

17 November 2009

Slough Local Access Forum

Buckinghamshire LAF
c/o Local Access Forum Secretary
Buckinghamshire County Council
County Hall, Walton Street,
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Bucks
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Ref: Cross boundary links

Dear Buckinghamshire LAF,

The importance of walking and cycling links from residential areas to areas of urban fringe countryside is now widely recognised and has been established locally through the process of preparing Rights of Way Improvement Plans. Regular walking in attractive natural environments has proven benefits to overall health and well-being.

With Slough being mainly urban but surrounded by countryside, the Slough Local Access Forum has decided to look at issues local residents face in accessing the countryside just across the borough boundary.

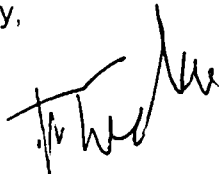
To this end as an initial reference point the Chair of the Slough LAF met with a member of the Buckinghamshire LAF in the summer to have a discussion and attempt to identify the main issues. These were seen as including the following:

- Identification of cross boundary access currently available and assessing it's condition and quality.
- Public Transport availability to close by countryside
- Joint circular routes between areas – seen as most desirable to encourage new or occasional walkers.
- Importance of well marked routes. To enable the route to be followed without a map.
- Effective Marketing ie; leaflets targeting groups who wouldn't normally walk
- Requirement for practical joined up working involving other community groups eg; Parish Councils, healthy walking groups, local doctor's surgeries etc in both areas.

It is accepted that not all cross boundary paths will offer suitable opportunities for improvement or will meet the needs of local users. Therefore the Slough LAF wants to begin by producing an initial catalogue of current access available across the borough boundary, its condition and quality in terms of enjoyment to be gained for local users. Opportunities for improvements to routes and for promotion can then be identified based on data gathered.

Whilst we appreciate that this project is focused on providing routes for Slough residents, at some point it will require co-operation between adjoining areas and everyone can benefit from improved access. So if there is anyone with an interest in this issue within your organisation; or if you would like to offer another perspective please contact us at Slough LAF.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurie Tucker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laurie Tucker
Chair 2009, Slough Local Access Forum

Cc. Bucks Local Access Forum
Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum
Spelthorne Local Access Forum
Hillingdon Local Access Forum
Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council
Britwell Parish Council
Wexham Court Parish Council
Wexham Parish Council
Burnham Parish Council