



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 10

Date: 2nd November 2011
Title: LAF Members' Report
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Disabled Access Work (Gavin Caspersz)

1. Surveys of new routes have been undertaken in Hodgemoor Woods, Coombe Hill and Bacombe Warren Farm. An additional circular route has been surveyed, as far as is possible, from Rowsham to Wingrave and contact will be made with the landowner.
2. A special news report for *ITV's Anglia Tonight* Program featured Gavin and the Disabled Ramblers at Dunstable Downs. Gavin hopes also hopes to try out 'geocaching' from Dunstable Downs visitor centre and other locations in the region.

Recommendation: Members to note.

Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Forum (John Elfes)

3. Members of the Forum are invited to attend the Annual Forum on Friday 11th November 2011, 9.45am to 1pm, at Amersham & Chiltern Rugby Club, Ash Grove, Weedon Lane, Amersham, HP6 5QU. It is a chance to hear of work to conserve and promote the Chilterns, have your say about any access issues and discuss the Board's future priorities. Cheryl Gillan MP has been invited to speak.

Recommendation: Members to organize representation from the Forum.

On-line Forum – 'Huddle' (John Elfes)

4. Natural England are proposing to introduce an on-line Forum called 'Huddle', through which Local Access Forums across the country will be able to communicate, share ideas, be alerted to consultations and communicate with Natural England and Defra. The idea behind the system is that at least 3 members from each forum will sign up, with one member being a 'Huddle Champion'. The project stems from positive responses to Richard Benyon's letter with regard to an on-line forum which, in part, replaces for the England Access Forum. See Huddle flier in Appendix 1.

Recommendation: Members to choose a Huddle Champion.

Annual Report (John Elfes)

- 5 Natural England have produced an Annual Report Pro-forma to help Local Access Forums summarise their achievements throughout the year. The aim is also to help Natural England and Defra efficiently collate information from around the country. LAFs are bound by the statutory regulations to submit annual information to Natural England. It is proposed to use the year to 30th November 2011 for the reporting end date. This does not coincide with the Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Reports, which are to 1st April, but NE felt it important to get consistency. The report can run alongside the existing Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Report or replace it. Please see Appendix 2.

Recommendation: Members to organise drafting an annual report to 30th November 2011.