Introduction

A consultation on the upgrading of public footpath EB12 was carried out between 2\textsuperscript{nd} March and 27\textsuperscript{th} April 2012. The information was required to assess the requirements and opinions of the local community and inform the overall scheme design.

Methodology

- A full Equalities Impact Assessment was completed and used to guide the consultation process and scheme design.
- Local residents and schools were contacted by letter, details of the consultation were posted on the County Council’s website and notices were placed on site. Face to face consultations were also carried out with Thistley Hill Children’s Services, Umbrella Nursery and some residents of Durban Crescent and Melbourne Avenue.

Summary of results

The Countryside Access Service would like to thank all those who took time out to assist us in the decision as to whether upgrade footpath EB12, Dover. Results of the survey were as follows;

There were in total 10 consultation responses received via the web consultation. 8 of those were in full support of the proposal, whilst 2 objected on points of design. One letter was received by post with an objection to the use of Roman Road on grounds of safety. 3 emails were received directly, all in support of the scheme.

Of those supporting, reasons included improved access to the schools, wider countryside and the provision of a route for all abilities. These comments were consistently received when talking to those residents of Durban Crescent that were spoken to face to face.

Some residents have requested the retention of vegetation to act as screening, but also as a break to the prominent winds. These points will all be adhered to in the final construction and although some trees will have to be removed, a greater amount will be planted to provide a continuous hedgerow.

One objection cited the use of Roman Road as not being suitable for pedestrians and cyclists. Highways engineers will inspect the route with regard to the specific points raised. As the Roman Road already has full highway status and full public rights of access for pedestrians and cyclists the objection cannot be considered in terms of upgrading the footpath. An assessment will however be made as to the suitability of the Roman Road for any potential increase in use by pedestrians and cyclists.
A specific suggestion was made recommending a cycle path link between the upgraded footpath to Christ Church Academy along the Northern edge of Melbourne Road. This will be taken forward and provided the necessary permissions can be obtained, this will be built into the scheme.

Support has been received from all identified landowners, along with both the responsible public authorities, Dover District Council and Dover Town Council.

Thank you once again for your valuable feedback. It is the intention to complete construction of the route during the summer months. As the project progresses updates will be made available on the Highlighted Projects page of the website.

Conclusions

The proposed changes are, in the majority supported. Residents have demonstrated an enthusiasm for a more accessible route with additional opportunities to access the wider countryside and main town.

Further feedback

- Further feedback can be obtained from the lead officer, Colin Finch.  
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