



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 20th July 2016

Title: Rights of Way group update

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A. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (HELEN FRANCIS)

A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

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, a Public Inquiry was completed on 1 February 2016. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
2. **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 was to be held 15-16 December 2015 but adjourned to 10-12 May 2016. **Inquiry adjourned until 13 September 2016 with a possible Creation Agreement being explored before this date.**
3. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **Awaiting Legal Services to advertise the made Order.**

B. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE.

All Definitive Map Modification Applications are dealt with in chronological order of receipt. However, where there is a particular need of an application to be investigated urgently, then the county council may exercise its discretion to deal with that application.

4. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Application dated 10 September 2013. To be determined during 12 July 2016 Committee meeting.**

5. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Application dated 5 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2016 Committee.**
6. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2016 Committee.**
7. **Quinton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2017 Committee.**
8. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. **Application dated 10 October 2014. To be determined during 12 July 2016 Committee meeting.**
9. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 25 June 2015. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2017 Committee.**
10. **Chepping Wycombe** – application to record route between public footpath No. 14 and No. 15 Parish of Chepping Wycombe. **Application dated 14 September 2015. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2017 Committee.**
11. **Thornborough** – application to record a public footpath around the field off Back Street. **Application dated 6 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2017 Committee.**
12. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2018 Committee.**
13. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2017 Committee.**
14. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Application priority raised as affected by HS2 – scheduled for late 2016 Committee.**
15. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2018 Committee meeting.**
16. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 - scheduled for mid-2018 Committee meeting.**
17. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 – scheduled for mid-2018 Committee meeting.**
18. **Wooburn** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 3 between Princes Road Groves Close to byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 26 February 2016 – scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**

19. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 29 February 2016 – scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
20. **Chenies, Chalfont St Peter, Denham** – application to record Shire Lane as part restricted byway and part byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 14 March 2016. Application priority raised as affected by HS2 – scheduled for late-2016 Committee meeting.**
21. **Hazlemere** - application to record various routes in the field adjacent to Public Footpath No. 8 and Public Bridleway No. 6, Parish of Hazlemere as Public Footpaths. **Application dated 23 April 2016 – scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**
22. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to record the route through Wellington House passageway as a Public Footpath. **Application dated 23 May 2016. Application re-prioritised as affected by development – scheduled for late-2016 Committee meeting.**
23. **Leckhampstead** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 13 and 18 to Public Bridleway and add a route as Public Bridleway. **Application dated 26 May 2016 – scheduled for early-2019 Committee meeting.**

C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

24. **Aston Clinton** – Application to divert public footpaths No 5 & 6 under the Town and Country Planning Act – **awaiting a made Order.**
25. **Chartridge** – Application to divert BW21A – **awaiting a confirmed Order.**
26. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No.17 - **awaiting a made Order.**
27. **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.**
28. **Little Missenden** – Application to divert Footpath No 4 – **Awaiting completion of works before Order can be confirmed.**
29. **Maids Moreton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3. **Awaiting completion of works before Order can be confirmed.**
30. **Quinton** – Application to divert Bridleway No 21. **Awaiting a made Order.**
31. **Steeple Claydon** – Application to divert Footpath No 6. **Order Made. ON HOLD until further notice.**
32. **Swanbourne** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12/14. **Awaiting a confirmed Order.**
33. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Awaiting completion of footways before Order can be confirmed.**
34. **Wing** – Application to stop up Footpath No. 14 – **Awaiting completion of footway before Order can be confirmed.**

35. **Wingrave with Rowsham** – Application to Divert/ Extinguish Footpath No.1 (part). **Awaiting a confirmed Order.**
36. **Bierton with Broughton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 7B (part). **Under consultation.**
37. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 13 (part). **Awaiting more detailed information from the developer.**
38. **Ashley Green** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2B (part). **In discussion with applicant.**

D. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

39. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **Further investigation required.**
40. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started.**

Background Papers

None

For further information please contact: Helen Francis 01296 387123

E. EAST WEST RAIL (EWR) UPDATE - JUNE 2016

41. The County Council's Definitive Map and Rights of Way consultation response to Network Rail's (NR) EWR phase 2 PROW crossing diversion proposals was made in October 2015. We have completed the detailed diversion assessments with the NR EWR Project Team staff to identify and capture the ancillary works, including the installation of pedestrian gates, footbridges, surfacing, way-marking and sign-posting, that will be required of NR on parts of the diversion routes beyond the crossings themselves.
42. We have clarified with Network Rail those crossing diversions where the county council is requiring changes to the diversion routes originally proposed by Network Rail at a small number of crossings and await NR's confirmation of these changes.
43. The consultation on the s.119A Highways Act rail crossing diversion application (Swanbourne Old Station crossing) for public footpaths No. 27 Little Horwood and No. 20 Swanbourne has been completed and we are currently awaiting the making of the diversion Order by our legal services.
44. Aylesbury to Princes Risborough - This section of the route has been taken out of the scope of Phase 2 of the scheme. Original plans involved substantial work to allow an increased line speed of 80 mph along this section of line, however following further modelling it has been concluded that these improvements are not required to achieve the planned service and that the associated construction work, including the diversion of the existing at grade public rights of way crossings is no longer required.
45. The next key milestone for Network Rail's programme known as "GRIP 3" is due for completion by December 2016. This includes further development of the emerging design work to inform costed options for the Department for Transport (DfT) and others to consider and confirm appropriate funding. It will be at this point that more informed decisions on the financing and associated programme dates for EWR can be considered and taken by DfT. In the meantime the next stage of public

consultation for the EWR Transport & Works Act proposals is anticipated to be held in autumn 2016.

46. Members will be aware, EWR services were planned to start in March 2019, but the precise delivery date is now uncertain. The *'Report from Sir Peter Hendy to the Secretary of State for Transport on the re-planning of Network Rail's Investment Programme'*, lists EWR as a project *'...with significant delivery in CP5 [2014 to 2019] and completion in CP6' [2019 to 2024]*. For further updates/information and to submit comments contact: <http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/>

B. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)

47. Recent discussions have taken place with HS2 on a Transport & Works Act Order being proposed to install railway sidings for the landfill site at Calvert. This legal mechanism is being used as it's too late to secure changes in the HS2 Bill process. Further diversions will take place affecting three rights of way, but network connectivity should be largely unaffected. A plan indicating the proposals is enclosed in Appendix 1.
48. A planning application for a new walking and cycling route linking Aylesbury Vale Parkway station to Waddesdon village and Manor House has been submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC). It is hoped this will form part of a wider National Cycleway between London and Birmingham, but this local connection is being taken forward as a 'quick win', and could be worth around £1.2 million from the Department of Transport. Alan Lambourne attended the public meeting, held in Waddesdon on 17th March 2016, which indicated overwhelming support. Comments can be made on the AVDC planning portal under reference 16/01759/APP: <https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications//search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>
49. The number of planning applications affecting rights of way has increased markedly, from 219 Y/E 31st March 2015 to 260 Y/E 31st March 2016. This is an important area of work as it can attract hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of investment in the network on paths linked to development sites.
50. Comments have been made on consultations on Wycombe District Council's 'allocated sites' at Gomm Valley, Abbey Barn South, Terrier's Farm (all High Wycombe) and Slate Meadow (Bourne End).
51. The number of new donors to the Chiltern Society's Donate-a-Gate scheme now stands at 339. The spring edition of Chiltern News included donating a gate under '51 things to do in the Chilterns' in the Society's 51st year.

For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695

C. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)

52. A 'Summary of Works' is attached to this report in Appendix 1a, outlining work carried out by the Rights of Way Operations Team between 1st April 2014 and 31st March 2015 and 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016.
53. The bridge inspection project commenced in August 2015 with the intention that 400 bridge structures would be inspected up to the 31st March 2016 (end of financial year). Inspections are made on a priority basis, selecting first bridges on byways, restricted byways and bridleways, as they pose the greatest liability and potential

danger to the public if they fail. Full assessments are carried out to inform likely funding sources for repairs. Unfortunately it has become obvious that not all bridge structures have been recorded during earlier surveys. The total number of bridges inspected last financial year was 411, of these 54 were not recorded on the database. There is a plan to carry out a further 400 bridge inspections during the forthcoming financial year, but this target depends on staff and financial resources. With a number of vacancies within the team it has been necessary to review how this target can be achieved. One solution would be to seek assistance from volunteers to survey small sleeper bridge structures. However, volunteers would require training and equipment to carry out bridge surveys on behalf of Transport for Buckinghamshire.

54. Members of the Forum will recall that the Devolvement Project was 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. Funding was given to parish councils wishing to employ their contractors to undertake rights of way clearance work. Over 20 parishes took part in the scheme in 2014/15 amounting to 80 km of clearance in those parishes. The 2015/16 devolvement scheme had 45 parishes, carrying out approximately 170km of rights of way clearance, and the agreements also included other highway clearance and maintenance works. The latest information on the Devolvement Project for this coming financial year is that there are 86 parishes undertaking rights of way summer clearance as part of that agreement (Appendix 1b).
55. It is necessary to update the group on the current staffing levels in the Rights of Way Operations team. The current structure outlines positions for 7 FTE staff, 1 RoW Team Leader, 3 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officer and a Bridge Structure Inspector. The South Area RoW Officer post became vacant in August 2015. Unfortunately, due to financial constraints it will not be possible to recruit for that post at this current time. Additionally the Rights of Way Officer for Central Bucks, Rosie Taylor has a new position within Transport for Buckinghamshire and regrettably no longer works for Rights of Way. The current proposal is that this position will be advertised internally within the next couple of weeks.

For further information please contact: Joanne Taylor 01296 383410