



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

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Title: Rights of Way Team Update

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A. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (MIKE WALKER)

A1 DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE / ORDERS MADE

1. **Great Missenden** – upgrading of Public Bridleways Nos. 52 and 55 (part) to Public Byways Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected by the Committee on 14 July 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and the Council was directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order for Byway status. An Order has been made and advertised. Objections to the Order have been received and the matter referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public Inquiry is now fixed for 1 and 2 October 2013.**
2. **Great Missenden/Wendover** – upgrading Public Bridleways No. 1 Great Missenden and Nos. 45 and 61 Wendover to Public Byways Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected by the Committee on 14 July 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and the Council was directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order for Byway status. An Order has been made and advertised. Objections to the Order have been received and the matter referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public Inquiry is now fixed for 1 and 2 October 2013.**
3. **Little Missenden** – upgrading Public Bridleway No. 24 (Featherbed Lane) to Public Byway Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected by the Committee on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and the Council was directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order for Byway status. An Order was made and advertised on 20 September 2011. Objections have been received and the matter referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public Inquiry is now fixed for 6 – 8 August 2013.**
4. **Little Missenden** – upgrading Public Bridleway No. 25 (Kingstreet Lane) to Public Byway Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected by the Committee on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and we were directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order for Byway status. An Order was made and advertised on 20 September 2011. Objections have been received and the matter

referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public Inquiry is now fixed for 6 – 8 August 2013.**

5. **Little Missenden** – upgrading Public Bridleway Nos. 29/42 (Mop End Lane) to Public Byway Open to All Traffic. The application was rejected by the Committee on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and the Council was directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order for Byway status. An Order was made on 21 June 2011. Objections have been received and the matter referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public Inquiry is now fixed for 6 – 8 August 2013.**
6. **Stowe and Lillingstone Dayrell** – upgrading Public Bridleways No. 6 Stowe and Nos. 11 (part) and 12 Lillingstone Dayrell to Public Byways Open to All Traffic. The application was partly rejected by the Committee on 2 March 2006. The applicant appealed the decision and the Council was directed by the Secretary of State to make an Order. An Order was made on 10 May 2011. Objections have been received and the matter referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public Inquiry is to be held on 14 and 15 May 2013.**
7. **High Wycombe** – claimed public footpath between Sheraton Drive and Windsor Drive. The Committee accepted the application on 10 November 2010. An Order was made on 25 October 2011. Objections were received and the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public Inquiry is to be held on 16 April 2013.**
8. **Taplow** – application to record the route from River Road to Amerden Lane as Public Bridleway. The application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 7 December 2011. An Order was made on 18 June 2012. **Objections have been received and the matter will be referred to the Secretary of State for determination, possibly by public inquiry.**
9. **Aston Clinton** - application to record the route from Weston Road to Public Footpath No. 28 as Public Footpath. The application was accepted by Committee at its meeting on 30 May 2012. An Order was made on 22 October 2012 and one objection received. **The matter will be referred to the Secretary of State for determination, possibly by public inquiry.**
10. **West Wycombe / Downley** – application to record Cookshall Lane as part Public Bridleway, part Restricted Byway. This application was rejected by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2013, although public footpath rights were accepted. **A meeting has been held with the landowner, Sir Edward Dashwood, with a view to completing the matter by Public Path Creation Agreement, which has been drafted.**
11. **Lower Winchendon** – application to record the route from Public Footpath No 10b to Public Footpath No. 3, Cuddington as Public Footpath. This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2013. **The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has been instructed to make and advertise an Order.**
12. **Wendover & Halton** – application to record the route from Public Footpath No. 24, Wendover to Public Footpath No. 13, Halton as Public Footpath. **This application was rejected by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2013.**
13. **High Wycombe** – application to record the route from Burnham Close to Whitelands Road, High Wycombe as Public Footpath. This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2013. **The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has been instructed to make and advertise an Order.**

14. **Princes Risborough** – application to record the route from Elm Road to Bell Street, Princes Risborough as Public Footpath. **This application was rejected by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2013.**
15. **Lane End – drafting error of Public Footpath No 25.** This matter was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2013. **The Head of Legal and Democratic Services has been instructed to make and advertise an Order.**

A2 DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE

16. **Beaconsfield** – application to record the route from Minerva Way to the junction with Public Footpath No. 15 and No. 16 as a Public Footpath. **This matter is to be determined by the Committee today.**
17. **Westbury (Route 1)** – application to record the route from Footpath No 14, Westbury (at the Oxfordshire county boundary) to Public Footpath No 11, Westbury as Public Footpath. The route is 90% in Oxfordshire. Investigation not started. **Discussions have been held with Oxfordshire County Council with a view to their entering into an Agency Agreement with us in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to pay us, pro-rata, to undertake and complete the necessary investigations. It is likely, therefore, that we would be looking to bring this claim – and the others in Westbury / Mixbury (Oxfordshire) – to a meeting of the RoW Committee later this year.**
18. **Westbury (Route 2)** – application to record the route from Footpath No 14, Westbury (at the Oxfordshire county boundary) to the route referred to in (19) below as Public Footpath. This route is entirely in Oxfordshire. Investigation not started. **Discussions have been held with Oxfordshire County Council with a view to their entering into an Agency Agreement with us in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to pay us to undertake and complete the necessary investigations. It is likely, therefore, that we would be looking to bring this claim – and the others in Westbury / Mixbury (Oxfordshire) – to a meeting of the RoW Committee later this year.**
19. **Westbury (Route 3)** – application to record the route from the junctions of Footpath No 303, Mixbury, Oxfordshire to Fulwell Road, Westbury as Public Footpath. Investigation not started. **Discussions have been held with Oxfordshire County Council with a view to their entering into an Agency Agreement with us in accordance with section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to pay us, pro-rata, to undertake and complete the necessary investigations. It is likely, therefore, that we would be looking to bring this claim – and the others in Westbury / Mixbury (Oxfordshire) – to a meeting of the RoW Committee later this year.**
20. **Iver** – application to record various routes across The Fields and The Clump, Iver as Public Footpaths. **Investigation not yet started.**
21. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record the route from Elmshott Close to King's Wood as Public Footpath. **Investigation not started.**
22. **Bledlow** – application to record the route from Footpath No 49 to Bridleway No 55 as public footpath. **Investigation not started.**

A3 PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

23. **Bradenham** – Application to divert Footpath No 7. **Not started.**
24. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Footpath No 11(F) part. **Order made and advertised and within its objection period.**
25. **Gerrards Cross** – Application to temporarily divert Footpath No 11. **Order made and advertised and within its objection period.**
26. **Grendon Underwood** – Application to divert Footpath No 19 (part). **Order made and advertised and confirmed as unopposed.**
27. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No 24 (part). **Order made and advertised. No objections received. Awaiting landowner works before confirming Order.**
28. **Hedgerley** – Application to divert Footpath No 8. **Order made and advertised and confirmed as unopposed.**
29. **High Wycombe** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 27. Wycombe District Council planning matter. **Order made by WDC and within its objection period.**
30. **Hughenden** – Application to divert Footpath No 54 / 54A. **Order made and advertised. No objections received. Awaiting landowner works before confirming Order.**
31. **Latimer** – Application to divert Footpath No 1. Order made and one objection received. **Order confirmed by Secretary of State following written reps procedure.**
32. **Leckhampstead** – Application to divert Footpath No 34. **Order made and advertised. No objections received. Awaiting landowner works before confirming Order.**
33. **Marsworth** – Application to divert Footpath No 3. **Order made and advertised on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council. No objections received. Awaiting landowner works before confirming Order.**
34. **Pitchcott** – Application to divert Footpath No 4 (part). Order made and one objection received. **Referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**
35. **Quainton** – Application to divert Bridleway Nos 17 & 17a. **Order made and through it objection period – no objections received.**
36. **Quainton** – Application to divert Bridleway No 21. **Not started.**
37. **Quarrendon** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 2. **Order made and advertised and within its objection period.**
38. **Thornborough** – Proposal to divert Public Footpath No 9. **Order made and advertised and within its objection period.**
39. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos 10, 11 and Bridleway No 13. Order made and objections received. **Referred to Secretary of State to determine.**

40. **Westbury** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 14 (Special Schools). Order made. Objections received. **To be referred to the Secretary of State to consider the Stage 2 process. Committee to consider its position at today’s meeting.**
41. **Winslow** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 5. **Order made and advertised and within its objection period.**

A4 PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENTS

42. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation (BCC Land). **Head of Legal and Democratic Services instructed to complete.**
43. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation (WRG Land). **Awaiting go ahead from FCC to proceed.**
44. **Westcott** - Footpath Creation. **Head of Legal and Democratic Services instructed to complete.**

A5 VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

45. **Gerrards Cross** – land at Lower Road. **Public Inquiry to be held 3 – 4 April 2013.**
46. **Iver** – land at The Fields and The Clump. **The application is being investigated.**
47. **Great Missenden** – land at The Field, Bryants Bottom. **Application advertised and an objection received. Likely to need public inquiry before referral to Committee.**
48. **Beaconsfield** – voluntary registration of the land at Hampden Hill. **Awaiting ownership confirmation from Town Council.**
49. **Penn** – land at Coppice Farm Road, Tylers Green, Penn. **Waiting investigation.**
50. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **Waiting investigation.**
51. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Waiting investigation.**

B. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)

52. A total of 48 planning applications have been commented upon by the Strategic Access Officer since the last meeting, distributed between authorities as follows: Wycombe 8; Aylesbury Vale, 21; South Bucks 7; Chiltern 5; and Bucks County Council 7, taking the total for 2012/13 to 193 applications.
53. The Strategic Access Officer met with HS2 consultants on 20th December 2012 and 21st February 2013 and the meetings were largely positive and constructive. Their plans indicate an attempt to accommodate most paths across the HS2 footprint by bridge, underpass or diverting under viaducts. There were several themes running through each meeting. 1. Some extra attempt was needed to take pedestrians off country roads onto ‘footways’ where paths are diverted along the nearest roads. 2. Longer diversions, taking paths along more direct routes to crossing points rather than diverting paths that run parallel, and next to, the HS2 line, were more favourable. 3. The balance between maintaining access across the line and the

impact that bridges might have on the landscape. There were three areas of uncertainty as to the right solution and site meetings were undertaken on 16th January 2013 at Mantles Wood, Great Missenden; the area around the ruins of St. Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville; and the area east of Twyford. One positive outcome was the potential to create an off-road cycling link between Aylesbury and Wendover, through new tracks created to the south of the HS2 line. More recently, the Conservation Board have pulled together the access stakeholders, dealing mainly with the route between Little Missenden and Wendover. One meeting has taken place and a further meeting, to be attended by HS2, is planned shortly. This will enable a collective approach between stakeholders proposing solutions as one body rather than individually. The Council also produced a 'Bucks Blue Print' Document outlining its collective approach to what is required along the line.

54. There have been 9 new Donate-a-gate donors since July 2012, taking the total number of donors to 261.
55. The Council has agreed to proceed with the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership (LNP), which in Bucks will be called a 'Natural Environment Partnership'. This follows the Natural Environment White Paper, '*The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*' which set out the government's strategy for the environment over the next 50 years. Recommended within the Paper was the formation of LNPs, to provide a strategic partnership able to deliver ambitions at a local level. In Bucks, a shadow Board has been established which will sit for the first time around April 2013. A Co-ordinator post will be established, employed by 'Bucks Business First' to manage and oversee the partnership. The Board is likely to be made up of individuals from local authorities, Chilterns Conservation Board, Bucks Business First and possibly The Wildlife Trust. The Local Access Forum will be able to advise the Board on access issues relating to and interacting with local environmental issues.

C. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)

56. The Rights of Way Operations team has 6 members: a Team Leader, 3 Rights of Way Officers, and 2 FTE Assistant Rights of Way Officers. At the last meeting it was reported that there had been a staff vacancy for 4 months from September 2012 which was due to a temporary position becoming available in the Definitive Map Team being filled by an Area Officer – Claire Tranter and the Assistant officer Rosie Taylor had taken on Claire's role, which of course left Rosie's Assistant post vacant. Fortunately in December the team welcomed a new Assistant, Paul Hudson. Paul had only been in post for a few weeks when a slip on an icy road resulted in a broken femur which will leave him immobile for several months, and the team having extra difficulties carrying out all the necessary site inspections. In the next few weeks it will be necessary to recruit a further temporary Assistant to cover for maternity leave for Rebecca McNaught who will be on leave from the end of March 2013.
57. The wet weather over the summer curtailed our usual summer surface works programme, and there was concern that the capital money allocated for surface works would be substantially under-spent. However the team worked hard to identify jobs that were less weather dependant and thankfully, although there will be a slight under-spend of capital money at the year end, the majority of budget is spent or allocated. The Operations team has received some very positive feedback from users where surface works have been carried out, particularly notable was the work at Pavis Wood, along Public Bridleway No. 22A Buckland.
58. It was reported at the last meeting of the Group that it was likely that money would be allocated for this coming financial year to fund path clearance works in Parishes, and possibly other improvement works identified by Parish Councils. It is now possible to confirm that this fund will be available from April 2013. It will be targeted

particularly at path clearance for the first year of the fund and in the next week or so the County Council will be contacting individual Parish Councils to request expressions of interest from those Parishes keen to take on clearance works which will be paid for out of the fund.

59. The 'Summary of Works' (Appendix 1) is attached to this report. This outlines the work carried out by the Rights of Way Operations Team since 1st April 2012. There are some dips in performance, but this is due to weather conditions and staff resource issues over the year.