

## **Parish Councils – Powers and Rights**

Parish Councils have a number of powers and rights regarding public rights of way.

- To make representations to the highway authority that a highway has been unlawfully stopped-up or obstructed. The authority must act unless satisfied that the representations are incorrect.
- To hold for public inspection a copy of the definitive map for the parish or community, and copies of orders made to modify it.
- To veto a proposal by a highway authority to apply to a magistrates' court for an order stopping-up or diverting a highway.
- To be consulted by a surveying authority on every application for a definitive map modification order.
- To be consulted by a surveying authority before a definitive map modification order is made.
- To object to a public path order or a definitive map modification order. A copy of every such order, both when made and when confirmed, must be served upon the council.
- To undertake the maintenance of any footpath, bridleway or restricted byway.
- To erect lighting on any footpath or bridleway.
- To erect notices on footpaths and bridleways warning of local dangers.
- To erect seats and shelters in, or on any land abutting on, any road within the parish.
- To prosecute anyone who wilfully obstructs the free passage along any highway.
- To prosecute an occupier who fails to ensure that crops do not inconvenience users of footpaths, bridleways and unmetalled carriageways.
- To prosecute if a footpath or bridleway has been lawfully ploughed or disturbed, but not restored, or if any highway has been unlawfully ploughed or disturbed.
- To insist to the highway authority that a particular footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or byway should be signposted where it meets a metalled road.
- To signpost and waymark footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways on behalf of, and with the consent of, the highway authority.
- To create new highways by agreement with the landowner over land in their own and adjoining parishes or communities.