**ADEPT Rights of Way Managers Group meeting 11 October 2018**

The ROWMG working group met in Birmingham on 11 October.

The draft memorandum of understanding between ADEPT, Network Rail and IPROW relating to public rights of way level crossings was confirmed as being agreed and ready to be signed.

An excellent article was published in Highways Magazine for ADEPT, written by Adam Taylor from Medway Council on National Trails (November 2018 edition).

Defra updated the Group that the implementation of the deregulation regulations package which has the target of Summer 2019. The Group agreed to carry out research on a potential exemption for urban areas, which will have several benefits including assisting in reducing the burden on highway authorities.

There were further discussions on:

* the opportunities presented by Highways England’s designated funds in particular those for Cycling, Safety and Integration and how they could facilitate improved connectivity, particularly for the public rights of way network
* the implications of autonomous agricultural vehicles on the rural public rights of way network.
* the benefits of increasing the depth of local authority involvement at both the national and regional meetings and all groups will work to increase participation and opportunity for officers

Dates of future meetings at Birmingham were agreed: 9 May 2019, 5 September 2019.

**Paul Newark**

**Chair**