

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC PATH ORDERS UNDER SECTIONS 118 AND 119 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

1. Applications for extinguishment orders, which do not form part of a package of public path changes where the combined effect is to improve the network will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.
2. All Highways Act diversion orders will be processed according to the priority set out in the 7th edition of the Public Rights of Way Priority Statement approved by the County Council's Executive in October 2014.
3. Except in exceptional circumstances the proposed diversion will only be considered if the new route is an improvement to the existing network for the public. The needs of less able users will be taken into account: no new stiles will be agreed and gates should be easily negotiable; the surface standard, and gradients (including steps) should be no worse than on the existing route.
4. A non-returnable fee of £200, which will be deducted from the final invoice if an order is made, must accompany all applications. The final invoice will include charges for County Council staff time spent processing the order, plus the actual cost of statutory advertisements in the local newspaper. In addition applicants must sign a works agreement undertaking to carry out, at their own expense, any necessary works to bring the alternative route up to the required standard if the application is successful.
5. The applicant must undertake to keep the definitive route open until the order is confirmed, if necessary by the removal of existing obstructions.
6. Except where the change results in clearly demonstrable benefits to the public no diversion application will be accepted within 10 years of a previous diversion of a path or of a path over the same landholding, which could reasonably have been included in the previous application.

Surrey County Council: Approved October 2014

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