



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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### AGENDA ITEM 7

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Title:** LAF members' report

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#### Membership

1. Clive Harriss joins the Forum as Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment, replacing Netta Glover and Warren Whyte. Clive is the Conservative County Council Member for the Bernwood Division (Haddenham, Long Crendon, Worminghall) and Wycombe District Council member for the Icknield Ward.

#### Public Spaces Protection Order

2. The Local Access Forum voted 11-0 against the proposed Wycombe District Council closure of Footpath 80 High Wycombe on the grounds of anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately, the author of the report to the Town Committee interpreted the attendance at the July LAF meeting (11 out of 14 members) as the vote (i.e. 11-14 against). Nevertheless, the High Wycombe Town Committee agreed to recommend at their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 to close the footpath, for Cabinet Member, Cllr Graham Peart to sign off. It is not anticipated he will oppose it. However, Kate Ashbrook, Open Spaces Society, wrote to Cllr Peart on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017 urging him not to close the footpath. Further information will be provided as details emerge. A question at the last meeting raised if there was an appeals process. In relation to appeals to PSPOs, the legislation says:

An interested person may apply to the High Court to question the validity of—

- (a) a public spaces protection order, or
- (b) a variation of a public spaces protection order.

An 'interested person' means an individual who lives in the restricted area or who regularly works in or visits that area.

#### Chiltern Society Volunteers – Annual Meeting

3. A meeting is held annually with the Chiltern Society Area Secretaries and Path Maintenance Volunteer Leader to review the year's working practices and discuss working more efficiently in future. This year the meeting is at the Full Moon, Hawridge HP5 2UH and LAF members are very welcome to attend.

## **East West Rail**

4. Alan Lambourne attended an EWR public consultation event on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017 relating to the Transport and Works Act Order Environmental Statement.

Those affected rights of way in Buckinghamshire are as follows:

**Marsh Gibbon** -MGI/5/1

**Poundon No. 2**- POD/2/1

**Charndon No. 3** - POD/4/2, CHA/3/1

**Twyford No 2 & 3** - TWY/3/1

**Middle Claydon No. 8** - MCL/8/1, SCL/1/3

**Middle Claydon No's 4 & 6** - MCL/4/1, MCL/6/2, MCL/6/1, MCL/4/2

**Verney Junction** - MCL/2/1, MCL/2/2

**Winslow FP No. 5** - ADD/11/1, WIS/5/1

**Winslow FP No. 17** - SWA/17/1 (incorrectly named by EWR)

**Moco Farm No. 2** - SWA/1/2

**Swanbourne Old Station** - MUR/19/1, LHO/27/1, SWA/20/

**Swans Way** - LHO/20/1, MUR/13/1

**North Bucks Way No.1** - WAD/3/5

**Griffin Lane** – AYL/7/1, AYL/8/1

## **Hockeridge Wood Disabled Access Improvements**

5. Gavin and Andrew have been investigating the possibility of replacing two narrow kissing gates at Hockeridge Wood, Ashley Green with the Royal Forestry Society. Gavin has designed metal gates that incorporate RADAR operated disabled locks into the existing design. Andrew has been successful in applying for £720 from the Chesham 'Walkers Are Welcome' initiative, and will give the money to the Chiltern Society's Donate-a-Gate Scheme to facilitate the installations.

## **Chilterns Walking Festival**

6. Gavin led disabled access walks at Ivinghoe Beacon and the Grand Union Canal in Leighton Buzzard. Andrew led four walks, three of which were HS2 themed, giving an opportunity to experience the landscape around Wendover, Great Missenden and Denham before it changes. All walks proved to be very popular. Andrew also reports that the Chesham 'Walkers are Welcome' scheme has been working with Chesham Museum to produce four downloadable history walks around the town. The next stage is to upload them to a specialist walking app.

## **British Horse Society Bridleways Officer (South Bucks)**

7. Sarah Fisher is the new BHS Area Bridleways Officer for South Bucks. She is a horse rider and keen mountain biker, so has a great interest in access to the local bridleway networks and their upkeep. Her volunteer role will cover:
  1. being contact and liaison for horse riders wanting to improve, protect and widen the network for equestrian users;
  2. being a representative of the horse riding community amongst other interested parties with respect to broader policies and planning matters relating to bridleways and access;
  3. being a contact for research and submissions for the Restoring the Record project to ensure all bridleways are on the definitive map ahead of the 2026 cut-off.

Sarah can be contacted via email: [sarahfisher2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sarahfisher2@yahoo.co.uk);

The two other BHS Bridleway Officers in the county are Alison Heath (Aylesbury / north Bucks) and Tina Munday (Buckingham).

### **Restoring the Record update**

8. There are two further sessions being run in Henley and Bicester, with both being taken by Phil Wadey & Sarah Bucks. Registration is through either the Open Spaces Society or British Horse Society. To book, please see link below.  
<http://www.oss.org.uk/what-we-do/training-courses/>
9. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Rights of Way Restoring the Record, by Sarah Bucks & Phil Wadey is out now and available online. <http://www.restoringtherecord.org.uk/>
10. I've been asked by Jacky Akam ([jakam@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:jakam@chilternsaonb.org)) from the Chilterns Conservation Board to signpost RTR volunteers you to their project, 'Chalk, Cherries & Trees' <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/about-chilterns/landscape-partnership-scheme.html> There is some cross-over between the CCB's scheme and the RTR project, primarily because they are looking to record landscape features such as sunken lanes, and RTR volunteers will be researching these routes which might have unrecorded public rights. Contact has been made with RTR volunteers to see if they would like to volunteer for the CCB project.

### **LAF dates for 2017**

11. The dates of the next meetings are 21<sup>st</sup> March, 25<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018.