



Report on Local Authority RoWIP Implementation

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Introduction & Background

Ramblers Cymru needed to undertake research to find out more information about Public Rights of Way management in Local Authorities in Wales.

The aim of this research is to identify factors that contribute to successful delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIP) and to identify examples of Best Practice that could be used to inform Ramblers Cymru's future work strategies.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 required all highway authorities to produce a ROWIP by November 2007.

Miles of Prow in Local Authorities

	Council	PRoW Length km
1	Isle of Anglesey	1081.95
2	Gwynedd	3800.00
3	Conwy	1687.00
4	Denbighshire	1296.00
5	Flintshire	1056.20
6	Wrexham	850.00
7	Powys	9244.10
8	Ceredigion	2506.00
9	Pembrokeshire	2352.00
10	Carmarthenshire	2236.50
11	Swansea	617.00
12	Neath Port Talbot	698.00
13	Rhondda Cynon Taff	743.00
14	Merthyr Tydfil	103.00
15	Blaenau Gwent	300.00
16	Caerphilly	846.00
17	Torfaen	340.00
18	Monmouthshire	2127.00
19	Bridgend	585.10
20	Vale of Glamorgan	550.00
21	Cardiff	177.20
22	Newport	300.10

(Coastal Authorities)

Figure 1: Local Authorities in Wales



These figures are derived from the Local Authority RoWIPs.

Funding is usually allocated to each local authority from the Welsh Assembly government and the amount is given relative to the length of PRoW in the Authority.

Coastal Authorities receive funding from the Coastal Access Improvement Programme.

The Welsh Assembly Government has produced **National Performance Indicator Guidance for Wales**. Under this guidance the PRoW network is judged for its ease of use against the following criteria:

- Signposted or way marked where they leave the road to the extent necessary to allow users to follow the right of way, in accordance with the authority's duty under s.27 of the Countryside Act 1968

- Free from unlawful obstructions or other interference (including overhanging vegetation) to the public's right of passage
 - The surface and furniture (e.g. stiles, gates) are in good repair and to a standard necessary to enable the public to use the way without undue inconvenience
- Rights of Way with unlawful barriers should not be assessed as easy to use. 'Unlawful barriers' includes any furniture (e.g. stiles and gates) that is newly erected without the permission of the local authority. Rights of Way should be easy to use by the category of user entitled to use the path (e.g. footpaths should be useable by walkers, bridleways by horse riders).

The results, published by the Welsh Assembly Government, are as follows:

Table 1: Percentage of Rights of Way which are easy to use in Wales in 2005-06 to 2007- 08, by Local Authority

Percentage of total length of footpaths and other rights of way which are easy to use by members of the public				
Indicator :				
Period	2005 - 06	2006 - 07	2007 - 08	2008 - 09
Area				
Wales (Average)	41.0	50.6	51.0	49
Blaenau Gwent	84.3	89.0	100.0	97
Merthyr Tydfil	90.5	90.0	85.9	83
Newport	61.8	67.0	74.7	78
Rhondda Cynon Taff	66.7	73.0	71.0	73
Bridgend	63.0	71.0	75.0	71
Neath Port Talbot	64.8	62.0	70.4	69
Cardiff	66.9	64.0	73.3	65
Monmouthshire	52.1	65.0	65.2	62
Denbighshire	64.2	69.0	61.7	62
Swansea	46.4	47.0	55.8	59
Torfaen	47.7	45.0	51.9	57
Flintshire	67.0	63.0	76.4	56
Caerphilly	80.5	78.0	92.1	54
Isle of Anglesey / Ynys Mon	46.9	47.0	..	53
Pembrokeshire	50.5	64.0	61.8	52
Vale of Glamorgan	64.6	64.0	63.6	51
Conwy	21.7	..	43.7	49
Ceredigion	46.5	40.0	40.8	49
Powys	37.9	37.0	39.7	45
Wrexham	34.2	35.0	32.8	40
Carmarthenshire	28.5	31.0	19.0	35
Gwynedd	39.0	37.0	53.5	33

SOURCE: Welsh Assembly Government

The above table does not account for possible differences in sampling methodologies used by Local Authorities. Taking this factor into consideration is beyond the scope of this study. The standard sampling methodology is to assess 5% of the network, however many authorities vary in their assessment of linking sections of paths.

Methodology

A questionnaire was designed using Survey Monkey¹ that covered aspects of the PRow (Public Rights of Way) team, other Local Authority departments that have responsibility for the PRow network, the work of volunteers and resources available.

Representatives from the Welsh Assembly Government, Countryside Council for Wales, and the Institute of Public Rights of Way Officers were invited to view the draft questionnaire and give feedback that led to revisions of the questions that would be asked.

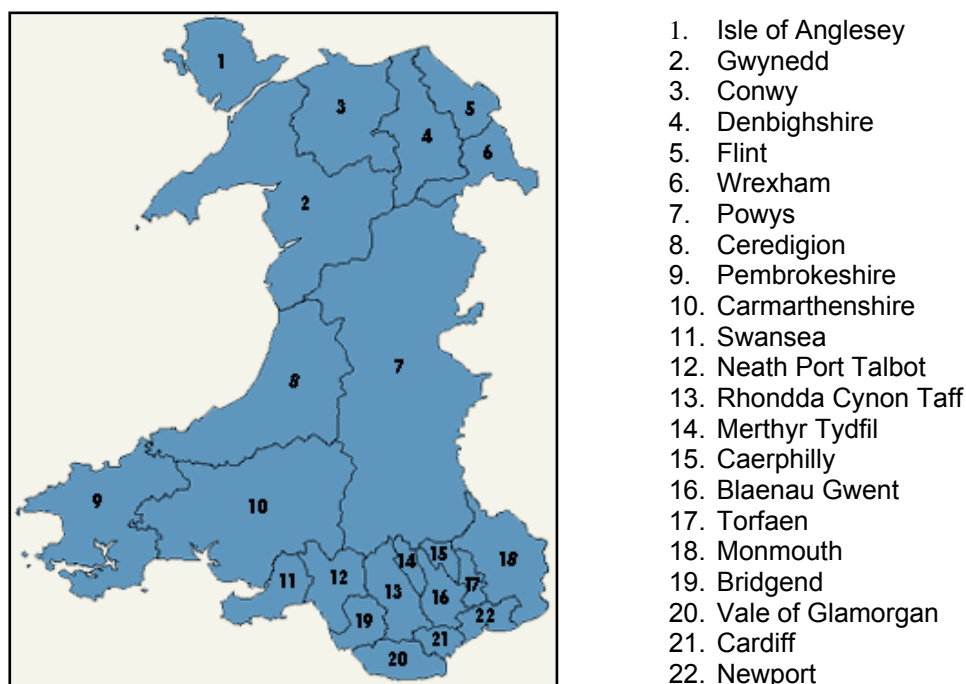
Every Local Authority PRow was telephoned to inform them of the forthcoming survey.

The survey went live on the afternoon of November 13th 2009 and officers were given the date of November 25th for completion. The final survey questions are in Appendix 1.)

In addition, eleven of the Local Authorities were contacted for a follow up telephone interview.

There are twenty-two Local Authorities in Wales and they all responded to the survey. A small number of local authority's answers were incomplete in their answers, usually due to the fact that all of the necessary information may not be held with the PRow team.

Figure 2: Name & Location of Local Authorities in Wales



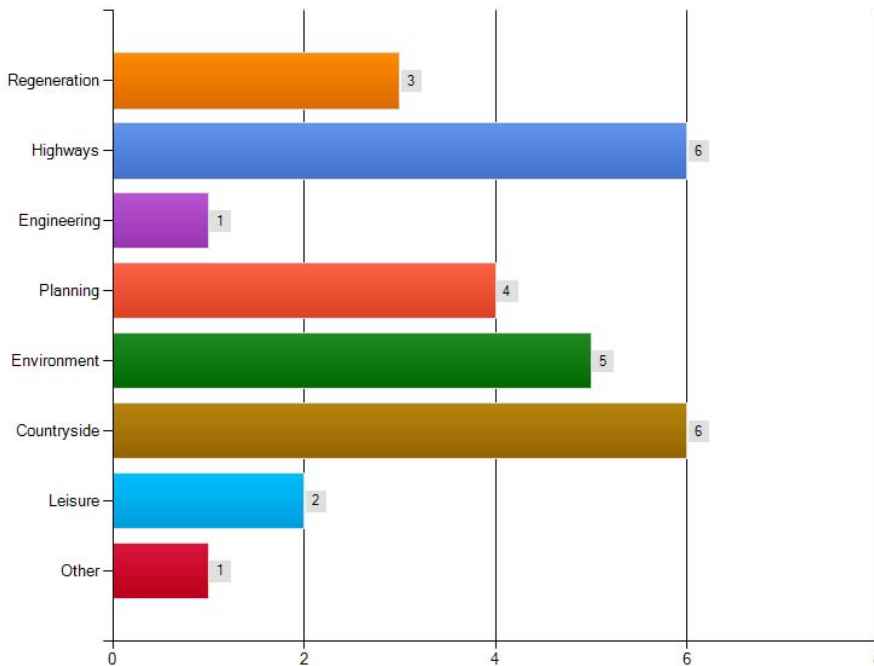
¹ SurveyMonkey is an online survey tool that enables people of all experience levels to create their own surveys quickly and easily. <http://www.surveymonkey.com>

Results & Analysis

Basic Information

In the first part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to confirm basic details such as Name, authority, telephone and e mail contact. This was followed by a question on the position of the Public Rights of Way team within the Council.

Figure 3: Position of PRow Teams within Council



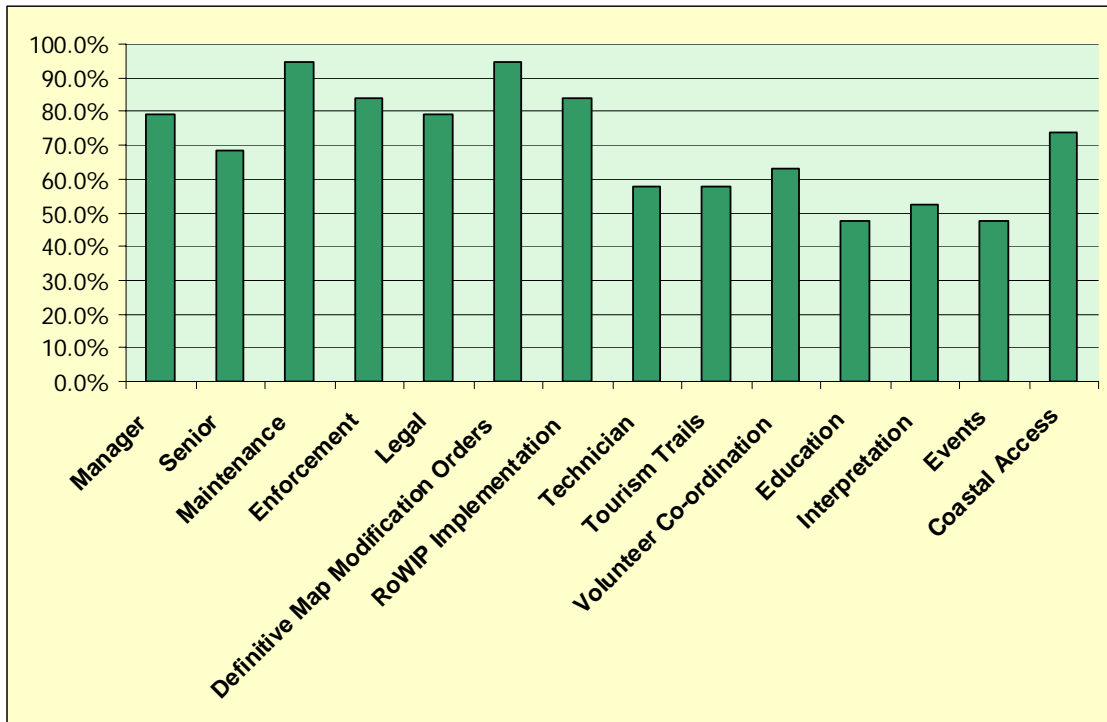
The majority of PRow departments are situated within either the Highways or Countryside sections of the Local Authority. They can also be within departments for Environment, Planning, Regeneration, and to a lesser extent, Engineering or Leisure. In some responses, more than one box was ticked in answer to this question, for example in Conwy; the PRow team is part of the Countryside and Rights of Way Service, which is within the Highways and Infrastructure Department. The 'other' category means that the PRow are within a department other than those listed.

Some teams covering PRow are spread over more than one department. Maintenance teams can be in a separate department to the main PRow team. A PRow may use the legal expertise of a different department, and many councils have countryside wardens whose work is outside the main PRow team.

Responsibilities within PRow Teams

Eighteen out of twenty-two authorities gave detailed answers to this question. One authority was unable to answer due to current staff shortages that meant that roles could be due to change. Some departments had recently been re-structured, and others responded by saying that their team was split between different departments and that it was difficult to assign people to the stated roles.

Figure 4: PRow Team Responsibilities



Fourteen Local Authorities defined a person in the role of Manager, although many also stated that the role of manager was shared with another department. This would apply to one Senior Officer that I spoke to whose role covered Parks, Countryside and Rights of Way.

Fourteen Local Authorities defined a role as Senior Rights of Way Officer. Eighteen Local Authorities had a dedicated maintenance team, although in at least three cases, the same officers were also responsible for enforcement. In six Local Authorities there were officers whose role covered enforcement, legal matters and DMMOs (Definitive Map Modification Orders). In one authority, the maintenance team was in a different department of the Council.

Eleven authorities had an officer dedicated to RoWIP implementation, in three they covered other roles and four authorities said that the responsibility was shared by the entire PRow team.

Ten authorities had ROW technicians and one authority said that they should have one, but that the post was vacant. Due to the post being unfilled, the council's CAMS system was not being utilized.

Ten authorities identified people who covered the role of Tourism Trails. Eleven authorities had dedicated officers for volunteer co-ordination and in one case this included education. In total six authorities identified someone covering education, of either school children or the general public, and in all cases this was in addition to other roles. The education remit usually extends beyond the PRow team and may be covered by other departments.

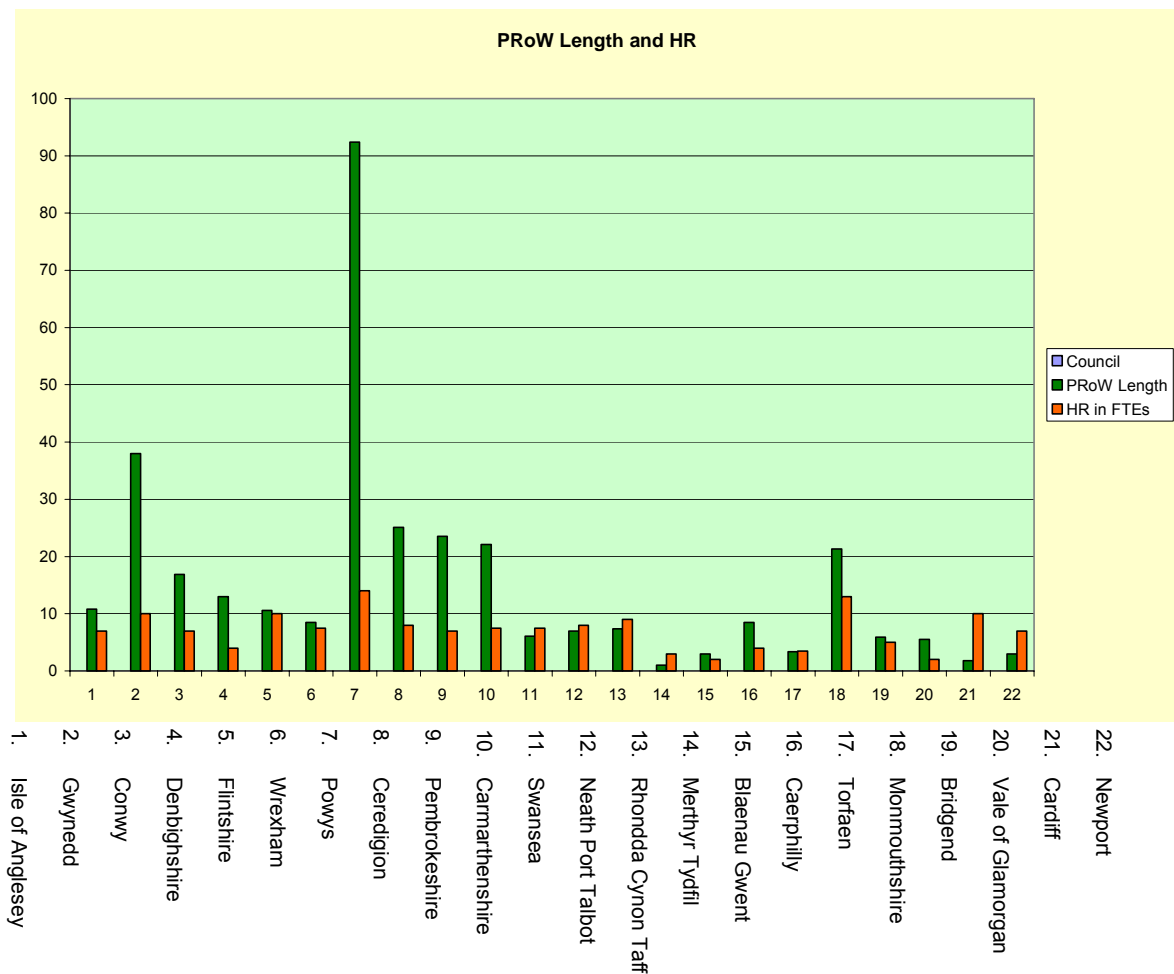
Eight authorities identified that people were responsible for interpretation and in most cases, the same individual or team also covered events.

In Denbighshire the Countryside Service wardens cover Tourism Trails, Volunteer Co-ordination, Education, Interpretation, Events and Coastal Access.

From CCW, it is confirmed that fourteen Local Authorities have coastal access officers and eighteen Full Time equivalents are funded entirely from the WCAIP budget.

Numbers stated in PRow teams range from fourteen - in a county with more than 9000km PRow, to two - in an authority with the less than 400 km of PRow.

Figure 5: Local Authority PRow length in relation to Human Resources



NOTE: This chart was created by taking the Length of PRow in kms as quoted in the RoWIPs and plotting it against the number of actual (rather than required) full time equivalent staff (FTE). In order to achieve comparable numbers the figures for PRow length were moved by 3 decimal places.

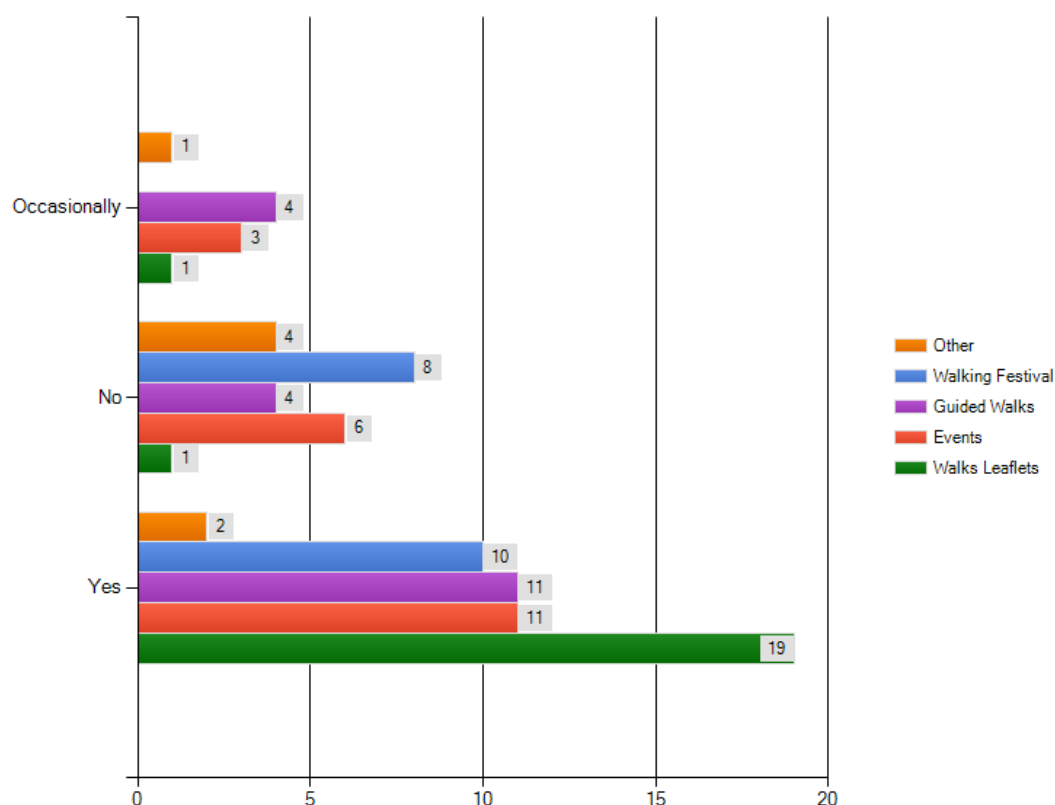
This chart shows that the amount of human resources allocated per kilometre of Public Right of Way in a local Authority varies greatly. The county where is most marked is Powys even though there is a sizable PRow team of fourteen. The predominantly rural counties of Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Ceredigion,

Pembrokeshire Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire also show a much greater length of PRoW network in relation to human resources.

The counties of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff and Newport show a proportionally greater level of human resources allocated in relation to the length of the PRoW network. This difference is most marked in Cardiff and Newport.

Only two authorities (out of twenty-one who responded) answered 'yes' to the question about seasonal wardens for the summer of 2010.

Figure 6: Walks Information Provided by Local Authorities



The majority of councils provide walks leaflets and about half also provide guided walks, events and a walking festival. Monmouthshire CC, Neath Port Talbot CBC, Gwynedd CC and Bridgend CBC are aiming to establish walking festivals in the future.

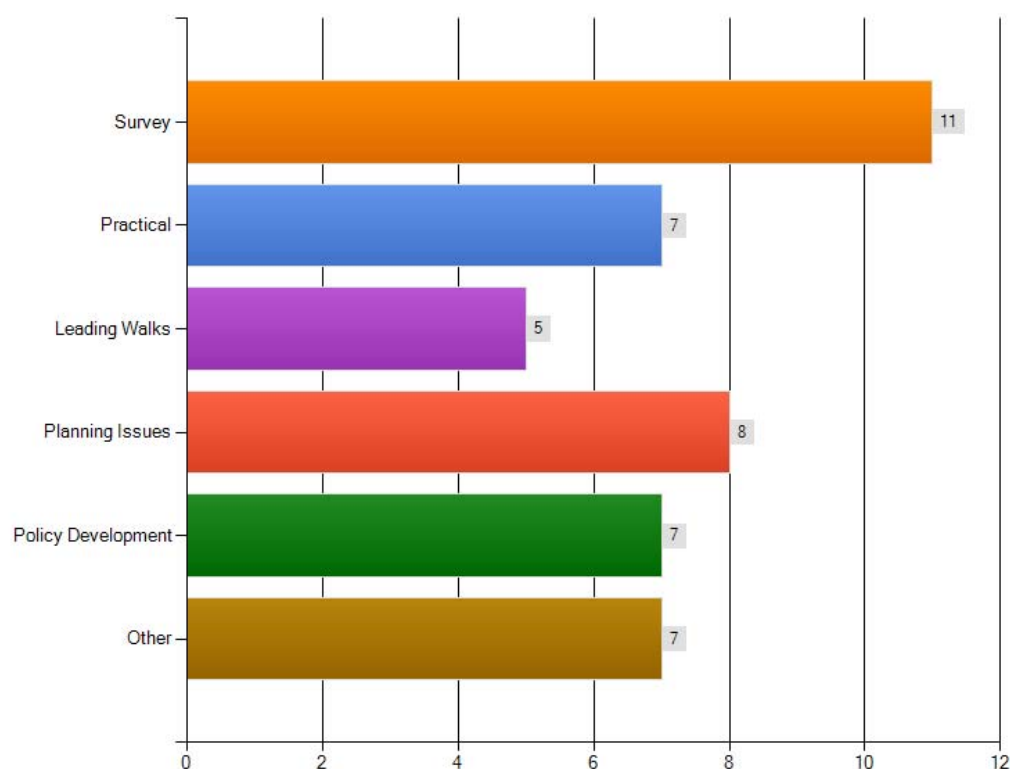
Walkers are Welcome

Just over one quarter 29% of councils were aware of towns or villages in their area with "Walkers are Welcome" status. Some Councils were not aware that towns in their area have the status, although they are listed on the "Walkers are Welcome" website. This reflects the need for the scheme to be community rather than organisation led. One officer was not aware of the scheme although they have now been informed and one of their regular voluntary partners could be willing to take the project forward.

Ramblers Cymru and other volunteer groups

The questionnaire asked the council officer to confirm the name of their local Ramblers contact and this was followed by a question regarding the form of help that the Ramblers provide to the Local Authority. The results show that the most help that Ramblers give to the Local Authority is in the form of footpath surveys.

Figure 7: The Ramblers' Help to Local Authority

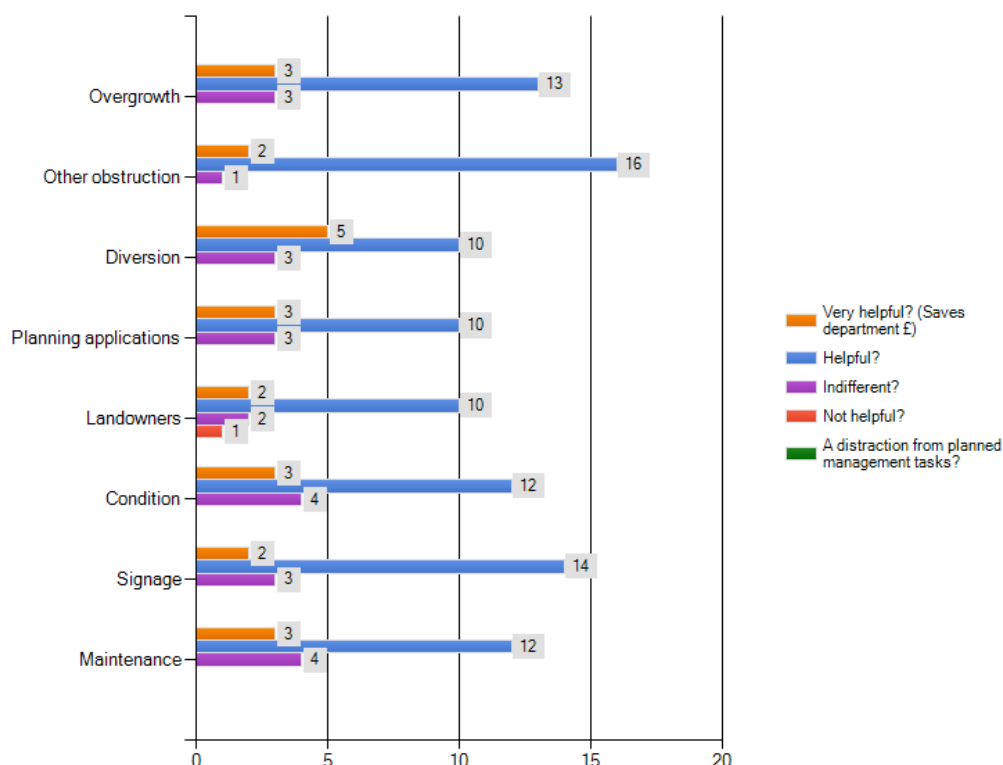


In relation to the 'other' category, comments were added that included:

- The local Ramblers group help with policy development in so much as they are consultees when policies are being developed.
- Ramblers' Association members are volunteers for practical work.
- Ramblers help with survey / inspections of category 1 paths (with intention to include category 2 in due course). They help with Leading Walks - individuals as part of Walking Week.
- Ramblers are on the Local Access Forum.
- Ramblers help with pre-consultation on path orders.
- The local Ramblers group offer support and advice to the department including regular meetings with the Rights of Way team to review historical and future matters.
- Ramblers were consulted on Definitive Map applications and provide valuable information relating to clearance / crop / obstruction problems.

From the local authorities that responded to the question, they all said that Ramblers' feedback is helpful - as shown in Figure 8.

Figure 8: Ramblers' Feedback to Council



Additional comments included:

- The Ramblers have always been polite and helpful in all situations to date
- Very good support from our Ramblers Group.
- We are at an early stage with inspections / surveys by Ramblers, but I am optimistic that their input will be very helpful
- The Council meet with the local Ramblers on a monthly basis to discuss any issues

During telephone interviews some officers gave examples of situations in which Ramblers could have been more helpful. For example one authority has an Adopt a Path scheme although their perception is that there has been little interest from the Rambler group. There were comments from one or two PRow Officers that their council and the local Ramblers group do not really work together.

Occasionally, an individual member of Ramblers has a difference of opinion to the Local Authority. This can be due to a lack of understanding of the range of responsibilities covered by a LA PRow team, as they have a duty to maintain not only footpaths, but all Rights of Way. Some authorities commented that they need to prioritise work on well used routes and this can lead to maintenance problems on less well used routes.

Other Groups' Work with the PRow Team

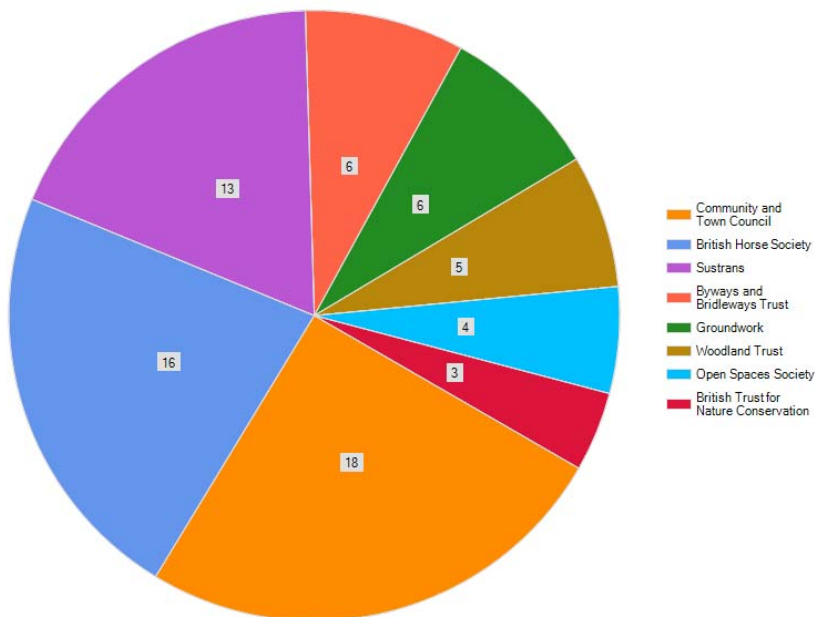
Local Authorities were asked about other organisations that work with the Rights of Way team in addition to the Ramblers. There was a good response to this question with 20 respondents. The result, depicted in Chart 9 showed that **Community and Town Councils** frequently work with the LA PRow team. The survey results revealed **Sustrans** and the **British Horse Society**, - in keeping with their strong interest in Rights of Way - also assist PRow teams. Groundwork, Woodland Trust and Byways and Bridleway Trust work with PRow teams to a lesser extent.

This survey question was accompanied by a box in which the names of additional organisations could be entered. Those mentioned in survey answers included:

- Off Road Vehicle and Motorcycle groups (as potential threats & opportunities)
- National Trust
- Gwent Wildlife Trust
- Mentro Allan
- Newport Local Health Board
- University of the Third Age (U3A)

Many authorities also emphasised that they worked in conjunction with neighbouring authorities.

Figure 9: Other Groups Help to Local Authority



Councils were asked about the scope of volunteers' work and 17 out of 22 answered this question. The answers that respondents most commonly gave were that volunteers helped with Practical Work. Survey and Monitoring were the next most frequently given answers.

Further comments in relation to the 'other' category included:

- The Local Authority organise camps for UN volunteers throughout the year
- United Nations International Youth Service carries out work each year during a 2 week workcamp.

- Some volunteers devise walks that are further developed into promoted routes
- Volunteers are used on council owned sites and recreational routes. The Council is looking into possibilities of extending their role.
- There is an active group of volunteers who call themselves "The Silver Slashers" who carry out regular work, e.g. path clearance, way marking, furniture installation.
- The council is developing an 'Adopt- a- Path' scheme.

Figure 10: Volunteers Scope of Work

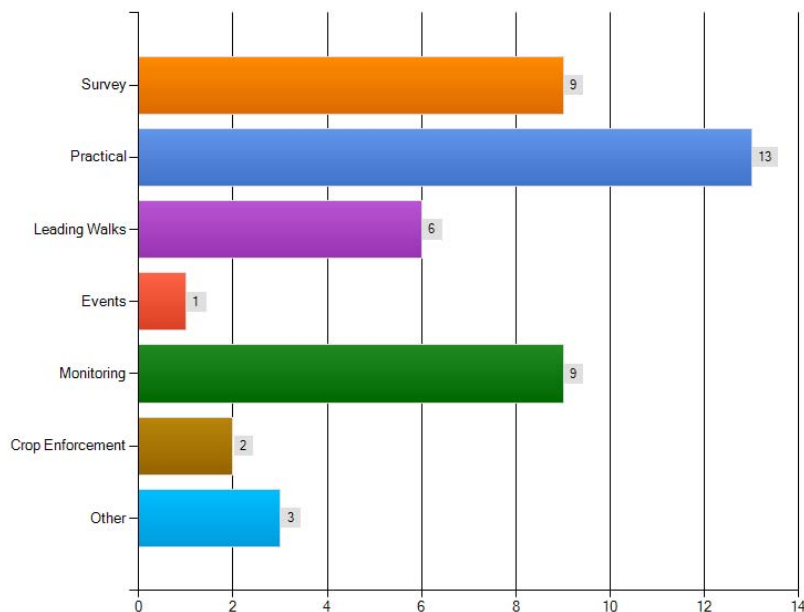
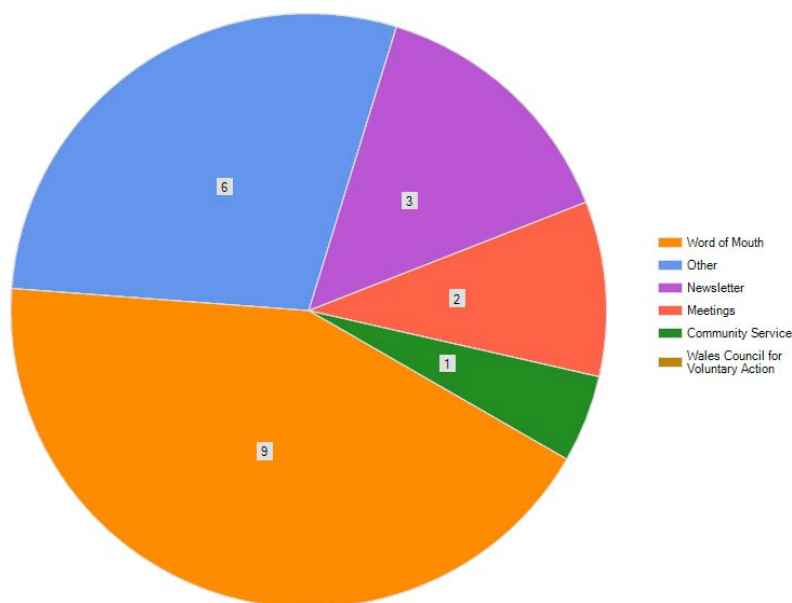


Figure 11: Recruitment

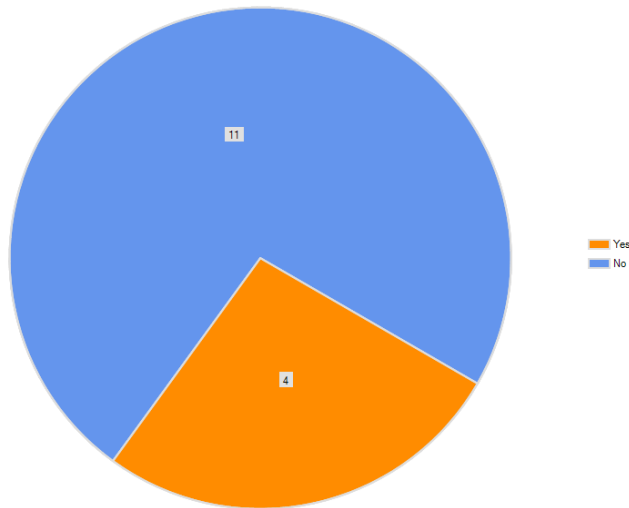
There were 13 responses to the question about volunteer recruitment and most frequently answer was that volunteers were recruited by 'Word of Mouth'.



Training

Councils were asked if they offered training to any of their volunteers, including Ramblers; 18 out of 22 responded and 10 said that they **offered training**. When asked whether this training was provided internal or externally, 15 councils responded. For this answer it was possible to tick more than one box, there were 9 answers for 'internal' and 5 for 'external'.

Figure 12: Local Authorities Provision of Training for Volunteers



When asked about provision of training resources such as videos or information packs, 4 councils said they provided them.

Insurance

Of the 18 councils that responded to the question about insurance was provided for volunteers, 10 answered **'yes'**.

Records

Of the 17 councils who responded to the question about whether the council keeps a record of resources supplied by volunteers, 10 answered **'yes'**.

Funds

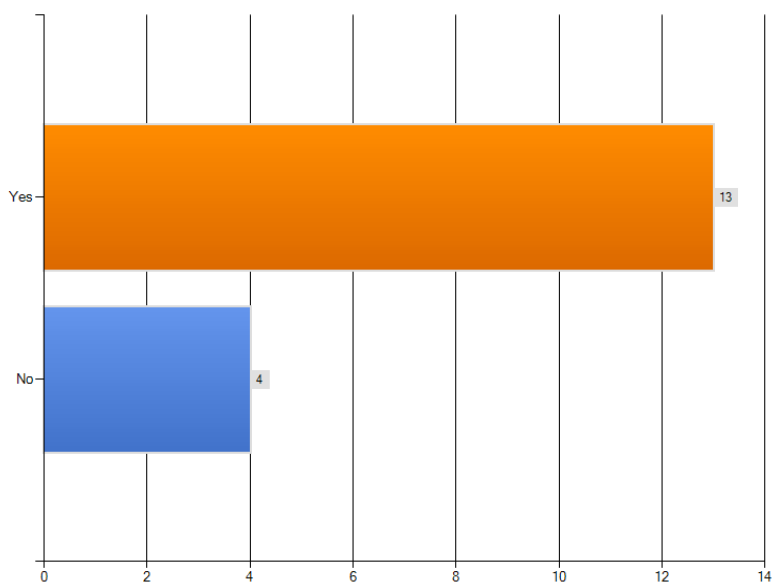
Eighteen councils replied to the inquiry as to whether there is funding scheme available to volunteer groups, such as Community Town Councils, for PRow development work. The answer was exactly 50-50 with nine answering 'yes' and nine answering **'No'**. Those that answered **'yes'** added further commentary that included:

- The Public Rights of Way Team makes use of the Tidy Towns initiative as a funding stream
- The Council has an Agency Agreement scheme with 16 of the 20 Town and Community Councils which means that they will undertake maintenance work on PRow in their area for payment of a set amount per km.
- Community Path Maintenance Scheme provides grants to Community Councils who employ staff to carry out PRow work.
- Coastal Access funding is used to recruit and train volunteers
- Volunteer activity is supported by funding from the CAIP and RoWIP implementation grants.
- Travel expenses for Ramblers' survey work is reimbursed

Funding and Management

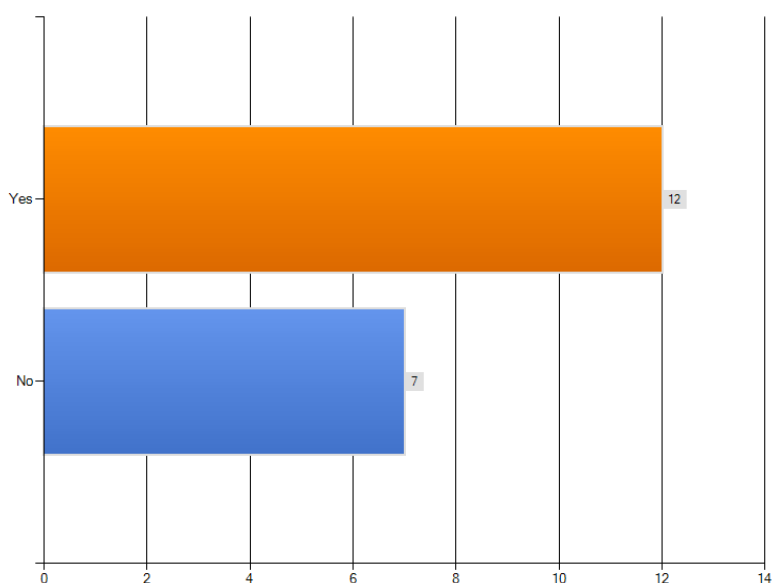
Councils were asked questions regarding the funding and management of their Public Rights of Way Team. In response to a question about whether the RoWIP was used as a bidding document (apart from the RoWIP programme), there were 17 out of 22 responses and the majority answered 'yes'.

Figure 13: Local Authorities Using the RoWIP as a Bidding Document



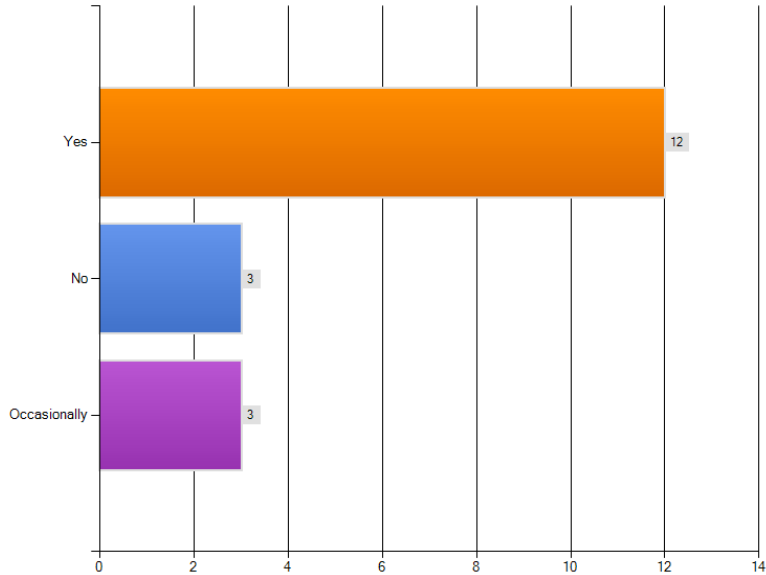
Nineteen authorities responded to the question of whether there had been significant changes to the PRow team since their RoWIP was published. This question was asked, because many RoWIPs described their team structure and resourcing within the RoWIP. The answer that was given in most cases was 'yes'.

Figure 14: Changes in the PRow Team since the RoWIP was finalised



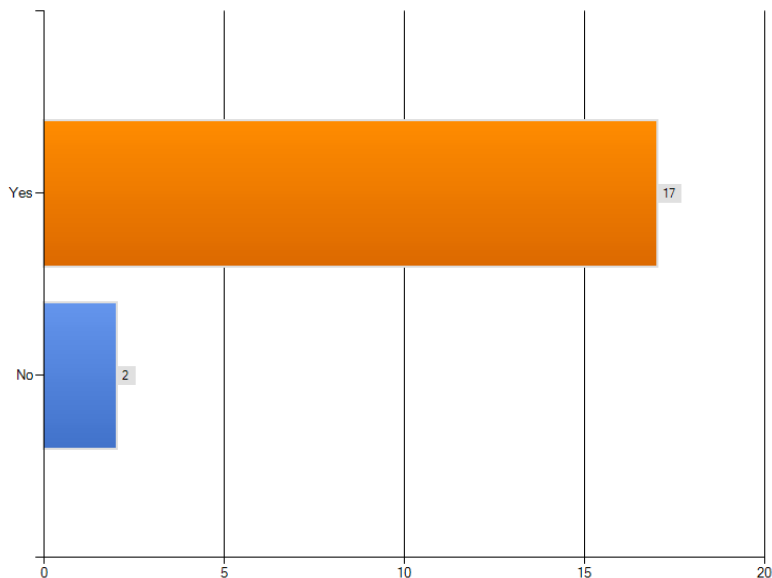
Officers were asked whether the Public Rights of Way team have direct control over their section of the website. There were eighteen responses, of which twelve said 'yes'.

Figure 15: PRow Team Control over Website



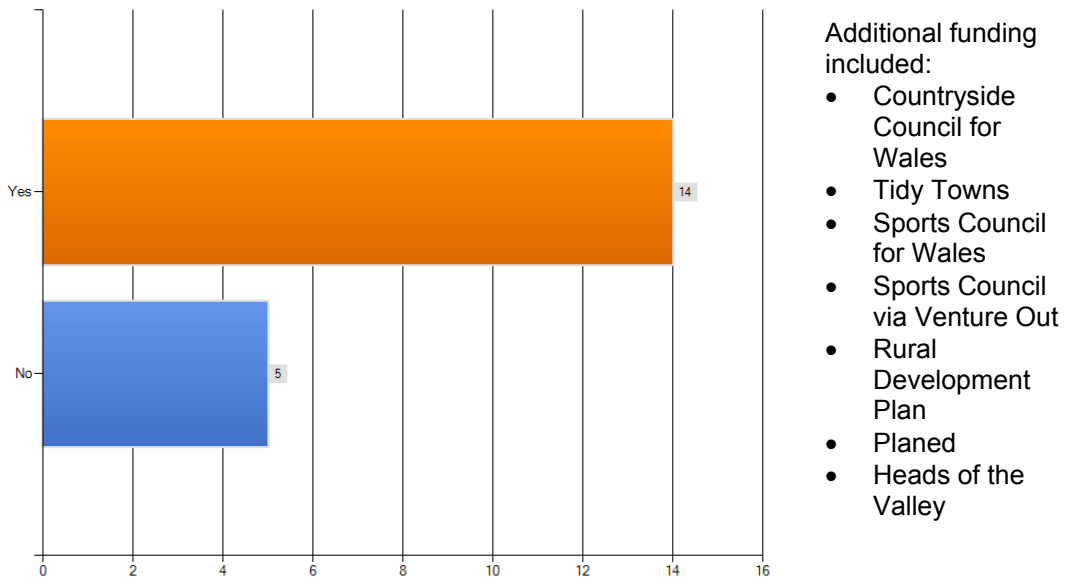
The Public Rights of Way team were asked whether they seek external funding. There were nineteen responses to the question and seventeen said 'yes'.

Figure16: External Funding



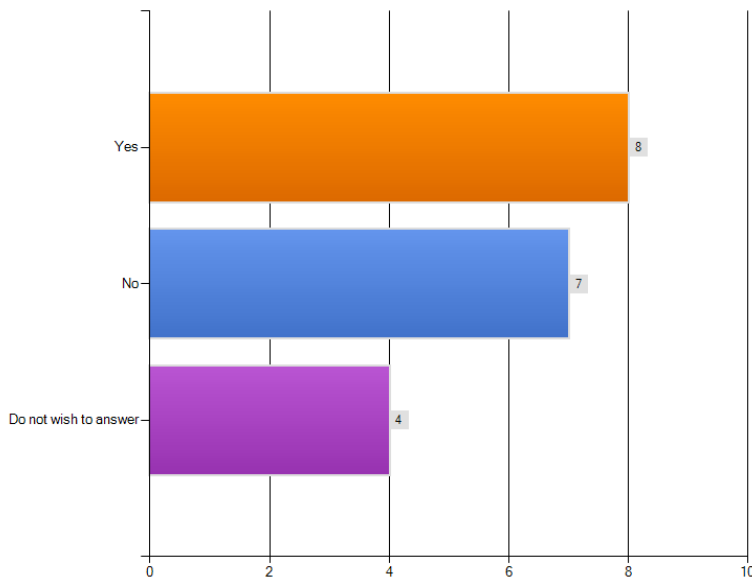
The Rights of Way team were asked whether they had successfully gained funding - excluding RoWIP and CAIP (Coastal Access Improvement Plan) funding - within the last two years. There were fourteen responses.

Figure 17: External Funding in Last 2 Years (excluding RoWIP & CAIP)



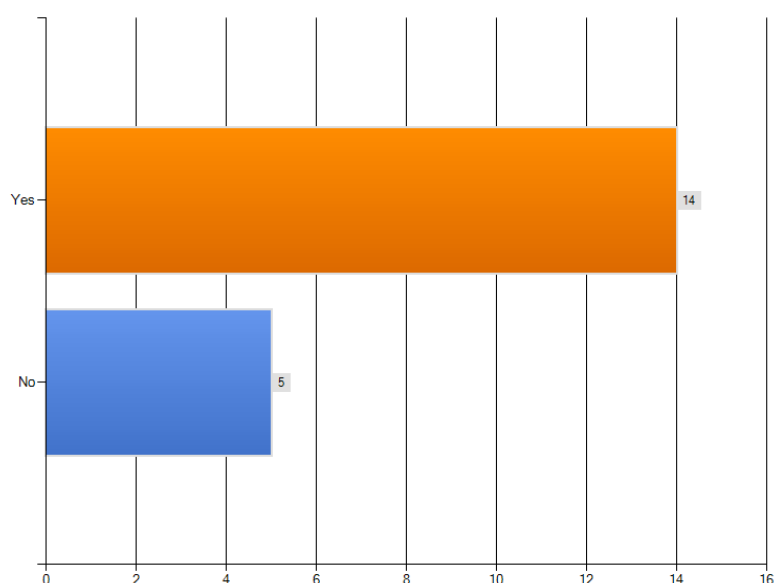
Following from this question, Local Authorities were asked whether they were currently waiting for a decision regarding external funding. There were nineteen responses to the question and eight said 'yes', they were waiting for a decision on external funding. (The 'do not wish to answer' option was given in case council's wish to keep the information confidential).

Figure 18: Waiting for a decision on external funding



At the end of the survey, PRow Officers were asked to confirm whether their team uses the Countryside Access Management Systems. Of nineteen responses 14 said that they use CAMS. (One authority doesn't use CAMS at present because the Technician's post is vacant).

Figure 19: Use of CAMS



Telephone Interviews

In addition to the survey, telephone interviews were conducted with eleven Local Authorities. In general these interviews gave further insight into the work of Ramblers and the complex priorities of PRow officers. The interviews also added further information to the way in which different PRow teams are structured across Local Authorities.

The Legal Team for example may not only be in separate department, but also in another office location several miles away.

In some cases, the Maintenance Team are also separated from the main PRow team. At least three Local Authorities currently have unfilled posts. The general funding shortfall across the Public Sector is a contributory factor.

Local Authorities' relationships with volunteers vary greatly. While some work regularly with volunteers and consider them to be of great help to the PRow team, others will find that issues of health and safety, insurance, the need for supervision, and the varying standard in the quality of work will cause more difficulties in using volunteers than will be solved. In at least one authority, the need for a dedicated officer for volunteer co-ordination has been recognised and the situation is in a status of 'work in progress' until funding can be found for the post.

National Parks

Twelve of the twenty-two local Authorities in Wales overlap with National Park authorities. As National Parks are promoted as areas for outdoor recreation, this has implication for maintenance and management of the Rights of Way network within their boundaries. The council PRow departments are the Local Highway Authority within National Parks and agreements have to be made regarding the management of the PRow network that is within the National Park.

Snowdonia National Park Authority

Snowdonia National Park overlaps with the counties of Gwynedd and Conwy. About one third of the Public Rights of Way network in Conwy falls within the Park and the county is in the process of finalising service and maintenance agreements with the Park Authority. A large proportion of Public Rights of Way network in Gwynedd are within the National Park and maintenance work is shared.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is within Pembrokeshire County. One third of the Public Rights of Way network in Pembrokeshire falls within the National Park. The Local Authority and National Park Authority have a joint RoWIP and there is a delegation agreement between Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, who maintain the 1042 kms (source: RoWIP) that are within their area.

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

The majority of the Brecon Beacons National Park is within Powys although it also overlaps with Monmouthshire, Carmarthenshire, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Caerphilly and Neath Port Talbot.

The Public Rights of way network within the National Park is spread across Powys – which has the greatest percentage (61%), followed by Monmouthshire (23.7%) and Carmarthenshire (11.2%)².

The remaining authorities; Rhondda Cynon Taff (2.4%), Merthyr Tydfil (0.8%) Blaenau Gwent (0.6%) and Torfaen (0.2%) have smaller proportions of the Park's PRow network. Caerphilly and Neath Port Talbot have no Rights of Way within the Park.

The counties of Powys, Monmouthshire, Carmarthenshire, Rhondda Cynon Taff, and Merthyr Tydfil all have delegation agreements with the National Park, although Monmouthshire still maintain bridges of more than 8m length. In Torfaen duties are shared between Council and National Park wardens within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site.

² Source Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007

Two Case Studies

Newport & Monmouthshire

The neighbouring Local Authorities of Newport and Monmouthshire work closely together, from the same office, and share a Coastal Access Officer. Figure 5 shows that Newport has a high ratio of staff per km length of Right of Way while Monmouthshire has a low ratio.

Newport are 3rd from the top on the WAG tables and have 78% usability for their path network, Monmouthshire are 8th from the top on the WAG tables and have 62% usability for their path network.

Newport's PRow team of seven are placed within the Environment section of the council. The team composition and roles are:

- 1 Manager
- 1 Senior – Enforcement, legal & DMMOs
- 2 Maintenance
- 1 RoWIP Implementation, Tourism Trails, Interpretation, Events
- 1 Volunteer Co-ordination &- Education & Maintenance
- 1 Coastal Access (with Monmouthshire)
- + 1 seasonal warden for summer in 2010

The council offer guided walk, events, walks leaflets and a walking festival. The village of Draethen has '**walkers are welcome**' status.

The local Ramblers group mainly help with survey work and their feedback on: Overgrowth - Other obstruction - Planning applications - Landowners - Condition Signage & Maintenance is '**Helpful**'. The Ramblers help with diversions is '**very helpful - saves department money**'.

Other groups that work with the council include: Sustrans, British Horse Society British Trust for Nature Conservation, Community and Town Council, Open Spaces Society, Byways and Bridleways Trust, Woodland Trust, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Mentro Allen, and Newport Local Health Board. The scope of their work is Survey Practical Leading Walks and Monitoring.

Volunteers are recruited through 'word of mouth, newsletters and meetings. Training is mainly provided in-house and external training is used if it is outside the team's expertise.

The council provide training resource (information packs, videos etc) and insurance cover for volunteers. A record is kept of the resources that they supply and coastal access funding is used in the recruitment and training of volunteers.

The PRow team seek external funding and have been successful in obtaining funds from Cadw to restore a historic bridge that carries a PRow.

Monmouthshire cover a larger area and a longer PRow network. The team of thirteen are within countryside and form part of the Regeneration, Environment &

Resources Department which also includes highways, planning, environment & regeneration.

The team composition and roles are:

- 1 Manager (who also manages the countryside team)
- 1 Senior
- 4 Maintenance
- 1 Enforcement
- 1 DMMOs
- 1 RoWIP implementation
- 1 Technician
- 1 Tourism Trails
- 1 (FTE) Volunteer co-ordination
- 1 Coastal Access (with Newport)

Education, Interpretation & events are covered by the countryside team. In addition, one officer works on diversions and the council employs '200hr' wardens who work on Saturdays.

The council provide guided walks, events and held a walking weekend in 2009 with a full week planned for 2010. Walks Leaflets are usually produced by Community Councils. The county council have, walks on the website and there are published guidebooks. The town of Chepstow is seeking 'walkers are welcome' status.

Monmouthshire Council work in partnership with 'Adventa' who develop and manage the county's Rural Development Programme. They work with local enterprises, businesses, communities and voluntary organizations. The Adventa team is based at The Monmouthshire Rural Business Centre, near Abergavenny and will work with the council in organising the walking week.

Three local contacts are given for the Ramblers and they help with surveys, practical work, planning issues and policy development. The Ramblers are very helpful and save the department money on the issues of footpath overgrowth, diversion, condition and maintenance. There is additional comment that Ramblers have always been polite and helpful.

Other groups that work in partnership with the PRow team are listed: Sustrans, British Horse Society, Community & Town Council, Open Spaces Society, Woodland Trust, University of the Third Age, National Trust and Gwent Wildlife Trust. They help with survey, practical work, leading walks, events, monitoring and crop enforcement.

Volunteers are recruited through word of mouth, newsletters and active user group meetings. Volunteer training is sourced both externally and internally. The council provide training resource (information packs, videos etc) and insurance cover for volunteers. A record is kept of the resources that they supply

The PRow team use the RoWIP as a bidding document and seek external funds. They have obtained funding from CCW for the local ways scheme and are currently waiting for a decision on further sources of funding.

The department has control over the relevant sections of the council website and they use CAMS (Countryside Access Management System.)

Monmouthshire overlaps with the Brecon Beacons National Park with whom they have a delegation agreement although the council maintain bridges of more than 8m length.

Conwy

Conwy County Borough Council are currently place towards the bottom of the WAG KPI chart with 49% of their PRowWs meeting the criteria for 'ease of use'. This is a marked improvement from the result in 2005-6 when 21.7% of their PRowWs met the criteria.

Figure 5 shows that the Council has a low number of staff in relation to the km length of PRowW in the local authority's area. This does, however, this needs to be considered in relation to the county's position in the Snowdonia National Park and service level agreements are currently being finalised.

The Public Rights of way team are of the Countryside and Rights of Way Service, within the Highways and Infrastructure Department of the council. The team has seven people working full time, one working part time, two Coastal Access staff, and one access warden in the Countryside team.

The team is composed of the following roles:

- 1 Manager
- 1 Senior & legal
- 1 DMMO & legal
- 2 Maintenance
- 2 Enforcement
- 1 Rights of Way Development Officer (including volunteer co-ordination)
- 1 Tourism Trails & Interpretation (Countryside Team)
- 1 Coastal Access(with 1 from Countryside team)

All of the team share responsibility for RoWIP implementation and they will not be employing seasonal wardens during the summer.

The council offers a walking festival and events through Conwy's Walking Week (and, to a lesser extent, through Conwy's Biodiversity Week). They produce walking leaflets and three villages in county Pentrefoelas, Llanfairfechan, Penmaenmawr have 'walkers are welcome' status.

The local Ramblers group helps with re-survey of category 1 paths and there is an intention to extend this to category 2 paths. During the walking week individual Ramblers members lead walks. Individual Ramblers members on the Local Access Forum also assist with policy development.

The Ramblers have been 'helpful' with overgrowth, other obstructions, condition, signage and maintenance. The department is also helped by Community and Town Councils, the National Trust, Snowdonia National Park Authority and Local community groups.

There is potential for further help from volunteers through the 'Adopt-a-Path' scheme that will include survey, practical and leading walks. A recruitment methodology for the scheme is being finalised.

Funding is available through a Community Maintenance Scheme for Community and Town Councils. Ramblers who undertake survey work can be re-imbursed for their travelling expenses.

Volunteers are offered training that the council provides internally. There is potential to expand this with structured induction and training for electronic recording. The council provides volunteers with insurance cover and keeps a record of the resources that they supply.

The council confirmed that they are using their RoWIP as a bidding document and that the organisation of the department has changed since the RoWIP was finalised.

The PRow department actively seeks external funding, they are currently submitting a bid under Rural Development Plan funding round 2 and they are waiting for a decision on external funding. The department has control over the PRow section of the council's website.

Survey Response Times

During the first week of the survey, three authorities responded. One of these was a partial response from an authority that was in the process of recruiting. None of these rapid responses were received from authorities with high level of PRow human resources in relation to km length PRow.

The majority of responses were received from ten local authorities during the second week of the survey. Of these, four of them had previously been identified as having a high level of human resources in relation to km length PRow.

During the third week, the three remaining authorities identified as having a high level of human resources in relation to km length PRow responded

Of the authorities that were slowest in responding, two of these have a low % usability rating from WAG, and a low level of human resources in relation to km length PRow

Two authorities that are ranked in the upper end of the usability table did not fully complete the survey questionnaire. These two authorities have relatively short lengths of PRow, although the team responsible for them number less than three in both cases.

Recommendations & Conclusion

This report has shown that the structure, organisation and of Public Right of Way teams in local authorities varies greatly. In the south there is a cluster of authorities that have a good level of human resources in relation to their km length of PRow. This is most marked in Cardiff and Newport with the other areas - Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Rhondda Cynon Taff and Merthyr Tydfil - also being urban.

In the north the counties with the best levels of human resources in relation to their km length of PRow are Flintshire and Wrexham. The large rural counties of Wales, including Powys, Ceredigion, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, Anglesey and Monmouthshire have a relatively low level of human resources in relation to their km length of Prow.

Monmouthshire and Denbighshire both have a footpath usability rating of 62%, placing them in the upper part of the table.

This is possibly achieved by Monmouthshire's co-operation with the neighbouring Newport, who are well resourced and the successful engagement of volunteers. Denbighshire also have a good working relationship with the local Ramblers group and the council's Countryside Wardens. Anglesey's 'Silver Slashers' volunteer group provide a lot of help to the PRow team.

Twelve local authorities have a role in the PRow team that covers volunteer co-ordination. In most authorities this was just one person, and not necessarily full time. Pembrokeshire and Cardiff have two people covering Volunteer Co-ordination and Torfaen have three. In Denbighshire and Wrexham Volunteer Co-ordination is covered by Access Rangers.

The ideal PRow team should:

- Have a good level of human resources in relation to their km length of PRow.
- Have a volunteer officer and a good relationship with Ramblers and other voluntary groups
- Be pro-active in obtaining extra funding
- Be placed within one department and maintain communication in the team, for ease of monitoring progress and targets.
- Work in partnership with neighbouring local authorities and community groups.

A separate study should be undertaken to examine the local authority sampling consistency when measuring the % usability of paths for the WAG table.

Glossary

PRoW(s)	Public Right(s) of Way
RoWIP	Rights of Way Improvement Plan
LA	Local Authority
RoW	Rights of Way
CCW	Countryside Council for Wales
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
BBNP	Brecon Beacons National Park
PCNP	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
WCAIP	Wales Coastal Access Improvement Programme
CAMS	Countryside Access Management Programme
FTE	Full Time Equivalents
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
DMMOs	Definitive Map Modification Order
UN	United Nations

Appendices

Appendix 1 Copy of Survey Questionnaire

Insert W:\data\ROW\Claire's Work\MIKE\RESEARCH SURVEY\DRAFT RESEARCH REPORT 07.12.09CP\FINAL survey - questions here

Appendix 2 Results

Insert excel sheets here W:\data\Claire's Work\MIKE\RESEARCH SURVEY\Final Report
Appendix 2

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