



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# Report

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### AGENDA ITEM 5

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

**Title:** Rights of Way group update

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#### **DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM – OUTSTANDING CASELOAD (HELEN FRANCIS)**

##### **A. CAMSWEB**

1. The County Council is moving forward with its implementation of the CAMSWeb module. The module is expected to bring a number of improvements to the service. These include an improved customer and volunteer based system; jobs can be assigned to volunteers, customers can easily track issues and keep a log of all the issues they have reported. The module is also expected to bring savings in the medium term as it will improve efficiency; taking out the double handling of issues which is currently occurring and automatically uploading legal notices to the County Council's website.
2. The mandate for CAMSWeb was approved by the Technology Support Group on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and we are currently awaiting the confirmation of a Project Manager to move the project forward.

##### **B. NEW STATEMENT OF PRIORITIES**

1. In recent years the number of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders and Public Path Orders has increased. Unfortunately this has coincided with reduced staff resources. This increased pressure on the service highlighted the requirement to update the previous Statement of Priorities which was initially produced in 1989.
2. The 1989 statement lacked detail and simply said that applications were dealt with in chronological order of receipt, but prioritised if the need had arisen. Due to the increase in applications, and likely future increase, a more intuitive and detailed way of prioritising applications was needed to be able to manage competing pressures.
3. A new Statement of Priorities (Appendix A) was produced in March 2017. It details the strategic aims we are working towards, the type of applications we respond to and under what circumstances we would prioritise an application over another. The statement has been applied retrospectively to applications.

## C. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE

1. **Edgcott** – application to record Lawn House Lane as a Public Footpath to Public Footpath 11 Edgcott. **The Order was advertised and objections received; the Order and objections have been referred to the Secretary of State; Public Inquiry scheduled 10 October 2017.**
2. **Iver** – application to record route from Grange Way to Colne Orchard as a Public Footpath. **Application dated 10 September 2013. The Order was advertised and objections received; the Order and objections have been referred to the Secretary of State; Public Inquiry held 18 July 2017 and adjourned until 21 and 22 November 2017.**
3. **Great Missenden** – application to record route across Widmer Field. **Application dated 10 October 2014. The Order was advertised and objections received; the Order and objections will be referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**
4. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Order to be made shortly.**
5. **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. Order to be made shortly.**

## D. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED TO COMMITTEE.

All Definitive Map Modification applications are dealt with in chronological order of receipt. However, we will prioritise certain applications under the following circumstances:

- I. The evidence in support (either fully or in part) of the application is that of User Evidence
  - II. There is a threat of development affecting the claimed route
  - III. If the evidence in support of the application is shared with another application within the chronological list and it would be efficient to investigate the applications concurrently
1. **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.**
  2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2018 Committee.**
  3. **Thornborough** – application to record a public footpath around the field off Back Street. **Application dated 6 January 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2018 Committee.**
  4. **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.**

5. **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 mid-2018 Committee meeting.**
6. **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 – to be considered at the next Rights of Way Committee meeting.**
7. **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 late-2018 Committee meeting.**
8. **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-2018 Committee meeting.**
9. **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 early-2019 Committee.**
10. **Quinton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2019 Committee.**
11. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for mid-2019 Committee.**
12. **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 mid-2019 Committee.**
13. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2019 Committee meeting.**
14. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 - scheduled for late-2019 Committee meeting.**
15. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 – scheduled for early-2020 Committee meeting.**
16. **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-2020 Committee meeting.**
17. **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-2020 Committee meeting.**
18. **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 mid-2020 Committee meeting.**

19. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford – **scheduled for late-2020 Committee meeting.**

## **E. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS**

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order Made, waiting for completion of works.**
2. **Biddlesden and Turweston** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 6 and 8. **Order made and advertised, no objections received so the Order will be confirmed.**
3. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 13 (part). **Order made and advertised, no objections received, awaiting completion of works.**
4. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Order made, awaiting completion of works.**
5. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **in discussion with applicant and neighbouring landowner.**
6. **The Lee** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Instructions to Legal to draft Order.**
7. **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.**
8. **Wing** – Application to stop up Footpath No. 14 – **Awaiting completion of work on site.**
9. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Awaiting completion of works on site**
10. **Lane End** – Application to divert Footpath No. 9 – **Instructions to Legal to draft Order.**
11. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Under consultation.**
12. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 - **Informal consultation to be started.**
13. **Chepping Wycombe** – Application to divert Footpath No. 47 – **Instructions to Legal to Draft Order.**
14. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Footpath No. 1 – **Under investigation.**
15. **Calvert Green and Steeple Claydon** – Application to temporary divert Footpaths No. 5 and 17 for quarry works – **Instruction to Legal to Draft Order.**
16. **Iver** – Application to temporary divert Footpath No. 15 for quarry works – **Instructions to Legal to Draft Order.**

17. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2 – **Instructions to Legal to Draft Order.**

18. **Ibstone** – Application to divert Footpath No. 16 – **Under Investigation.**

## **F. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS**

19. **High Wycombe** – land at Meadow Close, Wycombe Marsh. **Public Inquiry held 15-17 March 2017, will be presented to the next Rights of Way Committee.**

20. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started.**

**For further information please contact: Helen Francis 01296 387123**

## **G. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)**

21. The council has drafted planning advice for landowners and developers (Appendix B) and the Forum's comments are sought.

22. Maintenance works have been completed on the Jubilee River between Maidenhead and Dorney to repair sections of footpath eroded since the paths were brought into use by the Environment Agency, and undertake bridge repairs on Footpath 1 Dorney Parish (DOR/1/1). The council was allocated £30,000 as part of a Section 106 Agreement to fund ongoing maintenance, and following these works all the money has now been spent. As members may know, this riverside route between Maidenhead and Windsor forms part of the National Cycle Network and is fully disabled accessible.

23. Most of the work being undertaken by National Grid to replace overhead power lines has now been completed and the rights of way network alongside has largely been reopened.

24. The Rights of Way Operational team returned in-house from Ringway Jacobs in June 2017. David Sutherland, Head of Planning & Environment, has since commissioned the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) to undertake a benchmarking review of the Rights of Way teams. A workshop hosted by APSE, with all right of way staff attending, took place in September 2017 in order to review current work and consider benchmarks with other authorities. APSE will make recommendations to help the council develop the service to ensure sustainable and improving performance, while recognising current challenges such as:

- managing a growing network;
- devolved functions to Parishes / Local Groups;
- use of volunteers;
- charging powers and their potential for the future;
- commissioning work;
- systems and processes within BCC i.e. Confirm and CAM system; and
- resourcing - potential for shared services/operations/recruitment

Proposed recommendations will be reported to the Forum in March 2018.

25. The latest The latest update report from North Bucks RIPPLE group (Ramblers volunteers), which includes their Donate-a-Gate project and all other work undertaken on the network, can be found via this link:

<http://www.bucks-wmiddx-ramblers.org.uk/donate-a-gate.html>

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 they have installed 27 gates to replace stiles.

**For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695**

#### **H. RIGHTS OF WAY OPERATIONS UPDATE (JOANNE TAYLOR)**

26. I can report current staff structure is 6 FTE staff: 1 RoW Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officer and a Bridge Structure Inspector. At the time of writing this report the team had 5 FTE in post with one vacancy out for recruitment with interviews likely mid-October.
27. Appendix C shows the Rights of Way Operations output from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 30<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and includes a break-down of works undertaken by volunteers.
28. I can report on the outcome of the additional projects that were hoped to be completed during this financial year:
- replacement of the deck on an equestrian bridge on Denham BW52 (currently closed in the interests of safety); Quotations received, work to be allocated;
  - replacement of a footbridge on Wendover FP9 (currently closed in the interests of safety); Quotations received - order raised;
  - replacement of a footbridge on Preston Bissett FP18 (currently closed in the interests of safety); Quotations received, order raised;
  - repairs to the surface of the Thames Path in Marlow (near Temple) – completed;
  - repairs to Bridleway 8 in Hillesden, subject to the issuing of a badger licence - completed
29. The Devolvement Project has made funds available to parish councils in order to undertake summer path clearance on rights of way, with a total clearance anticipated at 253 kilometres. The number of parishes taking part this year was 86. A list of parishes is available on the county council's website at:  
<http://old.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3716655/Best-Case-T2-calculations-2016-01-20.pdf>

**For further information please contact: Joanne Taylor 01296 383410**