

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

### **GOVERNANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 MARCH 2021**

#### **QUESTIONS from Peter Dobbs, a resident of Ashbourne on Item 14; Asset Management Plan – Site 1 Land at Henmore Brook Ashbourne**

**Q1** Would it be possible to clarify the rights of way for the footpath that extends beyond the gauging station and connects with the paved path behind Bernard Gadsby Close?

For some time this Council has been placing signs at both ends of this path behind St Oswald's Hospital (as partly shown in the map provided) informing the public that there is 'No through route'.

**Q2** What is the reason for placing these signs?

Every week hundreds of local walkers ignore the signs and make use of this path along an attractive part of the Henmore Brook. Nobody simply walks to the gauging station and back again.

The signs also inform the public that DDDC are working with Ash Com to create a through route.

**Q3** Would it be possible to have an update on progress in this area?

Frustrated by the lack of maintenance of the section of path beyond the gauging station, a local church group attempted to improve the path themselves using materials donated by local businesses.

**Q4** Does the Council have a view on such an approach?

**Q5** What does the Council see as the long term solution to this problem where a valuable asset to recreation in Ashbourne is not being managed effectively?

#### **ANSWER**

Thank you for your question. The footpath running to the rear of St. Oswald's Hospital adjacent to Henmore Brook is a District Council owned concessionary path which ends just to the south west of the Environment Agency Gauging Station.

Since the development of Bernard Gadsby Close, a new footpath was created by the developers which runs from Mayfield Road to Clifton Road and a spur to this path leads to the boundary with the District Council land which is the subject of this question.

The section of land linking the 2 paths is uneven and waterlogged and would need capital works to make this suitable for public use. The signs are there to advise the public that there is currently no through route since the current informal cut-through is

not suitable for public use. We are currently working with Ashcom on proposals to improve the whole route. Any works proposed on the path would need to be agreed with the District Council subject to appropriate licences and insurance arrangements being in place. We look forward to continuing to work with Ashcom on their proposals for improving this area.