

## **QUESTION 1**

### **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Question to Cllr Victoria Wilson  
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

**By Cllr Pritchard**

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#### **Question**

Tamworth Public Footpath No.4 runs from Station Fields mobile home park, under the West Coast Main Line (on land owned by Network Rail) and alongside the River Anker to meet the new Anker Valley housing development in Tamworth.

With the influx of new residents to the area, this path offers an alternative and increasingly popular walking route to Tamworth town centre from the Anker Valley development. However, the path is being badly eroded in places and it is very muddy when wet. It is totally unsuitable for those who are less able or parents with prams. Network Rail are unwilling to hard surface the path in their ownership, so I ask if there is anything Staffordshire County Council can do to hard surface the path and provide residents with a much-needed traffic free route to Tamworth town centre?

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## **Reply**

“Thank you for your question. The path in question is a public right of way that runs between the mobile home park, beneath the railway and across to the new housing development. From a recent inspection of the route, it is clear that the path has received increased use since the development was constructed and the surface was wet and muddy in places, symptomatic of both the time of year and the increased usage. The section of unsurfaced path is just under 400 metres in length.

The Council’s Principal Rights of Way Officer has been in contact with Tamworth Borough Council on this matter as it seems strange that the path was not surfaced as part of the new development. I understand that there was discussion about extending the tarmac pathway to link in with Stationfields, however (as we understand it) there was a dispute between the landowners, one of which was Network Rail.

The Council’s Principal Rights of Way Officer is continuing to liaise with Tamworth Borough Council, and it is hoped that the issue can be resolved through planning measures.

It is possible to report issues relating to public rights of way via our website”