



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2015 AT 10.00 AM
MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

AGENDA

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Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2015, IN MEZZANINE ROOM 2, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 11.30 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr J Elfes, in the Chair

Mr N Harris, Mr C Hurworth, Mr A T A Lambourne, Ms N Glover, Mr R Pushman, Ms S Randle, Ms A Heath and Mr A Clark

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr J Clark, Ms J Taylor and Mr P Turner

OTHERS PRESENT

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies for absence were received from David Briggs, Gavin Caspersz, Glyn Thomas and Lesley Clarke OBE.

Changes in membership

Sara Randle, The Cyclist's Touring Club, Andrew Clarke, The Chiltern Society and Alison Heath, The British Horse Society were welcomed as new members of the Forum.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2014 TO BE CONFIRMED

The minutes of the meeting of the 5 November 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

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LEADER funding has not been launched as yet in the Chilterns and the Clay Vales. The assumption is a division into two areas. Mike Furness, interim Programme Manager (ex-Rights of Way officer) has advised that funding could be available for rural businesses from the European Agricultural fund. The Chiltern Conservation

Board has submitted applications for funding for the Chiltern Cycleway and the Chiltern Tourist network project.

In terms of the work involved in applying for funding, a bank account is required to make a bid as an independent body for LEADER funding. Liaison needs to take place with the project manager and volunteers to make a bid. More information is to follow.

A meeting has taken place with the Chiltern Society to discuss the issues raised around reports. A new reporting system is in place which should help to resolve the situation.

Has the issue of the Chiltern area being omitted by DEFRA in its new allocations of the LEADER funding been resolved? This will be confirmed.

Action: Jonathan Clark

5. EAST WEST RAIL PROJECT - DIVERSIONS UPDATE

Item 5 – EWR update

Phil Turner, Definitive Map Officer gave the following update.

Part of the role of the Definitive Map and Land Charges team is liaison with Network rail regarding the East West Rail (EWR) project.

Network Rail has been involved in all of the public consultation that has taken place about crossings that need to be extinguished. They have ensured that local people have been kept informed and have been invited to evening meeting. The public consultation phase and stakeholder meetings finished in January 2015. Comments and suggestions can still be submitted and discussions can take place on the website. Progress about the crossings has been slower than expected.

Jonathan Clark explained that the options were set out last year but these are still open to change. There are some non-contentious public Rights of Way conversions near to bridges and some minor changes to the network.

Draft diversion orders will be produced for the easier works in the next six months. Further work needs to take place on the more contentious diversions.

If there is a preferred option, Network Rail has met with the landowner, followed by a site visit with the county officer to determine there is nothing untoward. If the option is agreed, Network Rail are sent a list of stiles, bridges and gates likely to be required.

Under Section 118A of the Highways Act 1980, a pilot diversion order has been issued for Swanbourne Old Station. There will be the usual time period for objections. The diversion order has very little content. There are some concerns about this particular route. There is still a lot of work to take place.

The following questions were asked.

Where the landowner doesn't agree to the diversion orders, is there still the power to make a diversion order? We try to make sure the landowner is happy with the diversion order. If an objection is raised, it is likely that the diversion order could be withdrawn. A Transport and Works Act 1992 order could be put in place at a later stage.

Is a Transport and Works Order enforceable? There are still grounds for objection. A Transport and Works order is primary legislation. The aim is to demonstrate that the correct process has been followed and for all involved to reach a consensus about the proposals for the location. A Transport and Works Act order will be used if

there is no other option.

Are there future consultations that Members may wish to attend? Public consultation finished in January 2015. The consultation was well promoted and received a lot of response. Comments can still be made on the website (link below) which also shows details of the phases of work taking place. Any concerns can be raised with Phil Turner or Jonathan Clark.

www.eastwestrail.org.uk

<http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/sites/default/files/east-west-rail-newsletter-march-2015.pdf>

Will the branch in Aylesbury be treated as part of the main project rather than phase 1-2? The understanding is that that Aylesbury branch will be part of the main project.

The decision about whether there will be two tracks will be made in the spring as well as the possible use of HS2 spoil along the tracks.

6. RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP REPORT

Phil Turner highlighted the following items from the report detailing matters determined by Committee.

Items 1 & 2, Great Missenden and Great Missenden/Wendover
Following planning inspections, the orders have been confirmed and cases closed.

Items 3 & 4, Taplow and High Wycombe
Following public inquiries and planning inspections, orders have been confirmed and the cases closed.

Items 6 & 7, Westbury (Route 1 and Route 2)
The footpaths are now on the definitive map.

During the update, the following question was asked.

Item 9, Wooburn, is it correct that the landowner was due to sign the agreement but subsequently did not accept the offer and refused to sign the agreement?
The landowner had refused to sign the agreement for the last 13 years. Compensation was offered but the landowner wanted far in excess of what the land is worth. Sustrans was brought in as the negotiator. Under Section 26 of the Highways Act, an inspector on behalf of the Secretary of State will normally direct the county council to financially compensate the landowner. Part of the wider strategy is the aim to link Bourne End and High Wycombe along the old railway line and to create a bridleway. It is hoped that the first section at Wooburn Green will be delivered in the next 12 months.

Jonathan Clark gave the following update about strategic access;

Item 45 - HS2 - the Select Committee for High Speed Rail is currently hearing evidence from other counties. The Select Committee hearings for the Colne Valley started week commencing 9 March 2015. The Select Committee will reform after the General Election. The County Council will appear first to discuss Colne Valley, followed by the AVDC area and Chilterns area.

In terms of Rights of Way, a meeting took place on the 2 February 2015 and a further meeting will take place on the 19 March 2015 to discuss any last minute requests that have been made. HS2 Ltd has provided all the mitigation requested within the limits of deviation (land allocated as being taken control of as part of the Bill).

Item 48 – public stakeholder meetings are taking place to discuss the Princes Risborough to Aylesbury branch line which has 16 crossings. The decision about increasing the tracks to 2 lines will be made in spring 2015.

Item 49 – the Chilterns Conservation Board undertook £2,000 of surface and step improvements on the footpath through the Chequers Estate on the Box Woodland promoted route around Aston Hill. This includes the installation of two new kissing gates.

As the budget with the Strategic Access team had an underspend, funding was offered to the Haddenham and Thame Walking and Cycling Group to replace approximately 20 stiles with gates which was match funded with £1,500 from the parish council. In addition, following a grant of £9,000 from the Wycombe Local Area Forum and an additional supplement from Rights of Way, volunteers from businesses, Community Payback and local volunteer groups have carried out clearance work on paths in High Wycombe. Resurfacing of some of the bridleway through Keep Hill Wood, high Wycombe is also about to take place.

Item 51 – in the financial year to March 2014, 174 applications made in the Aylesbury Vale District required comments relating to Rights of Way. The total number of applications received to date is 207.

Item 52 – 316 donors have contributed to the Donate a Gate scheme. A series of articles celebrating the 8th year, 300th donor, 400th gate and £100,000 of private investment in the Chiltern's Walking Network have appeared in the winter edition of the Chiltern News.

During the update, the following questions were asked.

Has what was previously agreed about the diversions for HS2 survived? The vast majority of what was asked for has survived. There were a number of additional improvements for mitigation involving the dedication of new paths and assurances have been agreed in this regard from HS2.

How many crossings will there be across bridleways resulting from EWR? There will be two crossings.

Joanne Taylor gave the following update about Rights of Way operations.

Item 53 – there are still two vacancies in the Rights of Way Operations team for a part time Assistant Officer and full time Area Rights of Way Officer. Interviews for both vacancies took place at the beginning of March. Appointments are to be confirmed.

Item 54 – a mid-year review of capital funding projects by BCC resulted in the removal of £100,000 from the emergency capital budget from the Rights of Way Operations. The remaining capital money (£50,000) has been allocated to the Thames Path to carry out works to dangerous bridge structures.

Item 55 – the interim results for the performance targets for the current financial year show that current performance is well within target. The figure of 163 for the number of structures removed/alterd was achieved with help from the Chilterns Society. Feedback has not been received from the Ramblers Association on the number of volunteer hours.

Item 56 – it is anticipated that 20+ parishes will take part in the clearance scheme as part of devolved services. Invoices have been received from some parishes who have not signed up to the scheme. As the work has been done, payment of the bills has

been honoured.

Item 57 - it is anticipated that the number of parishes taking part in the scheme this year will increase to 50+ as devolved services now includes additional tasks such as hedge cutting. An idea of the number of parishes signing up to the scheme should be available in April.

During the update, the following questions were asked.

Is funding guaranteed for all of the parishes who sign up to the clearance scheme? There is a fixed sum of money for all of the functions that have been devolved. Some of the parishes are forming larger clusters to take on the administration role for the devolved services.

Will the amount of funding increase if additional parishes join the scheme or is there an allocated amount of funding depending on the percentage of parishes taking part? The payment would have to be reviewed if more parishes come on board. Some parishes are being a bit reticent in joining the scheme in terms of waiting to see what happens and not wanting to sign up until after the election has taken place.

There is some concern about the mapping taking place in West Wycombe. Some of the Highways mapping information had to be updated. The information is as accurate as is can be. The areas identified should be exactly the same as what has previously been cleared. There has been a dispute about the Highways verge mapping in and out of the 30mph zones.

The information said there were about 100m of highway verges to be cut in the 30mph zone when in reality there is about 3000m to be cut. The understanding is that parishes will be required to take part in devolved services. The officer said she is unable to comment on the requirement for parishes to take part in devolved services. Only a certain amount of the functions for maintaining the public highway can be devolved to parish councils as the responsibility rests with the County Council.

Some parish councils are hesitant to sign up to devolved services because of financial reasons. The cost for the devolved services has been looked into and is a lot more for parishes to provide themselves. Is the County Council prepared to provide a grant to help with the costs? The Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment said it is uncertain how long the funding will be available. Parishes such as Stewkley have taken on extra functions such as clearing hedges and signs. There is a schedule outlining the responsibilities of devolved services. The clusters are being pump primed to fund the purchase of equipment such as mowers and high visibility jackets etc.

- **Could some parish councils increase their precept to raise money for devolved services?**
- **Smaller parish councils are reluctant to increase their precept. Some parishes already have their own operatives and machinery.**
- **Some small parishes are reluctant to accept help from the larger parishes and some larger parishes won't take on work from smaller parishes.**
- **Some small parishes only receive a precept of about £10,000. This amount needs to double before they could take on devolved services.**

What amount of precept do parishes receive per person? Band D is approximately £70 per property.

7. LAF MEMBERS REPORT

Jonathan Clark gave the following update.

At a future meeting of the Forum, the implications of the 'cut off' date of 1 January 2026 in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 of all unrecorded footpaths and bridleways created before 1949 needs to be discussed. There are implications for the ROW network. To be added to the agenda for the July meeting.

Action: DSO

Hertfordshire has carried out a lot of work to bring the definitive map up to date as they have lots of local expertise. It might not be possible to claim definitive rights after 2026.

Open Access

Member were referred to the response to the letter sent from the Forum to Chiltern District Council about the parcel of land called Pinner Green being fenced off. It is a major success that the LAF managed to persuade the District Council to agree to the Forum's view about the land which had been fenced off and confirmation that the barbed wire will be removed.

Members of the Forum AGREED that a letter would be drafted thanking the District Council for taking on the views of the LAF.

Action: Jonathan Clark

Joint LAF meetings

The actions and outcomes for the February meeting of LAF chairs has been included in the agenda pack. It was good to meet with 'neighbours' and to discuss cross border issues. A joint site visit has taken place and further meetings have been planned. It would be good if a member of the Forum could attend future meetings.

Conferences

Jonathan Clark explained that the funding from Natural England for his post of South East LAF co-ordinator, ends in March 2015. Jonathan has offered to continue the post on a voluntary basis until other arrangements can be made.

The South East LAF conference taking place on the 19th May 2015 which may be the last opportunity to bring together the Forums on a regional basis. The conference has several speakers including Grant McPhee from Defra, Jenny Bowen from Natural England and Linda Holloway from Cornwall County Council to talk about issues such as coastal access, a pilot scheme to address cattle attacks on ROW, and to give an update on members of the Ramblers Association aiming to walk every path in the country as well as the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Association. The agenda for the conference is to be circulated to members of the Forum.

Action: Jonathan Clark

Alison Heath advised that the Health & Safety Executive is publishing new guidelines outlining the rights and responsibilities of landowners and managers with regard to public rights of way that cross their land. The guidance is to be circulated to members of the Forum.

Action: Jonathan Clark

Correspondence

An update will be given at the July meeting on the letter sent to Mike Freestone asking for BCC to support a Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid to the Department of Transport.

Action: Jonathan Clark

Alison Heath explained that she has been working with Dr Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks from the British Horse Society to look at the mapping of bridleway routes and how applications can be made to the County Council. Dr Wadey is to be invited to the July meeting to give an update.

Action: Jonathan Clark

The Cycling Association needs to enforce a code of conduct for cyclists about walkers, especially those who are hard of hearing. Some cyclists do not even have a bell to make walkers aware they are approaching. Sara Randle advised that the Cycling Association has a Code of Conduct as do most large cycling associations. Unfortunately the Code of Conduct cannot be enforced on members.

It is not just walkers who cyclists threaten. It is also horse-riders. The Chairman said it is important to have respect for all on the highway. There is the obligation to ensure that all ROW users are respected and are respectful.

Richard Pushman advised that following the success of the Best Kept Village Competition in Buckinghamshire, the decision was made to set up an independent committee to run the competition which he will chair. Work is taking place to try to link the competition with the County Council as sponsorship is needed. There is a pool of approximately 120 villages in Buckinghamshire of which 50/60 villages take part in the competition. There is a team of 40 judges and 5 judging teams. Volunteers to help judge the competition are welcomed.

Neil Harris reported that he recently attended a HS2 meeting as liaison for the National Trust project team. HS2 is currently a national project but will be handed back to the region when the Bill goes through parliament. The finer details such as the view from Coombe Hill and the screening of maintenance loops have not emerged in the report.

A report from Chiltern District Council advises if the tunnel extends to Wendover and the Nash Lee road, 1.8cubic metres of chalk slurry will be piped to Calvert. The maintenance route would be pushed further out into the landscape if the tunnel is extended. There is also the issue of where the water will come from for the slurry.

The 18 hectares of construction portals will leave a huge scar on the countryside. Petitioning is taking place about the impact of the construction traffic. This issue will be raised during the Select Committee visit in May as well as the impact of the additional 150 HGVs through Bradenham and 75 HGVs through West Wycombe Village.

The following questions were asked.

Has the National Trust been involved in maintaining the golden gates at the entrance to Waddesdon Manor? The National Trust has been involved in maintaining the landscape at Waddesdon Manor and Hartwell House.

Will compensation be paid to the County Council for any damage caused to the roads as a result of the increase in construction traffic from HS2? This will be looked into.

Action: Jonathan Clark

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Proposed crossing in Langley Park and Black Park

Concern was expressed about the road crossing in Langley Park and Black Park which separates the Uxbridge Road from the A412 which is used by equestrians,

walkers and cyclists. The proposal is for a new Pegasus crossing across the dual carriageway to link the two parks. There is however, the issue of the bridleways being very dangerous as there is only a small verge in the middle of the dual carriageway.

Joanne Taylor advised that this issue has been raised previously. From memory, the response was that it is not appropriate within the traffic guidelines to install a crossing in a 50/60mph limit.

Jonathan Clark added that it was his understanding that it is too expensive to put a bridge in but clarification can be obtained and reported back to the Forum.

Action: Jonathan Clark

Clay Pigeon Shooting

Quainton Hill operates clay pigeon shooting under an arrangement with the landowner which allows shooting to take place 28 times a year without planning permission. There is concern about this arrangement as there are two major bridleways across this piece of land which is heavily used especially at weekends. There is no static site for the event and the participants do not observe the guidelines of the Clay Pigeon Society of a 300 yard safety area in the general direction of shooting. There has been an incident with a horse-rider being injured. This is being discussed at the Hogshaw Parish Council meeting at the end of March.

The Chairman said notification has to be given to members of the public when a shoot is taking place.

Joanne Taylor explained that there are two different clay pigeon operators on Quainton Hill. The County Council sent a letter to one of the operators several years ago about putting in mitigation measures to ensure the safety of members of the public such as the use of a Marshall when a shoot is taking place. The understanding is this particular operator is complying with these safety measures or is carrying out reasonable health and safety checks.

The belief is that the incidents mentioned are connected with a new operator; however, investigations are still taking place. It is not against the law to shoot across ROW but clay pigeon shooting could potentially be seen as an obstruction or public nuisance.

9. DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 1 July 2015, 10am, Mezzanine 2, County Hall, Aylesbury.

Future meeting dates
Wednesday 4 November

Chairman



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

Date: 1st July 2015

Title: Rights of Way group 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 Buckinghamshire LAF members of the outstanding definitive map caseload undertaken by the Definitive Map Team and provide an update. Changes since the last meeting are shown in **bold**.

1. **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. **Matter referred to the Secretary of State who has scheduled a Public Inquiry for 3 November 2015 to determine the matter.**
2. **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. **Matter referred to the Secretary of State who has scheduled a Public Inquiry for 13 October 2015 to determine the matter.**
3. **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; Objections were received to the Order; case referred to the Secretary of State; **matter to be determined by written representations; timetable has been scheduled for the summer of 2015.**
4. **Great and Little Kimble** – Application to divert Footpath 29. Committee agreed that the matter should be referred to the Secretary of State for determination during the 4 March 2015 meeting; **matter likely to be determined by written representations.**
5. **Wooburn** – proposal to create a Public Bridleway by Order along the former railway. This application was accepted by the Committee at its meeting on 15 October 2014;

Objections were received to the Order; case referred to the Secretary of State;
Public Inquiry likely to be held late 2015 early 2016.

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

6. **Iver** – application to record various routes across The Fields and The Clump, Iver as Public Footpaths. **Investigation continuing following landowner request for additional time.**
7. **Bledlow** – application to record the route from Footpath No 49 to Bridleway No 55 as public footpath. **Investigation started.**
8. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **Investigation not started.**
9. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Investigation not started.**
10. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Investigation not started.**
11. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of Public Footpath 52. **Investigation not started.**
12. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. **Investigation not started.**
13. **Quinton** – application to upgrade public footpath 4 to bridleway status. **Investigation not started.**

C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

14. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Footpath No 11(F) part. Order made and no objection received. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
15. **Great Marlow** - Application to divert FP2 Great Marlow. **Awaiting completion of works before confirming Order.**
16. **High Wycombe** – Application to extinguish Footpath No. 27. Wycombe District Council planning matter. Order made and confirmed by WDC. **Awaiting developer works before bringing Order into effect.**
17. **Maids Moreton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. Order made and objection received. **Under discussion with applicant and objector.**
18. **Marsworth** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. Order made on behalf of Aylesbury Vale District Council and no objections received. **Awaiting developer works before bringing Order into effect.**
19. **Oakley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 9. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
20. **Oakley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Matter with Legal Services to confirm Order.**
21. **Quinton** – Application to divert Bridleway No 21. **Awaiting completion of works before Order can be confirmed.**

- 22. **Steeple Claydon** – Application to divert Footpath No 6. **Order Made. ON HOLD until further notice.**
- 23. **Stokenchurch** – Application to divert Footpath No. 28. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
- 24. **Swanbourne** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12/14. **Awaiting landowner works before Order can be confirmed.**
- 25. **Winslow** – Application to extinguish Footpath No 5. Order made and no objections received. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
- 26. **Wingrave with Rowsham** – Application to Divert/ Extinguish Footpath No.1 (part). **Awaiting letters of approval from adjoining landowners then can begin process.**

D. PUBLIC PATH CREATION AGREEMENTS

- 27. **Chepping Wycombe** – Footpath Creation. **Head of Legal and Democratic Services instructed to complete.**
- 28. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation (BCC Land). **Creation Agreement completed – CASE CLOSED.**
- 29. **Edgcott** – Bridleway Creation (ERC Land). **Awaiting go ahead from ERC to proceed.**
- 30. **Penn** – Footpath Creation at Whilden Lane (BCC Land). **Matter with Legal Services to complete the Agreement.**
- 31. **Stewkley** – Footpath Creation at Kingsbridge (BCC Land). **Matter with Legal Services to complete the Agreement**
- 32. **Westcott** - Footpath Creation. **File now closed as the current owners of the land refused to dedicate the path. CASE CLOSED.**
- 33. **Wing** – Footpath Creation at Long Spinney (BCC Land). **Matter with Legal Services to complete the Agreement.**

E. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

- 34. **Hughenden** – land at The Field, Bryants Bottom. Application advertised and objections received. **Committee accepted the application to register the land as a Town or Village Green – CASE CLOSED.**
- 35. **Beaconsfield** – voluntary registration of the land at Hampden Hill. **Voluntary Registration Complete – CASE CLOSED.**
- 36. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **The application is currently being investigated.**
- 37. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Waiting investigation.**
- 38. **Brill** – voluntary registration of the land known as The Walks. **Voluntary Registration Complete – CASE CLOSED.**

For further information please contact: Claire Hudson 01296 383425

B. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)

39. The HS2 parliamentary petitioning process has commenced and the Select Committee is currently hearing evidence for the Colne Valley. We are satisfied with the rights of way mitigation in this area and are therefore not petitioning on countryside access, but the county council appeared successfully on highways and ecology matters. The first Committee site visits took place in Wendover and Stoke Mandeville on 11th June 2015. Further site visits were due to take place in the Aylesbury, Buckingham (26th June 2015) and Amersham constituencies. The remaining rights of way issues in the county are ongoing. This year we have received some significant new paths, secured under an assurance, in Little Missenden (Mantles Wood) and Stoke Mandeville (St Mary's Church).
40. 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. Bridge crossings and the re-routing of footpaths/bridleways to these new points have largely been agreed in principle with Network Rail and the landowners. However, the detail of each crossing will not be available until the major infrastructure (for example, each bridge) has been designed for the location and work is on-going with the Network Rail EWR Project Team to finalise the preferred diversion options for each crossing and to obtain stakeholder consent for the proposals. Diversion maps will be drawn up and orders will be consulted upon in due course.
41. A Highways England consultation has been received on the M4 Smart Motorway programme (use of the hard shoulder and some widening), which affects two locations with rights of way interests: Old Slade Lane, Iver; Old Marsh Lane, Dorney. The former has a footpath bridge crossing, but we would hope this can be upgraded for equestrians and cyclists; and the latter has a cycleway crossing on Highways England land, which we hope to retain as a useful link to the Sustrans National Routes 4 and 61 along the jubilee River.
42. A Heathrow Rail link consultation has been received which aims to connect the West Coast Mainline with Heathrow Airport. Footpath 15 Iver, which became a dead-end following the removal of Dog Kennel Bridge due to Crossrail, is affected by the route and we hope to negotiate a new bridleway and cycleway between Slough and Richings Park along North Park road.
43. The number of planning applications affecting rights of way has increased from 174 in the year ending 31st March 2014, to 219 in the year ending 31st March 2015.
44. Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern District have identified up to 250 sites which they think may be appropriate for housing development and need input from a rights of way perspective. These sites have been commented upon in terms of mitigating impact and providing improvements to the strategic network
45. The number of new donors to the Donate-a-Gate scheme since the 18th March 2015 meeting is up 9 to 323 donors. The Chiltern Society is celebrating their 50th anniversary, so we are hoping to achieve as many stile removals as possible along the Chiltern Way.

C. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)

46. A 'Summary of Works' is attached to this report in Appendix 1, outlining work carried out by the Rights of Way Operations Team between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015.
49. At the last meeting the Forum were advised that the recruitment and interview process for two vacant posts had commenced. I am pleased to inform you that the positions have now been filled, with one new starter James Dixon (Assistant Rights of Way Officer) having started in May and Alastair McVale (Area Rights of Way Officer) due to start in August 2015.
50. It has been possible to secure additional revenue money through the business planning process for a Rights of Way Bridge Inspection Officer. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan acknowledged that no routine condition survey of rights of way bridge structures had been carried out for many years, and therefore a more proactive approach was required. Over the next 4 years every known bridge structure on the network in Buckinghamshire will be inspected and recorded and assessed for condition. The total structures to be inspected are 600 per annum.
51. The Business Plan also identified a budget for volunteer works and devolvement of clearance to parish councils. Funds have yet to be allocated for capital works, such as bridge structure replacement and emergency surface works, and it is envisaged that large structure works will require *ad hoc* capital bids.
52. 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 contractors to undertake the work. Over 20 parishes took part in the scheme for last year which amounted to 80 kilometres of clearance being undertaken in those parishes. This year we have between 50 to 60 parish councils taking part in the devolvement project amounting to surface clearance on approximately 170 kilometres of public right of way.
53. Final Key Performance Outcomes for 2014/2015.

Footpaths etc easy to use by members of public	70%	84%
Structures on rights of way easy to use according to BVPI 178 criteria	88%	94%
Number of structures removed/alterd to improve mobility/accessibility	70	191
Public RoW signposted in accordance with CA 1968 s27	88%	96%
% of enforcement issues resolved within matrix targets	50%	77%
Volunteering Hours for Place Reporting		1750

Buckinghamshire County Council - Rights of Way

Summary of Maintenance Carried Out Between 1/04/14 and 31st March 2015

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	NORTH+SOUTH	
		Apr 13 - Mar 14	Apr-Mar 15
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	13	6
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	313k/1123	133km
Bridge	Installed or repaired	40	39
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	277	149
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	31	10
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	92	91
Intimidation + animal	Intimidation - resolved	17	13
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	8	3
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	3	6
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	76	71
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	10	10
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	323	236
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	88	107
Other	Delivery of materials	44	27
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	59	35
Stile	Installed or repaired	155	163
Stile	Stile To Gap	21	15
Stile	Stile To KG	83	61
Stile	Stile To PG	49	36
Terrain	Bank Steps	13	5
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	73	44
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	165	126
Authorisation	New Structure HA80 sec 147	2	2
Volunteer Hours	The Chiltern Society	2039	1750
Volunteer Hours	RA Only		
Improvements	To aid mobility access	245	191
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	80%	84%
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	92%	94%
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	96%	96%
Number on Database	No. of Job Sheets issued	1886	1062ex AC
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/12	799	
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/13	1150	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/14	1085	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/15		1423
% of issues in targ time	Cat. C enforcement issues	no data	77%



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

Date: 11th June 2015

Title: LAF Members' Report

Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access

Contact Officer: Sharon Griffin (01296 383691)

Open Access

- 1 The parcel of common land called Pinner Green (HP5 1UL), fenced off along the west side of Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer, has been discussed at previous meetings. Following the LAF's letter to Chiltern district council on 17th December 2014, they agreed by letter on 11th February 2015, to pursue removal of the fence with the landowner. Since then the fence remains in situ, so the chairman wrote to the council for an update on 12th June 2015 ([Appendix 1](#)).

Joint LAF meeting

- 2 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead council (RBWM) hosted another useful joint meeting between Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Mid & West Berks, Bracknell Forest and Slough LAF chairs/officers. The Buckinghamshire LAF have been invited to comment ([Appendix 2](#)) on a proposal to formally record the existing routes, which currently run along the Jubilee River between Maidenhead, Taplow, Dorney, Windsor and Eton, as bridleways. The county council hold a budget of £30,000, provided by the Environment Agency when the routes were created, which could be spent on upgrading and maintaining any of these routes. A further joint meeting was proposed, the date of which will be confirmed, but in the meantime, RBWM are seeking Buckinghamshire LAF comments.

National Trails

- 3 The Ridgeway Partnership was launched on 19th June 2015. This new group will include local authorities, the Chilterns Conservation Board, North Wessex Downs AONB, Natural England, the Chiltern Society and Friends of the Ridgeway. Partners will be dedicated to raising the profile of the trail, increasing the numbers using it and improving the benefits it brings to local economies. Sarah Wright, previously rights of way officer at Buckinghamshire county council, has been appointed the new Ridgeway Trail Officer.

Conferences

- 4 John Elfes attended the South East Local Access Forum Conference on Tuesday 19th May 2015 in London.

Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid

- 5 The vice-chairman wrote to Ray Sainsbury, Highways Infrastructure, for Jacobs, London, to support the county's Local Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund Bid to the Department for Transport on 29th January 2015. At the 18th March 2015 LAF meeting members asked for an update. Unfortunately, the county bid for Local Road Renewals across Buckinghamshire was unsuccessful. The funding programme was heavily oversubscribed. Details of the successful bidders are provided at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/275-million-to-improve-local-roads>. Mr Sainbury writes: *'Despite this disappointing news, I am extremely grateful to the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum for the support they gave at such short notice earlier this year'*.

LAF dates for 2015

- 6 The date of the next meeting is Wed 4th November 2015.



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

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

Mr 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
Date: 11th June 2015

Dear Mr Stowe

Pinner Green Common, adjacent to Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer

Thank you for your letter of 11th February 2015 the contents of which were reported to the Local Access Forum meeting held on 18th March 2015 at county hall.

The Forum were delighted with the outcome of your considerations to pursue the removal of the barbed wire fencing and preserve the open nature of the common to allow greater public access from Blackwell Hall Lane and improve the safety of cyclists and motorcyclists using the public highway. They also agree with your decision to retain the fence posts in order to deter fly tipping.

However, it is of some concern that since your letter of 11th February 2015 the fencing, to date, remains in situ, and I would be grateful if you could provide a progress update for members in time for the next meeting on 1st July 2015.

Yours sincerely,

**John Elfes
Chairman
Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum**

Cc: Councillor Noel Brown, Local Member for Chess Valley

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Chair: Peter Thorn, 3 Stonehouse, Reading Road, Lower Basildon, RG8 9NL

Secretariat: Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Telephone: 01628 796122

Email: prow@rbwm.gov.uk

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm

Mr John Elfes, Chair of the Local Access Forum
Democratic Services
Buckinghamshire County Council
Room 801, County Hall
Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

Dear John,

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum and the Slough Local Access Forum would like to propose to the Bucks Local Access Forum that we work together to establish a 'multi-use route' for walkers, cyclists and horse riders along the Jubilee River between Eton Wick, Dorney and Maidenhead.

An outline of the desired route is detailed on the attached plan. As you can see much of the route is already available as a Multi-user route, through existing bridleways or permitted access over the cycle tracks at Eton College. There remains a small gap in the middle which is within Buckinghamshire.

The proposed solution is to create, either as a permanent dedication or as permitted access, one of three routes as shown on the plan. These have been labelled Gold, Silver or Bronze based on preference. The gold route would use the existing Jubilee River cycleway between Lake End Road and Taplow Bridleway 4, the silver route would deviate across Dorney Footpath 2 to Oak Stubbs Lane, following on to the Thames Path and finally joining Amerden Lane. The Bronze route uses Dorney Footpath 2 but then must follow Lake End Road for a short while, turning back on Old Marsh Lane.

We would be very grateful if you could consider these proposals and get back to us whether you would be willing to help drive this forward. You can contact us using the details below.

Yours Sincerely



Peter Thorn
Chair – RBWM LAF



David Munkley
Chair – Slough LAF

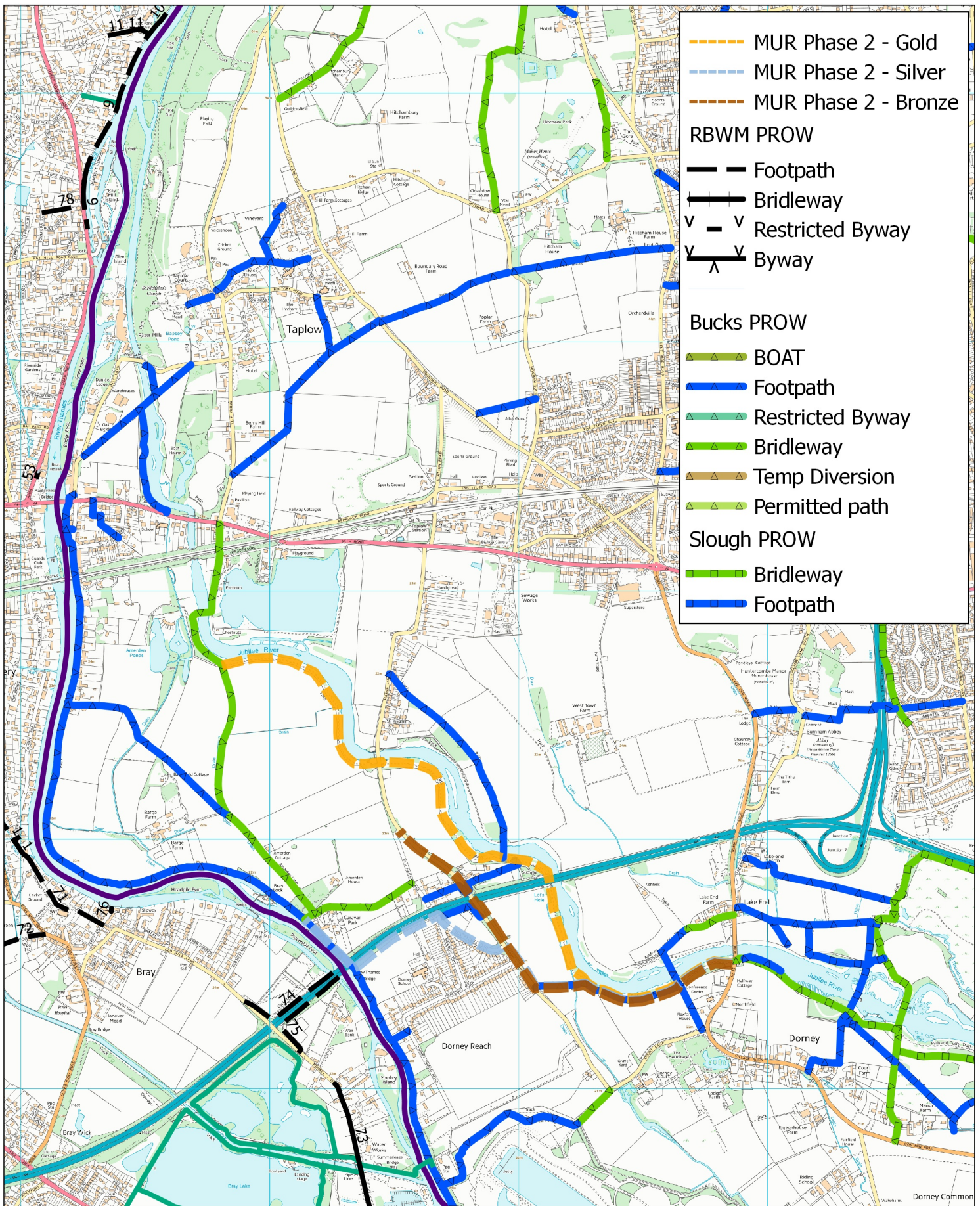
Contacts:

RBWM LAF

Andrew Fletcher
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Slough LAF

Jacqui Wheeler
Public Rights of Way Officer, St Martins Place
51 Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UF
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Telephone: 01753 477479



Public Rights of Way
 Drawn by: Andrew Fletcher

Date: 05/06/2015
 Scale: 1:20,000

Multi-User Route Phase 2 Extension from Eton-Dorney-Taplow

Note: Where proposed routes run over the same land the lines have been off-set for illustration purposes.

