** for people to submit any proposals or evidence for changes to the map. This period ends on **April 11th**.
- During this time, Thomas will conduct further research, examining user evidence, landowner evidence, and historical documents to support any proposed changes.
- Evidence must demonstrate that the route has been used by the public as a right of way for at least 20 years without challenge from the landowner.

5. Submission Process:

- Any proposals or evidence for changes must be submitted before the deadline of **April 11th**.
- Forms and additional information can be accessed on the **DCC website**, under the "Definitive Map Review" page.

6. Post-Review Process:

- After the consultation period ends, a **consultation map** will be produced, which will include proposed changes and will be published on the DCC website and advertised locally for further review.