



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Title:** LAF Members' Report

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### LAF Correspondence

- 1 The Forum wrote to Janet Blake, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Rights of Way maintenance at Bucks County Council, expressing concerns over the rights of way team's recent performance figures and management changes (see Appendix 1).
- 2 In July 2013 the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC) published a briefing, enclosed in Appendix 2, to all Local Access Forums.

### Conferences

- 3 The National Local Access Forum Conference is being held next year at Natural England's Office, Temple Quay House, Bristol BS1 6EB on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014, with one place available from each Forum. Due to central government funding cuts, travel expenses are expected to be met by respective local authorities.

### Open Access

- 4 A parcel of common land called Pinner Green (HP5 1UL) has been fenced off by a local landowner in Latimer, near Chenies, the ownership of which needs to be clarified. The map in Appendix 3 outlines the extent of the fencing in bold red and The County Council seeks the Forum's advice on the matter.
- 5 A sign has appeared on common land in Fingest village (see map and photo in Appendix 4). The sign appears to be misleading by informing people to '*Please keep off the verge – thank you*'. The intension may be to keep *vehicles* off the road, rather than people wishing to rest or a picnic, as stones have been positioned in the road to prevent parking. The County Council seeks the Forum's advice on the matter.

### Natural England correspondence

- 6 A quarterly newsletter has started for Local Access Forums providing opportunities to share good practice and advertise news and support from Natural England and Defra. The latest version is attached in Appendix 5. If members have any articles they would be welcome.

- 7 The Chairman is in the process of writing the Buckinghamshire LAF's Annual Report 2012/13. Natural England plan to bring forward the LAF Annual reporting deadline for the 2013/14 cycle to June 2014. Hopefully this will be an improvement as issues relating to the reporting year will be fresh in the mind.
- 8 Natural England pass on their thanks to LAFs for their involvement in supporting applications to the Paths for Communities Scheme. All the money has now been spent, but there is no update at present for 2014/15 funding. The LAF supported an application by Watermead Parish Council which was successful in obtaining an offer of £100,000, to go with £80,000 s.106 funding for a Pegasus crossing, but this was unfortunately returned by the Parish Council.

**LAF dates for 2014**

- 9 The dates for next year's meetings are 16<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 and 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014.