

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2017 to March 2018

Name of LAF	<b>Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum</b>
Name of LAF Chair	Richard Pushman
Name of LAF Secretary	Jonathan Clark

Total number of LAF members	13
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	7
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	2
Number of members representing other interests	4

Number of full LAF meetings held	3	Number of sub-group meetings held	0
Number of working groups led by others	0	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	0
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?	2	How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?	£720.00
How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)?			45

**Partners your LAF worked with during 2016/17** (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Wellbeing Boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEADER funding Local Action Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>

**LAF achievements/making a difference?**<sup>1</sup> Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Do you think your LAF has made a difference to public access in your area via its discussions and actions?

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<sup>1</sup> These achievements form an important part of the national annual report that is submitted to Defra/Minister and help to promote the work and good practice of LAFs

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The main role of the LAF is to provide independent strategic oversight of public access in the county, but the LAF has volunteered to become involved in a number of specific projects as outlined below. Combined, these have has a positive outcome for public access.

The LAF sucessfully lobbied the county council in support of expenditure to purchase CAMS Web, a database and mapping system which aims to improve upon the public's experience reporting issues. It also aids disabled users planning trips and helps council officers with their day to day workload management.

Two LAF members led walks at the spring and autumn Chilterns Walking Festival, including a disabled ramble along the Grand Union Canal.

The LAF reviewed and comment upon two council strategies: 1) prioritising Definitive Map Modification Orders and Public Path Orders; and 2) the council's Rights of Way Planning Advice.

A LAF member provided help in editing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Rights of Way Restoring the Record, by Sarah Bucks & Phil Wadey.

The LAF regularly hear regular updates, monitor and provide advice on the work of the council's Definitive Map, Maintenance and Strategic Access teams and how this should be prioritised.

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

	Consultations	Advice	Optional Detail
Green Infrastructure strategies	0	0	
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	1	1	1. A LAF member attended and provided feedback to Network Rail on the East West Rail project public consultation event at Waddesdon Village where opinions were invited on their Transport and Works Act Order Environmental Statement.
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)	0	0	.
Public open space (public space protection orders)	1	1	The LAF commented on and advised against making a Public Spaces Protection Order by Wycombe District Council to closure Footpath

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			HWU/80 in High Wycombe due to anti-social behaviour. Unfortunately, the Order was eventually made and the footpath closed, but the LAF made helpful comments to try and resolve the matter.
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	0	
Planning applications /Housing development schemes	0	0	
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	0	0	
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	1	1	1. The LAF provided advice to the Slough Local Plan, Issues and Options Consultation regarding improved bridleway connections and access across the county boundary between authorities, in particular a road crossing between Black Park and Langley Park.
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	1	1	LAF members commented upon proposed diversions routes as part of the East West Rail project.
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off	0	0	
Right of Way Improvement Plan reviews	1	1	The LAF provided initial advice on the timetabling and review structure of the first ROWIP in the lead up to the production of the second ROWIP in the following financial year.
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	0	0	

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Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	0	0	
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	0	0	
Parish Council or other grant schemes	0	0	
Access for people with reduced mobility	1	1	Two LAF members respectively provided disabled access advice and bid successfully for £720 to a local fund the Chesham 'Walkers Are Welcome' initiative to install two accessible RADAR gates enabling disabled access into a large woodland near Chesham. They worked with the Chiltern Society volunteers to provide labour to install the gates.
Commons, village greens	0	0	
Open Access land restrictions	0	0	
Coastal Access/National Trails	1	1	The LAF heard a talk from the Ridgeway National Trails Officer seeking LAF advice on strategic links into local towns along the route in order to attract increased visitor spending in local shops and raise the profile of the trail locally.
NNR dedication	0	0	
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	0	0	
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)	0	0	

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Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.	0	0	
Forestry and woodland	0	0	

Any other LAF activity (please specify):

**What are your top priorities for the year ahead?**

1. To provide advice from the public consultation on the production of a new ROWIP for which an extra-ordinary meeting in May 2019 has been organised.
2. Maintaining the profile of the LAF to ensure they remain an important consultee on access;
3. Maintain a relevant and experienced membership and recruit a new person to represent cyclists.

**Do you foresee any issues or challenges that may affect your LAFs operation and/or its ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?**

No

**Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities or work program for next year?**

None

**Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and

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None

### Comments from the Appointing Authority

The LAF provides excellent advice to the council. Members challenging decisions and priorities in a robust manner, but meetings are always friendly and good humoured. Gradual improvements in funding for rights of way have been positive. While the amount of housing growth and major infrastructure projects in the county has been large, members have responded in an engaging positive and creative manner. Membership numbers continue to remain stable and we are grateful to Forum for their excellent advice over the year. We are lucky and privileged to have such long-standing and committed volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds that provide the council with well-informed advice. We are still without a cycling representative, but will prioritise recruitment next year. The council's Democratic Services continue to help LAF meetings with secretarial support.

### Comments from LAF Chair

TBC

### Any other comments

None