

Private road adoption

You will appreciate that this authority is not in a position to adopt a road that is not laid out or constructed to an appropriate standard as this would result in significant financial implications for the authority. It is however an option for the residents to form a Street Management Committee (SMC) and for this SMC to be involved in the arrangement for the street to be made up to the County Council specification and layout standards at their cost to facilitate future adoption as publicly maintained Highway.

For this to be implemented there are a number of points that the residents should be aware of:

1. There must be no objectors among the residents or owners of the road otherwise adoption could be prevented. (An acceptance that the total costs of the works will be borne by the residents/owners is needed.)
2. The Street Management Committee must check with the Highways Development Management Team to ensure the suitability of the road geometry and whether improvements are necessary.
3. Planning permission may be required for any change in layout of the road. The SMC should consult the Local Planning Authority (the District Council).
4. Engineering drawings for layout and construction works must be produced by the SMC or its appointed consultant for approval by the Highways Development Management Team. A charge will be made for the checking and approval of the drawings. Any issues of drainage and street lighting will need to be resolved with the relevant authorities.
5. The SMC must contact all the relevant Statutory Undertakers (Gas, Water, Electric, etc.) and obtain quotations for any necessary works to their plant and equipment. The costs of any works will need to be met by the residents. It should be noted that it is not acceptable for services to be located under adopted carriageways.
6. Following approval, one month's notice of intention to start works on site is required.
7. A supervision fee must be paid to the County Council before work starts. The Highways Development Management Team will determine the fee and arrange for the supervision of the works.
8. No road adoption agreement or supporting bond is required.
9. Adoption will be carried out by the posting of Notices. If no objections are received after one month the road can be adopted.

Clearly this type of undertaking is by its nature going to be costly and the County Council will need to be satisfied that the necessary funding is available from the residents/owners before the process can proceed.

I hope the above information provides you with a clearer picture of what will be required for the adoption of your street to take place. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Highways Development Management department on the details below:

01296 395000

dm@buckscc.gov.uk