



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)**

PUBLIC QUESTION

28 June 2013

On the subject of footpath 55, Limpsfield, Parish Cllr Sarah Paxton asks:

What is the progress on the appeal against the application for footpath 55 to become a bridleway?

Local Committee response:

An application was made on the 24 March 2009 for footpath 55 (Tenchleys Lane, Limpsfield) to become a bridleway

The Officer recommendation was that no public bridleway rights are recognised over the above route and that the application to modify the definitive map and statement for Surrey to include a bridleway from Kent Hatch Road to the junction of Footpath No. 55 with Bridleway No. 54 (Tandridge) is not approved. An appeal against this decision was lodged with the Secretary of State by the applicant on 4 January 2011. On 22 September 2011 the Secretary of State allowed the appeal and directed Surrey County Council to make a Map Modification Order to include a bridleway from Kent Hatch Road to the junction of Footpath No. 55 with Bridleway No. 54 (Tandridge).

A Map Modification Order was made on 23 May 2012 and four objections were received to this order. The Council is unable to confirm objected orders itself so it must therefore be referred to the Secretary of State for determination.

Following restructuring of the Countryside Access team in Spring 2012, the legal section was halved in size. Preparing for submission of an order to the Secretary of State and then dealing with the lead up to public inquiry is an extremely time consuming task. The reduced team is only able to deal with a handful of these on an annual basis. Given that such submissions are dealt with in date order, this Order therefore went to the back of an existing queue of Orders waiting to go to the Secretary of State. At the current time it is near the top of those orders and has been referred to a Senior Countryside Access Officer who is currently compiling all of the information that the Planning Inspectorate requires. It is expected that this will be submitted at the end of July. If an inquiry is to be held then this may be late 2013 or early 2014.