



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

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Title: Rights of Way Group Update
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A. Definitive Map update (Sue Burchell)

Rights of Way Applications

1. A public inquiry was held in August 2009 into an Order to upgrade **Public Bridleways Nos. 40 and 40A Great and Little Kimble and No. 62 Ellesborough** to Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT). A decision is still awaited and, following further representations about the alignment of the route, the Inspector has called a second inquiry, to deal with issues of alignment only. This has been arranged for 19 October 2010.
2. The Secretary of State directed the Council to make Orders upgrading to BOAT status routes at **Little Missenden and Stowe/Lillingstone Dayrell**. The Council wrote to Defra as it considered that the applications were not duly made, asking that the decisions be reassessed with this in mind. A reply from the Secretary of State was received in April 2010, stating that the decisions could not be rescinded and that the Orders should be made as directed.
3. The Secretary of State has also directed the Council to make Orders for BOATs in **Great Missenden and Wendover**.
4. Orders have been made for public footpaths in **Amersham and Ellesborough** and objections have been received. A public inquiry into the Amersham routes is to be held on 29 September 2010. The Ellesborough route is being dealt with by written representations and a decision from the Secretary of State is awaited.
5. Applications for a claimed footpath in **Shabbington** and a claimed bridleway in **Great and Little Hampden** have been rejected and the applicants have appealed against these decisions. Directions from the Secretary of State are awaited.
6. Applications for claimed rights of way are currently in progress: claimed footpaths in **Fawley, High Wycombe, Lacey Green, Marlow and Whitchurch**; claimed bridleways in **High Wycombe, West Wycombe and Downley**; downgrading of a

bridleway to a footpath in **Ashley Green**; claimed restricted byway in **Gerrards Cross**; claimed BOATs in **Iver**.

Village Green Applications

7. There are currently six village green applications in progress – **Daly Way, Aylesbury; Pinewood Fields, Iver Heath; Station Road, Marsh Gibbon; Coppice Farm Road, Tylers Green; part of the former railway line, Quainton; and Lower Road, Gerrards Cross**.
8. A public inquiry was held into the **Marsh Gibbon** case in June 2010 and the Inspector's recommendation is awaited. A public inquiry into the **Daly Way** case has been arranged for 5 to 7 October 2010.

New paths and achievements

9. Creation Agreements have been completed for Public Footpaths at **Church Farm, Haddenham, and Great Gap, Ivinghoe**.

B. Rights of Way Operations update (Jonathan Clark)

10. The Operations team has outsourced half of the summer mowing contract to Aylesbury-based firm, Richard Ashford Ltd. There are 4 gangs (2 in the south and 2 in the north) working until the end of August 2010. In addition, an 'Atasia' ride-on brushcutter has been hired, to complement the two tractor mowers used by Ringway Jacobs.
11. To work more efficiently, it has been decided to merge the north and south Rights of Way Liaison Group meetings. Many of the agenda items were similar, so it was thought a better use of resources to combine the two meetings. There was general agreement to this plan.
12. The Operations Team is developing its programme of surfacing works to be carried out during the summer. One recent scheme on the Thames Path in Dorney also saw the installation of coir logs to repair the eroded banks, in partnership with the National Trails Team.
13. Since the last meeting an additional 9 Parish Councils have responded positively to the 'Walk Your Local Paths' initiative and requested survey forms. This makes a total of 44 Parishes signed-up for the project. The aim is to get more people interested in walking and, at the same time, surveying paths in their parish to provide us with up-to-date information in order that maintenance or improvements on paths can be identified and local people can become more familiar with their network.
14. Despite the P3 scheme coming to an end, Area Office staff in Wycombe and Winslow will continue to work in partnership with Parish Councils wherever possible. If positive value for money can be obtained using local workers or volunteers then funding may be available. The Team has also been discussing possible new ways of working if budget cuts are realised.

C. Strategic Access Update (Jonathan Clark)

Creating new links

15. Jackie Wesley will outline at the meeting the new footpath link between Ivinghoe and the Grand Union Canal. BBC local news has expressed an interest in covering the opening of the route which will take place in mid-September.
16. A new permissive path has been negotiated with landowners to the east of the A404 Marlow bypass. The path links Public Footpath No 20, Little Marlow with Footpath No. 1, Marlow and the Thames Path National Trail. The land is owned by Harleyford Holdings Ltd and Messrs A. & R. Mash.
17. A meeting has been held with local horse riders in Ashenden and Nether Winchenden to identify possible links with existing bridleways in the area.
18. Correspondence continues with the Highways Agency to secure use of a strip of land next to the M40, Junction 1, to provide a walking, cycling and horse riding link between Southlands Road and Field Road, Denham.
19. A meeting was held with representatives from Edlesborough Parish Council, a local cycling group and landowners along Footpath No 3 Edlesborough to negotiate a possible new bridleway or permissive cycling track. Officers are working with Jackie Wesley, the Area Co-ordinator in the Locality Services Team in order to resolve their issues. Negotiations are ongoing.

Strategic developments

20. Officers from the Operations and Strategic Access Teams attended a Parish Clerks Forum at the Winslow Centre in April 2010, in conjunction with Transport for Buckinghamshire, to outline the work undertaken in rights of way and how parishes can work more effectively with the Rights of Way Teams.
21. AVDC's Green Spaces Team Manager, Lesley Davies, planned a workshop to look at possible Green Infrastructure opportunities for developer contributions in the northern, eastern and south eastern Aylesbury growth areas. Improvements listed in the 'Grand Union Triangle' – Aylesbury to Marsworth, Marsworth to Wendover and back to Aylesbury - form the basis of the Rights of Way improvements. This meeting was postponed pending announcements about the growth arc options.
22. The online Haddenham to Thame bridleway consultation, undertaken by Lee Stevens in the Cycling Team, resulted in 251 responses, 196 of which (78%) were in favour of the Scotsgrove Mill route. If Oxfordshire County Council is agreeable to the creation of such a route, an informal consultation will be undertaken by the Definitive Map Team for the route in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.
23. The Chilterns Cycleway was launched on the 18th June 2010 at the Bridgewater Monument, Ashridge.
24. A meeting was held with Transport for Buckinghamshire and the Cycling Team to discuss how rights of way improvements could contribute to the Wycombe Transport Strategy. Projects suggested include the Bourne End to Wycombe disused railway line; improvements to High Wycombe Bridleway No. 67 linking with Daws Hill; Birdcage Walk widening; improvements and upgrade to High Wycombe No. 27 (De La Rue site); developer funding at the Glory Mill site; and surfacing and

drainage work on Chepping Wycombe Bridleway No 4 through Kings Wood at Totteridge.

Open Access

25. On behalf of the Ramblers' Association John Esslemont has completed his survey of all 157 areas of access land in the county (except some very small commons). The main finding illustrated the lack of on-site signing to let the public know when they were entering open access land. The results were available in Appendix 5 of the March 2010 minutes.

Simply Walk (Fiona Broadbent)

26. Simply Walk now has 52 walks throughout Buckinghamshire, attracting over 500 walkers each week. The walks are led by trained volunteers and are free. Simply Walk is invaluable for community spirit, bringing people together, tackling isolation and providing a healthy and fun way for people to make new friends in their own neighbourhood.
27. Simply Walk and Community Police Officers have joined forces to start another new walk in Waddesdon, following the success of a similar walk in Hambleden. In partnership with PCSO Sarah Turner from Marlow, a second walk was set up with PCSO Antony Hurd, in Waddesdon on 21st April 2010. Anyone wishing to take part should phone Fiona Broadbent on 01494 465367.
28. One of the first tasks for Wycombe's new Conservative MP, Steve Baker, was to launch the 'Walk Wycombe' event on Saturday 8th May 2010; a scheme aimed at encouraging residents of Wycombe to leave their cars at home and walk more often. Simply Walk had a stand in the Eden Centre, supported by many Simply Walk volunteers, who led a walk featuring a new pocket-sized map. High Wycombe Town Mayor, Julie Pritchard and Val Letheren, Cabinet member for Transport, were also present to support the launch. Pocket maps are available from Tanveer Ghani on 01296 387119.
29. Despite the great success of Simply Walk, affording numerous benefits to the health and well-being of residents throughout Buckinghamshire, the scheme needs more funding in order to continue and is currently looking at how this can be achieved. One idea being considered is to request voluntary donations from participants. Funding is currently provided by Buckinghamshire County Council, District Councils, Buckinghamshire Primary Care Trust and Bucks Sport. Fiona Broadbent, Health Walks Coordinator (01494 475367 fbroadbent@buckscc.gov.uk) would welcome ideas for any additional sources of funding.

Donate-a-gate

30. There have been 14 new donors since the March 2010 Local Access Forum, taking the total to 182. A two-page spread on 'Donate-a-Gate' and the 200th gate was published in the summer edition of the Chiltern Society's magazine, 'Chiltern News', Issue 196, pages 12 & 13. 'Gift Aid' gates – funded by money received as a tax rebate – are now being ear-marked for the target of replacing or removing 127 stiles on the Chiltern Way through Buckinghamshire.

Parish newsletter

31. The fourth edition of the online Rights of Way Parish Council Newsletter will be available next week. The distribution list includes Local Access Forum members, Buckinghamshire Parish Councils, The Chiltern Society, Ramblers' Association, County Councillors, Local Area Co-ordinators and other individuals on request.
32. Alan Lambourne, on behalf of Westcott Parish Council and the Local Access Forum, has written an article on his Parish Council's 'Walk your Local Paths' event.