



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015 AT 10.00 AM  
MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

### **AGENDA**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Page No</b>
<b>1 Apologies for Absence/Changes in Membership</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of Interest</b>	
<b>3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 November 2014 to be confirmed</b>	<b>3 - 12</b>
<b>4 Matters Arising</b>	
<b>5 East West Rail project - diversions update</b>	
<b>6 Rights of Way group report</b> Claire Hudson, Definitive Map Team Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Advisor Joanne Taylor, Operations Team Leader	<b>13 - 20</b>
<b>7 LAF Members report</b>	<b>21 - 32</b>
<b>8 Any Other Business</b>	
<b>9 Date of Next and Future Meetings</b> The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1 July 2015, 10am, Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury.	
<i>Future meeting dates</i> Wednesday 4 November	





# Buckinghamshire County Council

## Minutes

## *BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM*

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2014, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 12.30 PM.**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Briggs, in the Chair

Mr N Harris, Mr C Hurworth, Mr A T A Lambourne, Mr J Coombe, Mr Caspersz, Mr G Thomas, Ms N Glover and Mr R Pushman

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Mr J Clark, Mrs C Hudson, Ms J Taylor, Mr S Newell, Ms H Rackham and Ms S David

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr H Hancock, Ms J Blake and Mr A Clark

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from John Elfes and Sara Randle.

#### **Changes in Membership**

##### *The Chiltern Society*

John Coombe, the Chiltern Society, has advised he would like to stand down from the Forum. John was thanked for many years of active service on behalf of the Forum. Andrew Clark has been appointed to represent the Chiltern Society and was welcomed to the meeting.

##### *Cyclists Representation on the Forum*

Peter Challis term of office expired on 1 July 2013 which brings to a close his membership of the Local Access Forum. The Forum thanked Mr Challis for his contribution and interest in the Forum over the last few years. Sara Randle, of the Cyclists Touring Club, has been appointed to represent cycling issues.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2 JULY 2014, TO BE CONFIRMED**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 July 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

None

#### **5. DOG CONTROL ORDERS: AN ACCESS MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR BURNHAM BEECHES NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE**

Martin Hartup, Head Ranger of Burnham Beeches was welcomed to the meeting.

Mr Hartup explained that his background includes 20 years in farming, work as a ranger and work in conjunction with Rights of Way and Country Parks. He has been the Head Ranger at the City of London Burnham Beeches for five years.

The Beeches was bought by the City of London Corporation in 1880 and has been a valuable recreation amenity for local people and visitors for over 130 years. The site covers approximately 220 hectares (540 acres) and is a special area for conservation. Each year there are around 585,000 visits to the Beeches.

The site is used by a wide range of people i.e. walkers and cyclists. A large proportion of the visits are made by dog walkers.

In 2003 Burnham Beeches introduced a voluntary dog walker code. Following the introduction of the dog control order (DCO) on open spaces outside of London as a secondary authority on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012, Burnham Beeches was subsequently chosen as a pilot site because of its long history of voluntary approach to dog management, but still a high incidence of dog related issues.

The trend has been an increase in incidents with dogs (on average 250 per year). This includes 20/30 serious incidents where prosecution has been threatened and the police have been involved. These figures are always substantially under estimated by 10-20% as the figures only include incidents witnesses or reported by Rangers.

Consultation has taken place with the Kennel Club about ongoing issues with dog control.

Surveys carried out in relation to dog management issues have shown that 44% of visits to the Beeches are to walk dogs. Manchester Metropolitan University has been analysing data about visitors to the site for 20 years. The key outcome was that 22% of people felt their visit was spoilt by dog issues i.e. fouling or unwanted approach which is worrying.

Results from the survey have shown that those who do not have a dog welcome an area where dogs are kept under control. When a dog is off a lead it is always possible to have an unwanted approach. Dog owners are always given the opportunity to correct an offence i.e. pick up faeces.

Engagement took place with South Bucks District Council (the Primary Authority), Farnham Royal and Burnham Parish Councils, Natural England, the Kennel Club, Thames Valley Police, Burnham Beeches Consultation Group, Epping Forest and Commons Committee as well as visitors and residents.

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum has not been approached formally as the Forum is not seen as a statutory consultee because of the way the City of London owns Burnham Beeches.

The statutory consultation period of 35 days was extended to approximately 75 days as an objection was received.

Organisations against the Schedule 2 were; Natural England Position, the Kennel Club, the Open Spaces Society, the British Horse Society, South Bucks District Council, Bucks County Council and the majority of dog walkers. The Kennel Club conducted an intense lobbying campaign for 18 months.

The City of London Burnham Beeches responded to all of the concerns raised. In recognition of the way forward for the issues raised, a review period was built into the process

Prior to the introduction of the DCO, Rangers had to use powers of persuasion to get dog owners to pick up faeces. The DSO Schedules are;

Schedule 1 – it is an offence not to pick up faeces

Schedule 2 – it is an offence not to keep a dog on a lead when in an area so designated

Schedule 3 – it is an offence not to put and keep a dog on a lead when asked to do so by an Authorised Officer in an area so designated

Schedule 4 – it is an offence to bring a dog onto an area of land so scheduled

Schedule 5 – it is an offence to bring more than an agreed maximum of dogs onto a site. The maximum number of dogs for Burnham Beeches is four.

The DCO applies to the whole of the Burnham site. Schedules 1 & 5 apply to all areas; schedules 2, 3 & 4 in the areas shown on the map (see attached).

Dogs are excluded from the seating area by the café and there are two areas near the café where there is the requirement for dogs to be on a lead.

A flyer giving details of the current guidelines for dog walkers in Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common can be accessed via the following link;

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/burnham-beeches-and-stoke-common/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20dog%20walkers.pdf>

After the update, the following questions were asked.

**Does the 50,000 litres of dog urine deposited on the National Nature Reserve (NNR) each year include faeces?** 55 tonnes of dog faeces are left on the NNR each year. This figure is based on the footprint provided by ecology and the average number of faeces a dog produces. Dog faeces can affect the nutrient levels of the soil and vegetation.

**It is surprising that the decision has not been taken to ban dogs completely in the recreation areas.** From the point of view of the reserve, the recreation area is the main arrival point for most visitors and it is easy to observe what is taking place in this area. There are fewer dog related incidents in the Recreation area.

**Are there livestock at Burnham Beeches?** There are cows, ponies and sheep at Burnham Beeches. The long term aim is allow cows to graze.

**When do the DCO Schedules come into effect and how will the fixed penalties be enforced?** The Schedules come into effect on the 1 December 2014 (there will be a five week lead period). Regular visitors to the site are known by the Rangers. People are given the opportunity to put things right. There are ways of finding out information about offenders.

**Given the amount of opposition from the Kennel Club and dog walkers, what is your view of the way things are likely to go?** The majority of visitors understand

the issues in the area. There were 189 responses to the statutory consultation of which only a small proportion were against the introduction of the DCO Schedules.

**A lot of the feedback received from consultees was based on the impact of the DCOs on bridleways and other sites.** All of the matters raised were taken into account and were considered prior to the decision being taken to introduce the DCO. The decision taken by the Committee based on all of the information received and was robust.

**Would the National Trust be able to introduce DCOs Schedules if they wished to do so?** The Local Authority would need to enforce the introduction of a DCO unless the National Trust was able to become a Secondary Authority.

**There is a lot of profit to be made from dog walking. How will the maximum number of 4 dogs per walker be enforced?** The Committee always wanted the ability to license dog walking. The majority of dog walkers will be able to visit the site as they always have with only a minor change to their behaviour.

Farmers complete an analysis of nitrate vulnerable zones on their farmland and DEFRA produces about the statistics about nitrogen levels from livestock manure. It would be interesting to see the nitrate figures for Burnham Beeches.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hartup for the very informative update.

## 6. RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP REPORT

Members had received the Rights of Way Group Report.

*Claire Hudson took Members through the Definitive Map Applications determined by Committee /Orders Made, during which the following updates were noted;*

Item 1 – Great Missenden – Order upgrading Public Bridleways No's 52 and 55 (part) to Public Byways Open to all Traffic has been confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Item 2 – Order upgrading Public Bridleways No. 1 Great Missenden and No's 45 and 61 Wendover to Public Byways Open to All Traffic – has been confirmed by the Secretary of State with the modification of Bridleway 45 remaining as a bridleway.

Item 3 – application to record the route from River Road to Amerden Lane as a Public Bridleway – following a public inquiry, the Order was confirmed with modification.

Item 4 – High Wycombe – application to record the route from Burnham Close to Whitelands Road, High Wycombe as a Public Footpath – a public inquiry was held in October. A decision from the Secretary of State is awaited.

Item 5 – Lower Winchendon – application to record the route from Public Footpath No 10b to Public Footpath No. 3, Cuddington as a Public Footpath – Objections have been received – the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.

Item 7 – 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 a Public Footpath was accepted by the Rights of Way Committee; an Order will soon be made and advertised.

Item 8 – Westbury (Route 2) – application to record the route from the junctions of Footpath No 303, Mixbury, Oxfordshire to Fulwell Road, Westbury as a Public Bridleway was accepted by the Rights of Way Committee; an Order will soon be made and advertised.

Oxfordshire County Council will be dealing with connecting routes which will connect with those claimed in Buckinghamshire. Definitive Map Officers at BCC will deal with the parts that relate to Buckinghamshire.

Item 10 – Chepping Wycombe – the application to record the route from Elmshott Close to King’s Wood as a Public Footpath has been accepted; an Order will soon be made and advertised.

Item 21 – Great Marlow – application to divert Footpath No.21 and Bridleway No. 52 – objections were received to the Diversion Order. A decision needs to be taken whether to proceed with or abandon the Order.

Item 34 – Wooburn – proposed Bridleway Creation Order along the former railway. This is the first Creation Order undertaken by Definitive Map Officers at BCC; the proposal was accepted by the Rights of Way Committee. The Order has been made and is now being advertised.

During the update, the following questions were asked;

**Has an update been received about item 38 – Hughenden – land at The Field, Bryants Bottom?** The Officer advised that the application needs to go to the Rights of Way Committee for a final decision. The recommendation from the Independent Inspector was to accept the application to register the land as a Town or village green.

**Are the bridleways referred to in items 35 & 36 new or replacement bridleways?** The Officer advised that these are new bridleways. Following discussions with the landowner, the agreement for item 35 is almost complete.

**There has been a considerable increase in the number of diversion orders as a result of HS2. Who would pick up the costs for these?** The Officer advised that HS2 Ltd would be funding diversions on the HS2 route as these were part of primary legislation and Network Rail will be paying for diversions relating to the East West Rail project.

*Jonathan Clark took Members through the Strategic Access update, highlighting the following key points:*

Item 42 - the HS2 Parliamentary Petitioning process is underway. Evidence has just been heard for cases in Warwickshire. Dates for the Select Committee hearings relating to Buckinghamshire are not yet available. Discussions are continuing between the County Council HS2 team and the HS2.

Item 43 – there has been one amendment to the plan under ‘additional provisions’ whereby a bridge has been removed in Twyford.

Item 44 – recruitment has taken place for the post to process diversion orders. John Elfes has attended a meeting to discuss the EWR Project. Two further meetings have been arranged. There has been a slight delay to the Project which is mainly due to having to design some of the bridges as part of the diversions.

Item 50 – it is envisaged that part of the EWR route will be used for freight during the construction period for HS2 (approximately 18 trains per day). The possibility of doubling the track to 2 lines is also being discussed. A decision will be announced in spring 2015.

Item 51 – Sustrans has been commissioned to investigate the feasibility of continuing the former railway line from Bourne End to High Wycombe and how soon this could

be delivered.

*Joanne Taylor, Operations Team Leader took Members through the Rights of Way Operations update, during which the following updates were noted;*

Item 50 - Section C of the document gives a summary of the works and the latest outturns by the operational gangs.

The first column shows the 12 month period from April 2013 to March 2014. The second column shows April – October 2014. The figures exclude all annual clearance as this information is detailed in a separate job sheet. The figures reflect that the maintenance team have not been able to complete the usual amount of work i.e. stiles, footpaths etc.

The figures are slightly lower for this time of year. Due to a reduction in the budget, concentration has been on summer path clearance. It was not possible to divert the resources to structures during the summer months as there were only two teams available to carry out the work programme.

Item 51 - Sophie David has been appointed as the new Assistant Rights of Way Officer. There are currently two other vacant posts.

Item 52 – Transport for Buckinghamshire has commenced a further re-structure/re-organisation. The Rights of Way Team has been able to retain 6 posts. Recruitment will start when the Future Shape transformation process has been completed.

Item 53 – The allocation of £100,000 funding of emergency capital budget from Rights of Way operations has been removed as a result of the mid-year review of capital funding projects. This has left a number of areas of maintenance outstanding such as resurfacing works and structures and bridges.

Items 55/56 show the BVPI figures for 2013 and 2014. With the exception of 'footpaths etc. easy to use by members of public' all of the categories are rated as green. Data analysis will be carried out to try to identify the reason for the drop in these figures. Volunteers at the Chiltern Society have taken part in the clearance work. Over 20 parishes have taken advantage of the Parish Paths Clearance Fund which amounted to 80 kilometres of clearance in those parishes. In addition, the operations team carried out 120 kilometres of summer clearance in other parishes, bringing the total clearance to 200 kilometres.

An interactive reporting form for Rights of Way issues is now available on the BCC website. Issues reported are migrated onto a database and progress can be tracked. The reporting system saves a lot of resource time.

<http://www.transportforbucks.net/Tell-us.aspx>

After the update, the following questions were asked.

**Is it correct that the number of maintenance teams has been reduced from four to two?** The officer explained that in the summer there would normally have been 4 crews on, but funds were not available for this number, so there are only two crews to carry out all maintenance functions. It was anticipated that parish councils would pick up clearance as part of devolved services. 200km of clearance has taken place (this figure is normally 330km). This has resulted in a number of complaints from members of the public. There has been an increase from 1080 to 2220 outstanding issues in the period of 9 months. The outstanding issues have been logged.

**The figures show that 323 fallen trees were removed last year and 90 have been removed this year. Is this cost recovered from the landowner?** The figures



shown indicate the number of obstructions removed. The responsibility for the removal of smaller fallen trees will be given back to the landowner as there is no recovery requirement.

**Do the figures indicate a marked deterioration in the maintenance in the last 6 months?** A reduction in the budget has had an effect on the amount of work that can be carried out, particularly on surface clearance.

**Could the shortfall in the reduction of the budget be picked up as part of devolved services or precept?** Devolving summer clearance would free time for the RoW work gangs to carry out other maintenance functions.

**There is a marked reduction in paths rated easy to use (80% to 57%).** Unfortunately there has not been the opportunity to analyse the data to ascertain the reason for the reduction.

The following comments were made.

- Are there health and safety issues arising from maintenance not being carried out?
- Does the Forum have the duty to flag up the Health and Safety issues if there are not the resources available to carry out the required maintenance?
- The budget constraints are going to get considerably worse. Could part of the budget be devolved to Local Area Forums where footpaths could be discussed as a priority issue amongst groups of parishes rather than just by individual parishes?

**There has been an increase in vegetation growth during the last year in comparison with previous years. Has this resulted in increased pressure on the maintenance teams?** The officer explained that although there was quite a dry summer, the months of April and May were wet and warm which resulted in increased vegetation growth early summer. There was a problem with the first cut but this has now been resolved.

Could this Forum try to further advertise the need for Parish Councils to form clusters or a social enterprise to carry out services such as grass cutting i.e. the Stewkley Model?

**Could Community Service Workers help with clearing footpaths?** The officer explained that the possibility of Community Service Workers assisting with clearance was looked into several years ago. Unfortunately there were difficulties in terms of the work that can be carried out, transport and monitoring.

*Members of the Forum agreed the following;*

A letter is to be sent to the Buckinghamshire County Council expressing concern about the reduction in clearance and possible health and safety issues.

**Chairman/ Jonathan Clark**

A meeting is to be arranged with the Chiltern Society to discuss the bottlenecks. Feedback is to be given to the Forum.

**Action: Jonathan Clark**

The possibility of development funding from LEADER is to be looked into.

**Action: Jonathan Clark**

## 7. LAF MEMBERS REPORT

The following key points were highlighted from the LAF Members' Report.

### **Open Access**

A parcel of common land called Pinner Green has been fenced off along the west side of Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer by the neighbouring landowner. The fencing blocks access to the common land which is currently owned by Chiltern District Council. The area in question is indicated in pink on the map on page 21 of the agenda pack. The area in white at the bottom of the map belongs to the neighbouring landowner.

Chiltern District Council (CDC) has been approached to raise the issue of unlawful fencing and possible adverse possession by the neighbouring landowner. Their legal advice regarding the fence is that it is lawful as the public can still gain access from north-west side of the land. CDC are happy for the fence to remain as there have previously been problems with fly tipping along Green Lane.

The Open Spaces Society has been made aware of the issue. They have suggested the barbed wire be removed but the fence post can remain as this does not fall under the requirement for permission from the Secretary of State. The suggestion has also been made of installing bollards/rocks to stop unlawful vehicle access onto the land which also does not require permission from the Secretary of State.

During discussions, the following comments were made.

- This is an unsafe area to ride a horse as the verge is very small due to the location of the fence.
- The fence will not serve as a deterrent to fly tippers. Common land should not be fenced off without consent and surely the District Council has a duty to enforce removal.
- Could a compromise be the installation of a kissing gate on the old path to the southern edge of the common land?
- Who would be liable if there was an accident on the piece of land in question?
- What is legal and what is lawful? It is the duty of the Forum to take action?
- Highways have a duty of care around the installation of barbed wire fencing.
- If the landowner chooses to fence off a piece of land which incorporates a verge, what legal action is possible?

**Members of the Forum AGREED that a letter would be sent to the Estates Officer, Chiltern District Council, expressing it is the view of the Forum that;**

- **The fence illegally fences off common land, in contravention of section 38 Commons Act 2006**
- **The barbed wire is likely to be harmful to users of the highway**
- **The fence blocks the route traditionally used as a pedestrian connection**
- **It is the wish of the Forum that the fence and barbed wire should be removed from Chiltern District Council land**

### **Ridgeway & Thames National Trails**

Natural England has agreed to provide a grant of 75% towards the management and promotional costs for national trails. The remaining 25% of the cost will need to be sourced or match funded. Each trail will integrate into the wider Rights of Way Access Network.

Following the recommendation from consultants, the management of the Thames Path and Ridgeway will be split into two. The inaugural meeting of the Ridgeway

Shadow Partnership took place on 3rd November 2014. Oxfordshire County Council will continue to host the Trails Officers.

### ***Disabled Access***

Gavin Caspersz reported the following;

#### *Joint LAF Chairs meeting*

At a recent meeting at Maidenhead Town Hall, the following issues were raised;

- Concern about dog related issues in open spaces outside of London;
- How cross border links take place with other Local Access Forums in the area and how information and examples of good practice are shared;
- Further information is needed about footpaths as well as an increase in signage; and
- Public rights of way information for Buckinghamshire is now available on the BCC website. This is not as accessible as the definitive map information provided by Berkshire.

Some very good contacts were made during the meeting.

#### *Wingrave/Rowsham accessible footpath link*

- This is a community project to provide an accessible pathway for wheelchair users, scooters and buggies between the villages of Wingrave and Rowsham. The project is well underway. A number of gates and footbridges have been upgraded. One stile has been replaced by a kissing gate.
- The grand opening of the footpath has been delayed until the spring of 2015. Funding to continue the maintenance of the pathway is an issue. Following a visit to the footpath, the local parish council has offered to provide some funding although this is not towards the infrastructure. The Chairman of the local parish council has also requested details of the costings for the footpaths.
- One problem is the replacement of a footbridge which does not have safety rails or handrails. Possible funding sources are being looked into.
- Some visitors from Spain went to the site in September. They were keen to learn about the work being carried out as Bucks leads the way in a number of areas of accessibility
- Members of the Forum will be sent an invitation to visit the site.

#### *Disabled Rambles*

A number of regional events for disabled ramblers have been organised. There are now some superb sites in Bucks as a result of improvements that have taken place e.g. Ashridge, Ivinghoe Beacon, Wendover and Chequers. These areas will be showcased.

#### *Route testing*

A request has been received to take part in route testing at Penn Wood, near Amersham to identify any accessibility issues.

Jonathan Clark reported the following;

#### *Conferences*

- The Chiltern's Annual Forum is taking place on Friday 7 November 2014.
- Glyn Thomas is attending the Buckinghamshire Rural Affairs Group and Natural Environment Partnership Joint Conference on the 14 November behalf of the Forum.
- The South East LAF chair's meeting is taking place on 27 January 2015. The venue to be confirmed.
- Natural England is hosting the National LAF Conference in February 2015. The date is to be confirmed.

- The South East Local Access Forum Conference is taking place on Tuesday 19 May 2015.

*Correspondence*

An interim response has been received to the letter sent from the Chairman of the Forum to the Cabinet Member for Transportation regarding S106 monies for a crossing on the A413 between Watermead and Buckingham Park. Installation is being looked into. Clarification is needed that the developer is happy to install a pedestrian crossing not a Pegasus crossing.

The Chairman wrote to the Cabinet Member for Transportation regarding concerns over the Ringway Jacobs contract. A report will be given at the March meeting of the Forum.

**Action: Jonathan Clark**

The Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Report for 2013/14 was submitted to Natural England on the 30 June 2014.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*De-regulation Bill*

A written update about the de-regulation bill will be circulated to John Coombe.

**Action: Jonathan Clark**

**9. DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 March 2015, 10am, Mezzanine Room 2, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks.

*Meeting dates for 2015*

1 July

4 November

**Chairman**



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Title:** Rights of Way Team update

**Authors:** Claire Hudson, Jonathan Clark and Joanne Taylor

**Contact Officer:** Sharon Griffin (01296 383691)

### A. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (CLAIRE HUDSON)

#### The Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to appraise LAF Members of the outstanding Definitive Map caseload undertaken by the Definitive Map Team and provide an update for matters previously considered by the Rights of Way Committee.

#### A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE

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 was made and advertised. Objections to the Order were received and the matter was referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. The County Council did not support the confirmation of the Orders. Public Inquiry held; Orders subsequently confirmed with modifications which were advertised between 15 January and 12 February 2014. **Written representations were requested in relation to the objections to the modifications. The Order has subsequently been confirmed with modification - CASE CLOSED.**
  
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 was made and advertised. Objections to the Order were received and the matter referred back to the Secretary of State for determination. The County Council did not support the confirmation of the Orders. Public Inquiry held; Orders subsequently confirmed with modifications (including bridleway 45 Wendover being excluded) which were advertised between 15 January and 12 February 2014. **Written representations were requested in relation to the objections to the modifications. The Order has subsequently been confirmed with modification - CASE CLOSED.**

3. **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 subsequently made on 18 June 2012; objections received and Order referred to Secretary of State but it was deemed to be flawed. A new Order was made and advertised. Objections to the Order have been received and the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public inquiry was held on 27 August 2014; the Order was subsequently confirmed with modifications which didn't need further advertisement - CASE CLOSED.**
4. **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. An Order was made on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013. Objections have been received and the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State for determination. **A public inquiry was held on 1 October 2014; the Order has been confirmed - CASE CLOSED.**
5. **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 12 February 2014. **An Order has been made and advertised. Objections have been received therefore the matter will now be referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**
6. **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. Discussions were 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 to enable us to undertake investigations on their behalf. **This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 9 July 2014; an Order was made; no objections received; Order to be confirmed - CASE CLOSED.**
7. **Westbury (Route 2)** – application to record the route from the junctions of Footpath No 303, Mixbury, Oxfordshire to Fulwell Road, Westbury as Public Bridleway. Discussions were 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 to enable us to undertake investigations on their behalf. **This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 9 July 2014. An Order was made; objections received; matter to be referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**
8. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record the route from Elmshott Close to King's Wood as Public Footpath. **This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2014. An Order has been made and advertised.**
9. **Wooburn** – proposal to create a Public Bridleway by Order along the former railway. **This proposal was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2014. An Order has been made and advertised.**

#### **B. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO COMMITTEE.**

10. **Iver** – application to record various routes across The Fields and The Clump, Iver as Public Footpaths. **Investigation continuing following landowner request for additional time.**

11. **Bledlow** – application to record the route from Footpath No 49 to Bridleway No 55 as public footpath. **Investigation started.**
12. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **Investigation not started.**
13. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Investigation not started.**
14. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Investigation not started.**
15. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of Public Footpath 52. **Investigation not started.**
16. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. **Investigation not started.**
17. **Quinton** – application to upgrade public footpath 4 to bridleway status. **Investigation not started.**

### **C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS**

18. **Chenies** – Application to divert Footpath No 59 part. **Valid objections received to informal consultation. No further action. CASE CLOSED.**
19. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Footpath No 11(F) part. Order made and no objection received. **Matter with Legal Services to confirm Order.**
20. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – Application to divert Footpath 15. **Order Confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
21. **Great and Little Kimble** – Application to divert Footpath 29. **Matter to be determined at Committee meeting 4 March 2015.**
22. **Great Marlow** – Application to divert Footpath No. 21 and Bridleway No. 52. **Order withdrawn. CASE CLOSED.**
23. **Great Marlow** - Application to divert FP2 Great Marlow. **Order made and advertised.**
24. **High Wycombe** – Application to extinguish Footpath No. 27. Wycombe District Council planning matter. Order made and confirmed by WDC. **Awaiting developer works.**
25. **Iver** - Application to Extinguish part of Footpath No.7 Iver. **Valid objections received. No further action. CASE CLOSED.**
26. **Maids Moreton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. Order made and objection received. **Order is on hold subject to landowner progressing the matter.**
27. **Marsworth** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. Order made on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council and no objections received. **Awaiting landowner works and then Order will be confirmed.**

28. **Medmenham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 15. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
29. **Oakley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 9. **Awaiting landowner works before Confirming Order.**
30. **Oakley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Matter with Legal Services to make Order.**
31. **Quainton** – Application to divert Bridleway No 21. **Awaiting completion of works before Order can be confirmed.**
32. **Steeple Claydon** – Application to divert Footpath No 6. **Order Made. ON HOLD until further notice.**
33. **Stokenchurch** – Application to divert Footpath No. 28. **Matter with Legal Services to make Order.**
34. **Swanbourne** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12/14. **Awaiting landowner works before Order can be confirmed.**
35. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No 25. **Valid objections received to informal consultation. No further action. CASE CLOSED.**
36. **Winslow** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 5. Order made and no objections received. **Awaiting landowner works ahead of confirmation.**

#### **D. PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENTS**

37. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation (BCC Land). **Creation Agreement completed – awaiting works on the ground.**
38. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation (ERC Land). **Awaiting go ahead from ERC to proceed.**
39. **Westcott** - Footpath Creation. **Head of Legal and Democratic Services instructed to complete.**
40. **Chepping Wycombe** – Footpath Creation. **Head of Legal and Democratic Services instructed to complete.**

#### **E. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS**

41. **Hughenden** – land at The Field, Bryants Bottom. Application advertised and objections received. **A Public Inquiry held 4 – 6 August 2014. Matter to be determined at Committee meeting 4 March 2015.**
42. **Beaconsfield** – voluntary registration of the land at Hampden Hill. **Awaiting ownership confirmation from Town Council.**
43. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **The application is currently being investigated.**
44. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Waiting investigation.**

**For further information please contact: Claire Hudson 01296 383425**



## **B. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)**

45. The HS2 parliamentary petitioning process has commenced and the Select Committee is currently hearing evidence. The Select Committee hearings for the Colne Valley started week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Private petitioners in Buckinghamshire will be heard first. When the committee reforms after the general election the county council will appear first on the Colne Valley, then the AVDC area (around late June 2015) and then the Chilterns (Sept/Oct 2015).
46. Details of the remaining rights of way issues in the county have been discussed with HS2 in a productive meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 to try and agree a way forward. In general, HS2 are amenable to addressing concerns providing the mitigation or improvement lines occur within the 'limits of deviation'. Outside this area they could be subject to counter petitioning and therefore further delay.
47. The East West Rail Project aims to re-establish rail passenger services between Oxford, Bletchley and Bicester, then south to Aylesbury, introducing a new station at Winslow. Services are planned to start in March 2019. It means that new rail services to the county will be available from Milton Keynes, Bicester and Oxford for visitors to stations in Aylesbury, Princes Risborough and Winslow. The final major stakeholder meetings with Network Rail have been completed and the public consultation has commenced.
48. The 16 crossings on the Princes Risborough to Aylesbury branch line, which borders the Chiltern's AONB boundary. There are further public stakeholder meetings taking place for this line shortly and an assessment is being made by Network Rail to increase the tracks to 2 lines, the decision for which will be made in Spring 2015.
49. The Chilterns Conservation Board undertook £2K of surface and step improvements on the footpath through the Chequers Estate on the Box Woodland promoted route around Aston Hill. Works were completed in February 2015 by Mark Nicholson Fencing.
50. The Haddenham and Thame Walking and Cycling Group have completed 25 stile replacements, with new gates, and some surface improvements with a £4k Grant, match-funded with £1.5K from the parish council. A £9K grant from the Wycombe Local Area Forum, with an additional supplement from rights of way, has paid for 8 work parties from the Wycombe Rangers to improve paths in High Wycombe and a 250m length of bridleway has been surfaced.
51. The number of large applications appearing in the Aylesbury Vale District remains high. In the financial year to March 2014, 174 applications required comments relating to rights of way and to date this financial year, with two weeks remaining, applications stand at 207.
52. The number of new donors to the scheme is up to 314 donors. A series of articles appeared in the Winter 2014/15 edition of Chiltern News celebrating the scheme's 8<sup>th</sup> year, 300<sup>th</sup> donor, 400<sup>th</sup> gate and £100, 000 of private investment into the Chiltern's walking network.

## **C. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)**

53. Regrettably there are still two vacant posts in the Rights of Way Operations team, one for a part time Assistant Officer, but more problematic there is also a vacancy in the north of the county for the Area Rights of Way Officer. Recruitment has commenced and it is anticipated interviews for the two positions will take place week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

54. A mid-year review of capital funding projects by the county council resulted in the removal of £100,000 of emergency capital budget from rights of way operations. There remained a further £50,000 of capital, which has been allocated to urgent bridge structure works. Discussions are underway to attempt to reinstate the funding as part of the annual Business Planning process.
55. The Rights of Way Operations Business Plan for this financial year (2014-2015) has Key Performance Indicators outlined below; the current performance is indicated alongside.

Title	Lower	Expected	Interim Results Feb 15
Footpaths etc. easy to use by members of public	65%	70%	84%
Structures on rights of way easy to use according to BVPI 178 criteria	80%	88%	94%
Number of structures removed/altered to improve mobility/accessibility	50	70	163
Public RoW signposted in accordance with CA 1968 s27	80%	88%	96%
% of enforcement issues resolved within matrix targets	40%	50%	72%
Volunteering Hours for BCC reporting	0		1470

56. Members of the Forum will recall that a Parish Paths Clearance Fund has been made available by the county council to enable parish councils to benefit from being able to undertake and manage path clearance work over the summer. The money was in the form of a grant to parish councils wishing to employ their own contractors to undertake the work. Over 20 parishes have taken part in the scheme and this amounted to 80 kilometres of clearance in those parishes. Additionally, the operations team carried out summer clearance in a number of other parishes, which added up to a further 120 kilometres of clearance, bringing the total 2014 summer clearance to 200 kilometres. In previous years, summer clearance was undertaken on 330 kilometres of path, but, as the Forum will recall, the ROW operations budget received a significant cut from 2014 that necessitated a reduction in maintenance that could be carried out.

57. A project is underway to devolve further functions to those parishes wishing to take on additional tasks. It looks likely that over 53+ parishes could be taking part in summer clearance in 2015.





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Title:** LAF Members' Report

**Author:** Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access

**Contact Officer:** Sharon Griffin (01296 383691)

### Membership

- 1 Equestrian interests on the LAF are now represented by Alison Heath, following Viv Lynch's resignation on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015. Alison is into her third year as British Horse Society County Access and Bridleways Officer for Buckinghamshire. She is also very interested in the historical research of unrecorded rights of way, having been a curator in the British Library for many years, and has submitted two applications for definitive map modification orders (DMMO's).
- 2 Cycling interests on the LAF are now represented by Sara Randle. Sara is Senior Development Officer for the Cycle Chilterns Project, employed by CTC, the national cycling charity, and is based at the Chilterns Conservation Board office in Chinnor. The project has now been extended for a further 12 months.

### Open Access

- 3 A parcel of common land called Pinner Green (HP5 1UL) was fenced off along the west side of Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer. Following the 8-0 vote (with one abstention) in favour of supporting removal of the fence to improve access on the common, and subsequent letter to Chiltern District Council (Appendix 1), the attached letter has recently been received in reply (Appendix 2).

### East West Rail bridleways consultation

- 4 Two bridleways are affected by the East West Rail route for which Alison Heath made comments to Network Rail on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 (see Appendix 3).

### Joint LAF meetings

Another useful meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015 with Slough, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Mid & West Berks and Bracknell Forest LAF officers and chairmen, the actions from which are outlined in Appendix 4. Joint working opportunities were identified including joint site visits, resolving cross-boundary issues, and identifying cross boundary changes in path status. A further meeting was proposed, TBC.

### **Conferences**

- 5 The South East Local Access Forum Conference will be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ.

### **Correspondence**

- 6 The vice-chairman wrote to Mike Freestone at Buckinghamshire county council to support a Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid to the Department for Transport (See Appendix 5).

### **LAF dates for 2014**

The dates of the next meetings are Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 and Wed 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015.



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**Democratic Services, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UA**

David Stowe  
Assistant Estates Officer  
Chiltern District Council  
King George V House  
King George V Road  
Amersham  
HP6 5AW

**Contact:** Sharon Griffin  
**Direct line:** 01296 383691  
**Fax:** 01296 382421  
**E-mail:** sgriffin@buckscc.gov.uk  
**Your Ref:**  
**My Ref:**  
**Date: 17 November 2014**

Dear

At the meeting of the Local Access Forum held on the 5 November 2014, Members were advised that a parcel of land called Pinner Green (HP5 1UL) has been fenced off along the west side of Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer. The contents of your email dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were also explained to members.

Following discussion, it is the view of this Forum is that:

1. the fence illegally fences off common land, in contravention of section 38 Commons Act 2006 - it is in contradiction of statute;
2. the barbed wire is likely to be harmful to users of the highway, is therefore a nuisance to walkers and cyclists and should be removed;
3. it blocks the route traditionally used as a pedestrian connection between Footpath 6 Latimer Parish, across the common to Blackwell Hall Lane, and onto Codmore Wood Road; and
4. it is the wish of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum that the fence and barbed wire should be completely removed from Chiltern district council land.

Members agreed unanimously 8 to 0 to the above, with one abstention from the vice-chairman.

Local Access Forums were established under sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and are the statutory advisory body on matters relating to the improvement of access in the countryside. District councils are bodies which come under section 94 (4) of that Act and therefore must have regard to the advice of a Local Access Forum.

Yours sincerely,

David Briggs  
Vice-Chairman





Classification: OFFICIAL

# CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT – CHRIS MARCHANT Dip MRICS MCIWM**

King George V House, King George V Road, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5AW

Tel: (01494) 729000 Fax No: (01494) 586504 DX No: 50711 Amersham

Web Site: [www.chiltern.gov.uk](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk)

E-mail: [wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk](mailto:wmanagement@chiltern.gov.uk) (for refuse/recycling/cleansing enquiries)

E-mail: [engineering@chiltern.gov.uk](mailto:engineering@chiltern.gov.uk) (for car parks/general engineering enquiries)



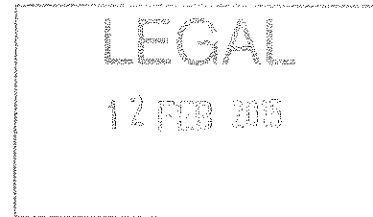
This matter is being dealt with by: David Stowe

Direct Line: 01494 732093

Our Ref: E221/2/DJS

Your Ref:

11<sup>th</sup> February 2015



Mr D Briggs  
Vice-Chairman  
Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum  
Democratic Services  
Buckinghamshire County Council  
County Hall  
Aylesbury  
Bucks  
HP20 1UA

Dear Mr Briggs

**Pinner Green Adj to Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer.**

I refer to your letter dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 concerning the above area of land owned by this Council. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

Whilst the Council considers that its position set out in my email to Jonathan Clark dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014 is still valid, it does note the views of the Local Access Forum. After further deliberation, arrangements will be made to remove the barbed wire. The posts will, however, be left in place to continue to deter fly-tippers, a suggestion made by Kate Ashbrook in her email of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to Jonathan Clark.

The Council will monitor the situation over the coming months and reserves the right to reconsider its options should fly-tipping become a problem again.

Yours sincerely

David Stowe  
Assistant Estates Officer



**From:** Alison Heath [<mailto:alisonheath71@hotmail.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 08 February 2015 19:53

**To:** [EWRPublicinformation@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:EWRPublicinformation@networkrail.co.uk)

**Cc:** vivien lynch

**Subject:** RE: East West Rail - bridleway crossings

Hi Jonathan

Thank you for these and for giving us a chance to comment.

Regarding Quainton Bridlway 36 crossing near Finemere Wood, I was asked unofficially by someone connected with the planning if it was needed and I insisted that it was a well used bridleway and we needed it so I am pleased to see that it is proposed to keep it.

Quainton Bridleway 28 - the diversion is regrettable but I understand it is necessary.

The HS2 runs very close to the East West Railway here. I do hope the crossings on both railways link up well.

Please let us know if there are any changes to these plans which might adversely affect equestrians.

Kind regards

Alison Heath  
Bucks County Access and Bridleways Officer for BHS



**LAF CHAIR MEETING – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015****ATTENDANCE**

<b>Local Access Forum</b>	<b>Name</b>
Bracknell Forest LCAF	Mike Abbott <i>[MA]</i> Rose Wicks (Secretary) <i>[RW]</i>
Bucks LAF	Jonathan Clark (Secretary) <i>[JC]</i>
Mid & West Berks LAF	Janice Bridger (Chair) <i>[JB]</i>
RBWM LAF	Peter Thorn (Chair) <i>[PT]</i> Andrew Fletcher (Secretary) <i>[AF]</i>
Slough LAF	David Munkley (Chair) <i>[DM]</i> Jacqui Wheeler (Secretary) <i>[JW]</i>

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action / Issue</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1	Produce a map of cross boundary paths and known issues	AF/JC/JW/RW	
2	Joint site visits to be held with neighbouring forums to discuss genuine cross-boundary issues	ALL	A list of cross-boundary issues to be developed once maps have been produced.
3	Uniform standards to be adopted across neighbouring authorities to that users have a seamless experience	ALL	Investigate options to obtain consistency amongst authorities with regard to signage and waymarking.
4	Distribute map of Ditton Park gardens	PT	
5	Ask West Berks Ramblers how they manage waymarking	JB	Complete
6	Distribute details of the NHT survey	AF	Complete
7	Share cross-boundary issues based on path surveys	ALL	RW to distribute survey data from Bracknell
8	Develop list of paths that change status across boundaries	ALL	List to be developed once maps have been completed
9	Distribute links to the Countryside Stewardship schemes	JB	Complete

**KNOWN JOINT ISSUES / BOUNDARY ISSUES**

1. Ditton Park – RBWM/Slough
2. Slough arm of Canal – Bucks/Slough



## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

*The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is the statutory advisory body on all matters relating to access to the countryside*

Mr Mike Freestone  
Buckinghamshire county council  
County Hall  
Walton Street  
Aylesbury  
HP20 1UY

29<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Buckinghamshire county council's Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid to the Department for Transport – proposed major scheme: major maintenance and or renewal of C-class and unclassified roads.**

*This letter constitutes advice from the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum (LAF), the statutory body for the county under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000. The Buckinghamshire LAF is an independent body which aims to give balanced advice on matters relating to countryside access, based on a wide range of views from members representing farmers, landowners, users groups (walkers, cyclists and equestrians), parish councils, elected county members and those with disabilities.*

The Buckinghamshire LAF supports the county council's bid to the department for Transport in order to fund the renewal and maintenance of C-class, unclassified and unclassified unmetalled roads. These transport routes often link between and into footpaths, bridleways and byways and form integral parts of the sustainable transport route hierarchy. In the rural setting they form important links for walkers, cyclists and horse riders between villages and other public rights of way. Their improved condition will encourage greater confidence and convenience for vulnerable users and provide improved opportunities for the public seeking fresh air and exercise in the countryside. While there is an overall benefit, one member wished to strike a cautionary note to balance surface improvements with controlling vehicle size and speeds on rural roads. However, overall we consider a successful application is likely to increase sustainable travel options, improve health outcomes as well as reduce congestion and we therefore fully support the bid.

David Briggs (vice-chairman)  
Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum  
Blackwell Farm Latimer Bucks HP5 1TN

