



## **Role Description**

### Parish Paths Partnership (P3)

#### **What are the aims of P3?**

The main aim of P3 is to:

*“Enable local people to improve the condition of their local path network and once improved to keep the paths open and in use.”*

P3 works by providing advice, grant aid, training and sometimes direct practical assistance to parishes who wish to take a more active role in improving access to the countryside.

#### **What are P3 groups?**

P3 Groups are Parish Council or interest groups that focus on the maintenance and improvement of the Rights of Way network. Guided by the Countryside Management Service (CMS), each active parish or group devises an annual action plan or work programme which is assessed by CMS and Rights of Way officers. Small grants are made available by Hertfordshire County Council to enable improvement work to be completed and/or a finance package put together.

#### **What do they do?**

P3 volunteers can carry out a range of different activities including:

- path surveys
- practical work
- running contracts
- designing and producing leaflets
- leading walks
- providing and/or helping secure additional funding

There is an annual meeting between the local P3 representatives, CMS and Rights of Way officers to help the group plan their work. How much is taken on is up to the group and this is produced as a simple work programme pro forma that the group agree, cost up and implement with CMS support.

#### **Induction process**

CMS staff will meet with interested parish/town councils or groups to talk about the P3 scheme and its benefits. Following the signing of the P3 agreement, P3 representatives will then meet with staff for a more detailed discussion of what their role involves and the next steps. Established groups are encouraged to recruit and induct new volunteers themselves.

#### **Insurance**

As it states in the P3 agreement, the Parish Council with support from CMS agrees to ‘where appropriate, take out Public Liability Insurance to a minimum cover of £5 million, Employer's Liability Insurance and Volunteers Personal Accident Insurance’. Please check to make sure appropriate cover is in place for your activities.



### **CMS support and benefits**

CMS administers P3 on behalf of the Highways Authority (Hertfordshire County Council) and offers assistance to the parish in the following areas:

- helping the parish organise a survey of the path network
- identifying opportunities to make improvements and gaining access to an annual P3 grant to spend on agreed path improvements.
- advising how the work could be carried out and identifying contractors
- guidance on Health and Safety matters
- training
- helping source materials to carry out practical tasks and occasional practical assistance with activities

Each P3 group is assigned a named CMS Projects Officer who meets with P3 groups annually and is available for support and advice when needed.

P3 groups can budget up to £100 per annum into their work programme for claiming admin and other volunteer expenses (including mileage claims for survey work). The CMS officer can advise on what expenses are claimable.

The CMS newsletter allows volunteers the opportunity to keep up to date with projects and to find out what else CMS have been working on recently.