



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 6

Date: 8th March 2017

Title: LAF members' report

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Membership

1. Brian Worrell joins the Forum representing carriage drivers. Brian belongs to the British Driving Society for Beds, Bucks and Herts and is a volunteer for the Buckinghamshire Restoring the Record Project.

Open Access

2. Natural England consulted the Forum under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 on the renewal of two seasonal closures on land at Bledlow Ridge. Members responded in a letter dated 16th January 2017, a copy of which is enclosed in Appendix 4.

Stoke Mandeville Bypass

3. At the November 2016 meeting it was promised to outline more detail of the footpath crossings of the new Stoke Mandeville Bypass. These are highlighted in Appendix 5.

Restoring the Record Project

4. This aims to research lost rights of way on the basis of historical evidence before the definitive map cut-off date on 31st December 2026. The Project now has 112 volunteers covering 110 county parishes. The spatial spread of volunteers is illustrated in Appendix 6. Ross Osborn has been a keen and energetic volunteer co-ordinator since May 2016, but with the bulk of recruitment completed he has now retired from the project, moving onto volunteer with the Chilterns Conservation Board.
5. Alison Heath has been asked by Phil Wadey and Sarah Bucks to act as a reviewer for the 2nd edition of their book 'Rights of Way: Restoring the Record'. Alison's job is to highlight the parts readers may find difficult. The book is being thoroughly revised and Alison is about half way through the manuscript.

Joint LAF work

6. The Chairman of the Oxfordshire Local Access Forum raised the subject of 'access post-Brexit', at the joint LAF meeting in Maidenhead. Her aim is to raise the profile of access in any replacement for Rural Payments following the UK's exit from the EU.

Her idea is to draft a letter to the Conservative MP Richard Banyan suggesting that farmers receive pro-rata *additional* rural payments if they have rights of way crossing their land. This would act as compensation for the inconvenience of the public accessing their land (e.g. crop removal) and aid the creation of new rights of way. Do the LAF have any thoughts on this idea to feed back to the Oxfordshire chairman?

Other relevant items addressed at the meeting were:

- installing mounting blocks and signage along the Jubilee River to allow horses to be led under the low and narrow M4 motorway bridge, and arranging a joint meeting with the Environment Agency (Sarah Bowbrick) to discuss other Jubilee River improvements;
- including the A412 cycling and equestrian bridge crossing between Black Park and Langley Park in the Slough Local Plan; and
- a note that Nick Farthing taken over from Peter Challis at Sustrans

Chilterns Walking Festival

Details of this event are in Appendix 7. Ideas or feedback for the Chilterns Conservation Board would be welcome.

Trail Rider's Fellowship

Chris Hurworth would like to highlight some joint work the Fellowship are doing with Hampshire county council to improve a byway (Appendix 8).

LAF dates for 2017

7. Dates of the next meetings are at 10am in Mezz 1, on 12th July 2017; and 8th November 2017.