



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

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Title: LAF members' report

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Open Access

- 1 A parcel of common land (CL217) near Frieth (RG9 6NR) has been fenced off along the south east side of Footpath 15 Hambledon Parish (see Appendix 3). The LAF achieved success in removing an unlawful fence at Blackwell Hall Lane, Latimer, and it may be that a similar approach could negate the need for Hambledon parish council to take legal action. If members agree, an initial site visit is recommended.

Restoring the Record Project

- 2 Since the chairman's letter to user groups and parish councils in October 2016, 38 volunteers have come forward, as well as a volunteer co-ordinator. The project aims to progress work towards achieving better access in the county before the definitive map is closed for new applications on the basis of documentary evidence. A training day has been organised on 6th May 2026, led by Sarah Bucks and Dr Phil Wadey, and volunteers have been informed by letter on 23rd February 2016 (Appendix 4).

Local Transport Plan 4

- 3 A 2-month consultation on LTP4 began in December 2015. The Plan has important implications for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the rights of way network in general. The consultation fell between meetings so it was not possible to fully discuss the plan at a LAF meeting. However, a response was drafted by Andrew Clark and approved by the chairman. This is enclosed in Appendix 5.

Ongoing Projects

- 4 The Royal Forestry Society have agreed in principle to modifications to two gates in order to allow push-chair and mobility scooter access to their site in Hockeridge Woods, Ashley Green (HP4 2SZ) following an approach by member

Andrew Clark. The RFS are to speak with their woodland management team to see if it is possible to combine these works with other improvements on their site. The gate works are estimated to be around £1000.

- 5 In order to raise money for footpath improvement projects and removal of stiles to gates that allow greater access for those with mobility problems, Gavin Caspersz has proposed and been successful in adopting the Buckinghamshire Disabled Ramblers as a recipient for Aylesbury Vale Lottery charitable allocations. However, players must select the Disabled Ramblers as a potential beneficiary from a percentage of their stake and few have done so, thus far. Gavin intends to seek more support on his return.

Joint work with Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM) and Slough LAFs

- 6 RBWM proposed in 2015 to allow horse riders access to the existing Jubilee River walking and cycling network in Dorney, Buckinghamshire, extending from Maidenhead to Eton. The principle of this additional access was discussed and agreed during the July 2015 meeting. The culmination of this joint working has resulted in a letter to local landowners (Appendix 6). There are some clearance works required to widen the path in some places which can be funded by RBWM, and this survey has highlighted a number of maintenance issues outstanding, for which the county council was provided £30, 000 section 106 money from the Environment Agency.

Membership

- 7 The chairman wrote to the Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils (BALC) on 12th January 2016 (Appendix 7) inviting representative of BALC to sit as a member of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum. This followed a discussion at the last meeting where it was agreed that better representation from parish councils on the LAF would complement devolvement of services. We are awaiting a reply.
- 8 In consultation with members, it is hoped to produce an information pack for new members and review of the terms/structure/remit for document as this hasn't been renewed since the LAF first formed. The council will also be in touch regarding member's contracts where they are due to expire.

LAF News

- 9 The latest edition of Natural England's quarterly Newsletter is attached (Appendix 8).

LAF dates for 2016

- 10 The dates of the next meetings, in Mezz 1, are: 20th July 2016 and 9th November 2016.