

### Access Improvement Grant

During 2020-21 funding was provided to local authorities from the Welsh Government through an Access Improvement Grant. The purpose of the grant was to support improvement of access to or on the Public Rights of Way network, open access land and green space.

Funding was allocated based on the historic Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) grant formula. The Vale of Glamorgan therefore benefitted from an initial allocation of £44,075 though also identified reserve projects that were funded as more money became available through the scheme. The total grant amount for 2020-21 was therefore £72900. It is anticipated that the fund will return during 2021-22.

Funding was eligible to be spent for the following purposes:

- Physical improvements to existing routes (e.g. surface, furniture)
- Improvements to information and promotion (e.g. signage, way marking, leaflets, panels)
- Improvements to access to open access land and green space
- Improvements to make access to/on public rights of way network, open access land and green space easier for people who find it difficult.

The specific projects funded were:

Description of Project	Location (if relevant)	Progress
Newton House Farm Surface and Drainage - for completion in 21/22	Nr Cowbridge	Preliminaries complete though work delayed due to ground conditions, for completion 21-22
Small Scale Infrastructure Improvement	County Wide	30 kissing-gates & 5 2in1-gates purchased
Capture, edit and upload promoted routes to streetview - For completion in 21/22	Vale Trails Promoted Routes	Camera & associated capital equipment purchased
Prelims for surfacing of FP31, Barry (access into PKCP)	Porthkerry Country Park - Barry	FP31 work commenced though halted due to wet weather, for completion in 21-22
Delivery of surfacing of FP31, Barry (access into Porthkerry Country Park) - For completion in 21/22	Porthkerry Country Park - Barry	FP31 work commenced though halted due to wet weather, for completion in 21-22
Waymarking disks	County Wide	Supply of waymarking disks restocked

Procure laser etcher for custom signage	County Wide	Laser cutting machine procured for delivering custom signage
Boardwalk Materials - For installation 21/22	Porthkerry Country Park - Barry	Boardwalk material for installation during 21-22 purchased
Porthkerry Park - Beach to Car Park Surfacing	Porthkerry Country Park - Barry	Footpath linking car park to beach re-surfaced
Porthkerry Park - Path Edging	Porthkerry Country Park - Barry	Footpath linking car park to beach re-edged

The grant has assisted in delivering improvements to the network, fulfilling wellbeing objectives and promoting physical outdoor activity.