

**Amendments to the Local Protocol****Public Speaking on Public Rights of Way** (Cf County Council Standing Orders 67.1-10)

1. Members of the public and their representatives may address the Local Committee on applications relating to public rights of way being considered by the Committee.
2. Members of organisations or elected representatives of parish, borough or district councils who have been formally consulted on the application are not eligible to speak.
3. Speakers must first register their wish to speak by telephone or in writing/e-mail to the Local Committee and Partnership Officer by 12 noon one working day before a meeting stating on which item(s) they wish to speak.
4. Only those people who have previously made written representations in response to an application will be entitled to speak. Written representations must have been made at least 14 days in advance of the committee meeting to the Rights of Way Team.
5. Speakers must declare any financial or personal interest they may have in the application.
6. Registration of speakers will be on a first come first served basis and speakers will be taken in the order in which they are registered, with the first five registered being entitled to speak. Where more than one person has registered an interest to speak, the subsequent speakers will be entitled to speak first if the first named speaker is not in attendance five minutes before the start of the meeting. Representations can be combined if necessary. A reserve list will also be maintained if necessary.
7. The time allowed for public speaking will be limited to 15 minutes for objectors and 15 minutes for supporters per item, and to 3 minutes per speaker.
8. Only if a member of the public or their representative speaks objecting will the applicant/agent be allowed to speak and then only to respond to the points raised by the objectors, and will be limited to 3 minutes for each objector who has spoken.
9. No additional information may be circulated by speakers at the meeting and they will have no right to speak or question Members or officers once they have made their submission.
10. Speeches will precede the Committee's formal discussion on each application requiring the Committee's attention.
11. The right to speak will only be exercised at the first meeting at which the application is considered and will not normally be the subject of further presentations at any subsequent meeting unless significant changes have taken place after a deferral by the Committee, or there has been a gap of six months or more between the meetings
12. If an item is deferred, either before the meeting (but members of the public have registered to speak), or at the meeting before public speaking and any debate has taken place, then the right to speak will still exist when the application is reported to the Committee. The list of speakers will be carried forward to the meeting the application is reported back to. Those on the list will be contacted in writing and asked to confirm whether or not they still wish to speak.