

## **Lancaster Three Tier Forum**

### **Outline of the work provided by County Solicitors and land agents with respect to Rights of Way work.**

The County team of Land Agents do not play a significant part in rights of way work. They may be involved in negotiating access or works or possibly agreeing compensation for various issues.

Advising both of the above teams is Legal Services.

Officers in Legal Services provide the following services around rights of way:

- steer many applications to change the definitive Map and statement through the statutory application process (about 160 such files open at any one time),
- represent the authority at hearings and public inquiries,
- draw up and serve the Notices regarding obstructions and other problems on the network,
- draft agreements in connection with dedications, access, land management,
- advise on various and varied matters from paths whose status are not known, to lighting, drainage issues, extent of highway, and advise how to achieve various projects proposed to be delivered which affect rights of way, always mindful of being consistent and acting reasonably.
- Case law and changes in regulations and legislation need to be understood and considered and training provided for Members and colleagues.

The work is interesting and sometimes sensitive and challenging. The rights of way network is after all about half of the total highway network in Lancashire and an important network enjoyed by many people in the County.