



<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>Countryside Access Improvement Plan (2019 – 2029)</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>MonLife</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>19/12/2019, amended 10/02/2020</p>

1. **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?
Age	Positive through improved physical and intellectual access, volunteering and activity	None	
Disability	Positive through improved physical and intellectual access	None	
Gender reassignment	None	None	
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	
Pregnancy or maternity	None	None	

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?
Race	None	None	
Religion or Belief	None	None	
Sex	None	None	
Sexual Orientation	None	None	
Welsh Language	Positive through supporting further interpretation and information provision	None	
Poverty	Positive as access to the countryside is free of charge and provides the opportunity to tackle health disadvantage by promoting access to the natural environment and green space beyond urban areas, providing connectivity to the landscape and nature.	None	

2. 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. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	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>The assessments show that rights of way contribute towards jobs and the economy. They also show that there is opportunity for working with others, sustainable transport benefits by improving walking and cycling opportunities, social and health benefits by working more proactively with communities and volunteers. Improvement works on paths can be prioritised to improve tourism and benefits to local businesses.</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>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Appendix 3 shows that a new ROWIP will promote 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>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Appendix 2 and 3 show 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 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</p>	

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	walks, helping with maintenance and promotion of the network.	
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	The 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.
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	n/a	
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Assessments show that rights of way play an important role in heritage and culture for local communities and tourists. The new plan reflects this and will importantly provide the means for which access to the countryside for various recreational activities can be undertaken..	Promote countryside access to others so that they can maximise opportunities for volunteering and participation a wide range of outdoor activities.
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Preparation and development of assessments in order to draft a new ROWIP has included full up front community, partner and stakeholder engagement. The results of which were published alongside the Draft ROWIP and a further 14 week consultation on the Draft and its assessments has followed.	

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

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>Assessments for a revised plan establish the need for long-term planning and management arrangements to ensure that outcomes in the plan if made are sustainable in the future.</p>	<p>The assessments & subsequent draft plan present actions to protect maintain and improve access to the countryside both now and for future generations. The plan recognises the long-term challenges of social, economic and environmental regeneration within Monmouthshire.</p>
 <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, Cadw and neighbouring authorities. Several new partners were identified.</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 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 consultations. Furthermore, the draft plan has been subject to a further 3-month public consultation and will be amended again before being published.</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 and the draft ROWIP.</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. 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 new ROWIP would give opportunities to work with others and look at ways of addressing resource issues.</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>The primary focus of the assessments 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 new ROWIP ensures contribution to all 7 of the national well-being goals.</p>

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	

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 Assessments show 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. This supports the need for a Countryside Access Improvement Plan for Monmouthshire.

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
Take to Cabinet for ratification	February 2020	Countryside Access Manager
Translate Publish and promote	February / March 2020	Countryside Access Manager

8. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Select Committee	23 January 2020	Minor formatting and consequential amendments
2	Cabinet	19 February 2020	