

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.

12th January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum would like to invite a member of BALC to join the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum (LAF).

The LAF is a statutory advisory body and provides advice on all matters relating to countryside access, rights of way and open access land. While at least two LAF members sit on their respective parish councils (West Wycombe and Westcott), I mooted at the last meeting that the LAF would benefit from representation, at a strategic level, from BALC. This was 'seconded' by county councillor Warren Whyte. With a body representing all Buckinghamshire parish councils on the Forum the LAF will be better informed to be able to work more closely with parishes, particularly in this era of devolved services, hopefully raising the profile of countryside access and attracting more funding for rights of way.

The Forum primarily advises the county council on access matters, but, in theory, can recommend advice to anyone or anybody. The Forum have, for example, engaged recently with all Bucks parish councils to recruit volunteers towards the 2026 cut-off date project, hoping to 'restore the definitive map record' and ensure that, after 2026, there are no 'lost' rights of way in the county. A positive response has been received with around 40 parishes having volunteered. It is also hoped that over the coming year the LAF will also be set up to apply for grant funding.

Ideally the nominated person would be interested in rights of way and public access and have knowledge of countryside issues. It is hoped this request can be raised at the next executive meeting on 27th January 2016.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Pushman (Chairman)