



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 8th March 2017

Title: Rights of Way group update

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Contact Officer: Christina Beevers (01296 382938)

A. DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM – OUTSTANDING CASELOAD (HELEN FRANCIS)

MATTER DETERMINED BY RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

1. **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 10-12 May 2016 and 13 September 2016. **The Order has not been confirmed by the Inspector.**
2. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **Order made, objection received so the matter has been referred to the Secretary of State.**
3. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Order made, objections received so matter referred to the Secretary of State. Public Inquiry will be held 18 July 2017.**
4. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmere Field. **Order made, objections received, matter will be referred to the Secretary of State.**

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 urgently.

5. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Application dated 5 December 2013. Under Investigation – scheduled for mid-2017 Committee.**

6. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2017 Committee.**
7. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2017 Committee.**
8. **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 late-2017 Committee.**
9. **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 early-2018 Committee.**
10. **Thornborough** – application to record a public footpath around the field off Back Street. **Application dated 6 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2018 Committee.**
11. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2018 Committee.**
12. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2018 Committee.**
13. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Application re-prioritised as affected by development – scheduled for early-2017 Committee.**
14. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
15. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 - scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
16. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 – scheduled for late-2018 Committee meeting.**
17. **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 early-2019 Committee meeting.**
18. **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 early-2019 Committee meeting.**
19. **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 re-prioritised as affected by development – scheduled for early-2017 Committee meeting.**

20. **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 mid-2019 Committee meeting.**
21. **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 early-2017 Committee meeting.**
22. **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 mid-2019 Committee meeting.**
23. **Leckhampstead** - Application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 5 (part) to Public Bridleway and add a route which connects with No.5 as Public Bridleway. **Application dated 21 June 2016 – scheduled for late-2019 Committee meeting.**
24. **Chesham** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Fair Leas and Asheridge Road. **Application received 20 December 2016 – scheduled for late-2019 Committee meeting.**

C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

25. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Instructions sent to Legal to make an Order.**
26. **Quainton** – Application to divert Bridleway No 21. **Awaiting completion of works.**
27. **Biddlesden and Turweston** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 6 and 8. **Awaiting further details from the applicant, the application will then be consulted on again.**
28. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 13 (part). **Under consultation.**
29. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No.17 – **Awaiting completion of works.**
30. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Order re-made, in objection period.**
31. **Aston Clinton** – Application to divert public footpaths No. 6 under the Town and Country Planning Act – **Order re-made, objection period finished 8 February 2017, awaiting completion of any works.**
32. **Little Missenden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 4 – **Order made. Awaiting completion of works.**
33. **Mentmore** – Application to divert Footpath No. 1 – **Under consultation.**
34. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **in discussion with applicant and neighbouring landowner.**
35. **The Lee** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **awaiting further information from the applicant.**

36. **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.**
37. **Steeple Claydon** – Application to divert Footpath No 6. **Order Made. ON HOLD until further notice.**
38. **Wing** – Application to stop up Footpath No. 14 – **Order re-made. Awaiting completion of work on site.**
39. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Awaiting completion of works on site**
40. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No.21. **Awaiting decision on planning permission before progressing the matter.**

D. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

41. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **A Public Inquiry is being held 15th – 17th March 2017**
42. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Under investigation.**

Background Papers

None

For further information please contact: Helen Francis 01296 387123

B. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)

43. The HS2 Bill saw its 3rd reading in the House of Lords on 31st January 2017. Royal Assent should have been secured by 28th February 2017. The county council will then receive a works programme for the first 6-months of construction activities, which is likely to include works to undertake road realignments (for example, Calvert Road, Steeple Claydon); construct the Stoke Mandeville Bypass; setting-up construction compounds; surveying and ground investigations. The majority of the early works will be habitat creation. Enabling contractors have been appointed by HS2 for work to 2019, when the main railway works are likely to commence. The first draft works programme will be available mid-February 2017. Trains are due to be running in 2026.
44. Further to the presentation on the new Maintain My Street System for reporting highways defects (potholes), etc. at the last meeting, and the successful deployment of the 'CAMS Web' system in Oxfordshire, an officer from Exegesis is attending county hall to demonstrate the system to the definitive Map Team and Enforcement Team leaders. The new system will allow a more streamlined and interactive problem reporting system for both officers and users. If successful the target will be to bring the system online this year.
45. The pre-submission draft for the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan is likely to be open for a 6-week public consultation in April 2017 before submission to government. Currently, there is a proposal to reduce the housing target from 33,000 to 26,800. Similarly, the Wycombe pre-submission document is due around April 2017, but the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan pre-submission will not be due until late summer 2017. The Slough Local Plan is also out for public consultation and Alison may respond on behalf of the BHS over their desire for a crossing of the A412. Members may wish to make their own response.

46. The Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008 -2018 is due for renewal over the next 24 months. The first part of the process will be to look back and reflect on progress to deliver upon the aims and ambitions of the 2008-2018 Plan. A discuss will also be needed to identify areas where targets have not been met, but both will inform the process of producing a new Plan.
47. The number of new donors to the Chiltern Society's Donate-a-Gate scheme now stands at 350, an increase of 11 since the June 2016 meeting. The North Bucks Donate-a-Gate project, led by the rRIPPLE group, is progressing, with the rRIPPLE volunteers are installing around 1 gate per week.

For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695

C. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)

48. The team are working in partnership with Oxfordshire county council and the landowner to replace a bridge on the county boundary between Chetwode and Godington. The bridge is on Chetwode Bridleway 24 which has been closed for 2 years in the interests of public safety. Costs of the repair are split 3 ways with each party paying one third of the costs of replacement. On completion the bridleway will be reopened.
49. Members of the Forum will recall the Devolvment Project makes funds available to parish councils in order to undertake summer path clearance. In 2016/17 there were 86 parishes undertaking rights of way summer clearance. There isn't likely to be an increase in the number of parishes undertaking devolvment for 2017/18. When available a list of the parishes involved for this summer will be published on the county council's web site.
50. The current staff structure outlines positions for 7 FTE staff: 1 RoW Team Leader, 3 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officer and a Bridge Structure Inspector. At the time of writing this report the team had 4 FTE, with 2 vacant posts and one member of staff on maternity leave.
51. Appendix 3 shows the Rights of Way Operations output from 1st April 2015 to 31 January 2017, and includes a break-down of works undertaken by volunteers.
52. Additional larger projects considered for completion during this spring are: 1. replacement of the deck on an equestrian bridge on Denham BW52 (currently closed in the interests of safety); 2. replacement of a footbridge on Wendover FP9 (currently closed in the interests of safety); 3. replacement of a footbridge on Preston Bissett FP18 (currently closed in the interests of safety); 4. repairs to a large 73 metre long bridge on Dorney FP1; and 5. repairs to the surface on Soulbury bridleway number 11, which has been damaged by water erosion.

For further information please contact: Joanne Taylor 01296 383410