



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

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Title: LAF Members' Report
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Open Access

- 1 A parcel of common land called Pinner Green (HP5 1UL) has been fenced off along the west side of Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer. Appendix 1 outlines the extent of the common land in pink and fencing in bold red. Pinner Green was part of the Ley Hill Common exemption order. The land was exempt from registration under the Commons Registration Act 1965 because it was regulated by schemes under the Commons Act 1899. Section 38 of the 2006 Act as well as applying to all land registered as common under the 1965 Commons Registration Act also covered land subject to a scheme of management under the Metropolitan Commons Act 1866 or the Commons Act 1899.
- 2 There has been a legal requirement to obtain Secretary of State consent to carry out fencing or other works that prevent or impede access on common land since 1925 (Law of Property Act section 194). This requirement was a response to pressure from the Commons Preservation Society (now the Open Spaces Society) to prevent the continuing loss of common land through inclosure and the extinguishment of common rights. This was strengthened by section 38 Commons Act 2006. In 1966 the land was owned by Amersham Rural District Council which is now Chiltern District Council. We are at present seeking current land ownership details as the land has no title with Lane Registry.

Ridgeway & Thames Path National Trails

- 3 Natural England have agreed to provide a grant of 75% towards the management and promotional costs for national trails, with a condition that management arrangements are reviewed and a new membership is created with a broader range of partners. A new Ridgeway delivery framework is being developed by consultants from the Kent Downs AONB and their report is expected to be returned to the Management Group by the end of June 2014.

- 4 The chairman attended a Ridgeway Workshop at Field Farm, Lewknor on 15th May 2014. The purpose was to bring together those with a shared interest in the management and promotion of the Ridgeway in the Chilterns to discuss issues, identify possible joint working and have a chance to share knowledge and steer the consultants. The group discussed issues such as signage to local attractions; information and interpretation; hedges and vegetation obscuring views; more scenic alternative routes; and poor surfaces. The discussions were used to feed into the delivery framework being developed by the Kent Downs AONB consultants.

Cycling

- 5 A new cycle route is being proposed between Bourne End and Wooburn, utilizing the disused railway line (see map in Appendix 8) and views were sought from the LAF at the March 2014 meeting. A new route here would allow cyclists and horse riders to avoid the busy road and connect their onward journeys on quieter local roads. Negotiations are ongoing between Sustrans and the landowner to agree compensation if a new public route is created, but it seems likely a report will be going to an extra ordinary meeting of the Rights of Way Committee on 10th September 2014 seeking authority to use compulsory powers under s.26 Highways Act 1980. It is a public meeting so any members wishing to attend are welcome.

Natural England correspondence

- 6 The Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Report for 2013/14 was due for submission to Natural England on 30th June 2014.

Conferences

- 7 The Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Access Conference was held this year on 19th June 2014, 9.30am at St Catherine's Lane End, RG9 6NN, with a local site visit in the afternoon.
- 8 The South East Local Access Forum Conference was held on Tuesday 20th May 2014, Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ. Speakers included Steve Jenkinson on the management of dogs of the countryside, Dr Phil Wadey from the BHS on work toward the proposed 2026 rights of way claims deadline and Mark Weston on sharing multi user routes with horse riders.

LAF dates for 2014

- 9 The date of the next meeting is 5th November 2014.