

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
7 December 2023**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Jackie Charlton
Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys**

SUBJECT: Question from Ian and Jane Whyte

We run a small but busy glamping site between Llansaintffraid and Llanfechain attracting campers from all over the country and Europe.

Time after time we are given negative feedback about the poor state of the public footpaths in our surrounding area , specifically with the lack of signage, padlocking of access gates, overgrown paths and aggressive landowners.

Surely we need to attract as many tourists as possible to our beautiful area and encourage them to return. I'm also sure all local walkers would love to be able to have more access our countryside footpaths.

Simple question..... Why is there no basic maintenance of these footpaths and how could this problem be remedied?

Powys County Council is responsible for a Rights of Way network extending over 9250km, and the core budget to support its maintenance is extremely limited which presents its own challenges. These challenges are acknowledged in our Rights of Way Improvement Plan at: [Rights of Way: Improvement Plan - Powys County Council](#)

Budgetary pressures are reviewed each year by the local authority, however there continues to be significant pressures across the Council in delivering statutory and important services, and there is a present and future financial gap that the authority needs to manage by prioritising its resources. This financial picture is unfortunately not likely to improve over the short to medium term, however the dedicated Countryside and Recreation team continue to seek funding opportunities where possible, to try and ease the strain on core funding and support our local communities.

Recent grant successes include the Welsh Government Access Improvement Grant 2022-25, Shared Prosperity Funding and more recently provisional levelling up funding.

The team will continue work tirelessly with local communities endeavouring to support them in looking for potential funding sources and they will also continue to encourage and work alongside our strong network of volunteers. Anyone who would like to get involved with volunteering for this type of activity, please feel free to contact the Countryside and Recreation team.

