



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

**WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2019 AT 10.00 AM
MEZZANINE ROOM 1, COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY**

AGENDA

Agenda Item	Page No
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Matter Arising / Minutes of the last Meeting to be confirmed Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2018 to be confirmed.	3 - 8
4 Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028 Update Update to be provided by Mrs S Bayne, Blackwood Bayne Ltd.	9 - 14
5 Ridgeway Riding Route Update to be provided by Ms S Wright, Ridgeway National Trail Officer and Mr K Foster, Cycling UK.	15 - 18
6 Rights of Way Group Report Updated to be provided by Mrs H Francis, Definitive Map Team, Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer and Ms J Taylor, Operation Team Leader.	19 - 28
7 LAF Members' Report	29 - 36
8 Any Other Business	
9 Date of Next and Future Meetings Pre-meeting arranged at Stafford Room, Stables Block, Green Park, Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton HP22 5NE – 10.00am Tuesday 21 May 2019.	

24 July 2019, 2.00pm at Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury

There will be a 10-minute break at 11am



Buckinghamshire County Council

Minutes

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2018, IN COUNTY HALL, AYLESBURY, COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM AND CONCLUDING AT 11.46 AM.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr R Pushman, in the Chair

Mr D Briggs, Mr J Elfes, Mr C Hurworth, Mr A T A Lambourne, Mr G Caspersz, Mr G Thomas, Ms A Heath and Mr B Worrell

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr J Clark, Mrs C Hudson, Mr P Turner and Ms G Naeem

OTHERS PRESENT

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr A Clark, Mr B Chapple, Ms S Bayne and Mr N Harris.

Two visitors were welcomed to the meeting.

- Ms Helen Hall, Programme Manager, HS2 AONB Review Group, Chilterns Conservation Board, had been looking to allocate £3m environmental mitigation from HS2 along a 3km corridor either side of the new railway through the Chilterns, including improvements to access and recreation and wanted to meet members.
- Mr Paul Harris, Access Strategy and Development Officer, Oxfordshire County Council, Secretary of the Oxfordshire Local Access Forum and Member of the Wiltshire Local Access Forum was in attendance to observe.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. ACTION NOTES / MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2018 were **AGREED** as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2008-18 REVIEW

The background on reviewing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was provided by Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer, as follows:

- Mrs S Bayne, a consultant, had been undertaking ROWIP work.
- The review for the ROWIP consultation had started and would be completed by December 2018, ready for sign-off by the Cabinet Member Mr Chapple.
- The proposed timetable had slipped due to Mrs S Bayne starting later than planned, but consultation on the new Plan would start early 2019.
- Mrs C Hudson stated that the Plan would be finished in January 2020, condensed a little from the original target of April 2020.
- Mr J Clark stated the council would be 1-year without a Plan.
- Mr Clark confirmed the government had proposed a single Unitary Council for Buckinghamshire, with a new Chief Executive and Senior Management Team likely to be in place by early 2019. The May 2019 District Council elections were likely to be delayed until May 2020.
- Mr J Clark hoped the Local Access Forum (LAF) would have the opportunity to voice any concerns on the shape of the new council to ensure that there was a continuous rights of way service to the public in the new authority.

A member discussion session followed, structured around the objectives of Chapters 5 and 7 and aiming to inform the ongoing ROWIP review. A written summary would be presented in the papers of the 20th March 2019 meeting.

ACTION: Mr J Clark

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the report.

A minutes silence was held in honour of Sir John Johnson, ex-Chairman of the Chilterns Conservation Board, champion of the countryside who had a long association with promoting walking and recreation, who had died recently.

5. RIGHTS OF WAY GROUP REPORT

The Rights of Way Group report was presented to the forum by Mrs C Hudson, Definitive Map and Land Charges Team Lead and Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer.

Mrs Hudson noted item number 20 at Berkhamstead, a Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) for a public bridleway and one of Ms A Heath's applications, was being moved up to number 7 on the list of investigations as it was now supported by user evidence.

The Chairman questioned the 4-year backlog. Mrs Hudson stated that was probably about right. Ms Hudson stated that they had recruited to another Definitive Map Officer post, so there would be three officers plus a senior officer and Team Leader working on all Public Path Orders (PPOs) and Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO's). This would ensure quicker completion.

East West Rail

Mr Clark gave an update on East West Rail. The Transport and Works Act order to build the scheme was submitted to government in July 2018. There were some enabling works starting early next year, such as access routes and environmental mitigation. The Council had registered a number of objections which would be heard at a public inquiry in early 2019. Construction would take place between 2020 and 2024.

HS2

Mr Clark gave an update on HS2. Environmental mitigation and moving utilities continued, with the next project being around Quainton and Grendon Underwood, where national grid would move electricity pylons. Mr D Briggs questioned the length of closure. Mr Clark clarified they would be much shorter than 18 months, but needed to be that long to account for contingencies. Mr Clark also highlighted that members of the forum might be aware of the Great Missenden Haul Road which had uncovered important archaeological remains.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

Mr Clark gave an update on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway: a Highways England promoted motorway proposal between the two towns to support 1m new homes. The Council were invited to comment on possible route options, but it was unlikely rights of way would shape or impact on the final route choice. Mr Clark stated however that if the motorway did follow the East West Rail corridor it would provide opportunities for a multi-user route between Oxford and Milton Keynes, running through Buckinghamshire that could link to railway stations and improve people's travel choices. The Council's baseline requirements were set out in the reports included in the agenda as well as Highways England's plan outlining their preferred route, corridors B1 and B3.

Mr P Harris stated from Oxfordshire's perspective that the Council was very concerned about the proposal in the B corridor which would use the A34, because it was already past capacity and the Council thought it should go to the south-east of Oxford. He said there was a document by the Infrastructure Commission entitled: 'A New Deal for the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford Arc', and he would circulate a link to the forum.

ACTION: Mr J Clark

Mr Clark stated the Council's position supported a route nearer to Aylesbury, but Highways England rejected that proposal. A member of the forum asked where the new houses were going. Mr J Clark stated that he was unsure, however thought that it would likely be around Bicester and Milton Keynes.

A member of the forum asked if there would be money to mitigate problems that arise from where the road cuts across rights of way and opportunities to improve routes, especially across county boundaries. Mr Clark confirmed there would be ROW mitigation and opportunities for improvements.

Mr Clark stated there had been a meeting of the Chiltern Society's Rights of Way Group along with some of the maintenance volunteers. It was an annual meeting to look at working practices and how the volunteers could work better together. The meeting would take place at the Full Moon Pub at 10am on Friday 30 November 2018; and members of the forum were invited to attend.

RESOLVED: The members of the forum NOTED the report.

6. LAF MEMBERS' REPORT

The LAF Members' report was presented to the forum by Mr J Clark.

The following updates were highlighted:

The Slough Local Access Forum site meeting took place which Bucks LAF members were invited to attend. The meeting looked at a possible multi-user bridge between Black Park and Langley Park. No members were able to attend, but feedback was provided by Mr A Fowler, Head of County Parks. He had helpfully sketched a bridge for the papers, but suggested a bridge was likely to be prohibitively expensive, having to span four lanes of traffic and complicated by the fact Langley was a Grade II listed historic landscape. The Chairman raised his concern and asked why had Slough met in Bucks and who would pay for a bridge. Mr Clark explained many Slough residents accessed both Bucks Country Parks so they had an interest. A new bridge would likely be funded by any Slough growth into South Bucks, which had its own political sensitivities.

- There was a BBQ held at Black Park, attended by LAF Members Mr G Caspersz, Mr A Clark and Mrs Heath and hosted by LAF Member and Cabinet Member Mr B Chapple, to thank volunteers for their work in the county. Mr G Caspersz confirmed it was an excellent event, with opportunities to network and the park was well worth a visit. The Chairman suggested better notice would improve attendance next year.
- The National Land Access Centre had been launched by Natural England opened by Lord Blencathra at Aston Rowan, and attended by LAF Members, Mr Caspersz and Mr A Clark. A written guide was included in the appendix for members to visit at their leisure. All gates had been numbered and follow a set 'course'.
- Mr Caspersz asked if it was council policy to buy gates from only one supplier; how much was spent on gates per year; and what restricted the council installing more gates. Mr Clark confirmed there was no set policy, but the company Centrewire Ltd were the leaders in gate design and delivered good value for money. However, their delivery time was slow. Centrewire gates were installed at the National Land Access Centre. The council spent around £20,000 to £25,000 per year on gates. The restriction on installations was officer time agreeing gate locations with landowners and undertaking utility searches, then having a workforce available to install the gates. However, the rambles 'RIPPLE' volunteers did a great job installing one gate per week in North Bucks.

A member asked about different ways of funding new gates mentioned at the last meeting. Mr Clark confirmed the Donate-a-Gate Scheme in the south was very successful as was the North Bucks Donate-a-Gate Scheme run by RIPPLE, with both combining to contribute around £10,000 per year in private funding. It was confirmed Mr Caspersz was actually referring to new Government Legislation, post-Brexit, funding access, on the basis of landowners providing new or improved access, with rural payments made to reflect the public benefit. It was confirmed this was just a proposal at present.

RESOLVED: Members of the forum NOTED the report.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ridgeway Delivery Group report was presented by Mr B Worrell, Rights of Way Officer. Mr Worrell highlighted the following:

- Chiltern Gates Project continued successfully, with 18 new gates installed which include five in Buckinghamshire.
- Signage upgrade continued.
- The next Strategic Links would be Tring, Watlington and Princes Risborough.
- The promoted routes spreadsheet was to be re-circulated for comment as there were some routes under discussion to take off and some to be put on.

ACTION: Mr J Clark

- Ms S Wright, Project Officer would discuss HS2 with Mr J Clark to ensure a joined-up approach to improvements.
- The draft paper entitled 'Driving on the Ridgeway' was nearing completion and would be available for comment. It would include a list of Traffic Regulation Orders TROs for review.

8. DATE OF NEXT AND FUTURE MEETINGS

20th March 2019, Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury Buckinghamshire.

Chairman



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 20th March 2019

Title: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018 - 2028

Author: Jonathan Clark

Contact Officer: Ghazala Naeem (01296 383246)

Having opened on 28th January 2019 and continuing until 31st March 2019, the 'information gathering' phase of ROWIP 2 is underway. All responses will be collated and reviewed up to 31st August 2019, after which a draft ROWIP 2 will be written. A further public consultation will be held between September and November 2019 to invite comments on the proposed plan.

At 25th February 2019, a summary of engagement activities are as follows:

- All **parish councils** have received a letter and have been invited to fill in a survey, with 32 of 173 having responded;
- All **Local Area Forums** will receive a briefing presented by Buckinghamshire County Council staff;
- A range of **organisations** have received letters inviting their views (see next page), with the option to complete a stakeholder survey. Some of these have been offered the opportunity to meet;
- A **public survey** has been posted online. Buckinghamshire communications and web teams have been further promoting through social media and all organisations receiving letters have been invited to circulate the link. The response rate has been extremely high, with 1,100 responses. The survey closes on 31st March 2019 and the web link is:
https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Bucks_CC_ROWIP
- A range of **focus groups** are being arranged for early April 2019 to engage with sectors of the community who are not 'usual' public rights of way users. The focus group exercise aims to engage with those with disabilities, health issues, people from ethnic and minority groups and those living in new communities. Several prospective organisations have been suggested by health and community engagement officers at Buckinghamshire County Council. Those who are not invited to the focus groups will receive a letter to invite their views.

The results of the engagement exercise will help to inform priorities and opportunities for inclusion in ROWIP 2. The results will be reported to the LAF at the extraordinary meeting on 21st May 2019 after which members can draw conclusions discuss their priorities for ROWIP 2. A report of the review of ROWIP 1 will also be shared with the LAF. Further details of the agenda of the extraordinary LAF meeting will be forwarded prior to the meeting.

The timetable to produce ROWIP 2 is shown in APPENDIX 1.

Category	Organisation	Approach
User Groups and Wider Public	Local Access Forum	Additional meeting in May 2019
User Groups and Wider Public	Simply Walk	Attend walks
Local Area Forums	Local Area Forums and Local Community Partnerships	BCC reps to update with briefing paper
Bucks CC	Bucks CC members	Briefing paper
Bucks CC	Natural Environment Team	Email to inform
Bucks CC	EWR	Email to inform
Bucks CC	Expressway	Email to inform
Bucks CC	HS2	Email to inform
Bucks CC	Heathrow	Email to inform
User Groups and Wider Public	People with disabilities	Focus Group
User Groups and Wider Public	New communities	Focus Group
User Groups and Wider Public	Black and Ethnic Minority	Focus Group
User Groups and Wider Public	Health and Wellbeing	Focus Group
Neighbouring Highways Authorities	e.g. Central Bedfordshire Council, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire, etc.	Letter
Neighbouring Highways Authorities	Slough Unitary Authority	Letter
District Councils	Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks, Wycombe.	Letter
Parish Councils	Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils	Letter
Organisations	Buckinghamshire and Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership	Letter
Organisations	National Farmers Union	Letter and offer meeting
Organisations	Country Land and Business Association	Letter and offer meeting
Organisations	Chiltern Society Rights of Way Group	Letter

Category	Organisation	Approach
Organisations	Natural England	Letter
Organisations	Historic England	Letter
Organisations	Environment Agency	Letter
Organisations	RSPB	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Sustrans	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Off Road/Trail Riders - Trail Riders Fellowship	Letter and additional LAF workshop in May
Organisations	Equestrians - British Horse Society	Letter and additional LAF workshop in May
LAF Members	Ramblers Association	Letter and additional LAF workshop in May
LAF Members	Trail Riders' Fellowship	Letter and additional LAF workshop in May
LAF Members	Additional LAF members not associated with particular user groups	Letter and additional LAF workshop in May
Organisations	Bucks Conservation Trust	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	CPRE	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Iver and District Conservation Association	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Marlow Society	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Transition Town Marlow	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Byways and Bridleways Trust	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	British Driving Society, Beds, Bucks and Herts	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Disabled Ramblers	Letter and encourage members to take online survey
Organisations	Chilterns Conservation Board	Letter and meeting

Category	Organisation	Approach
Organisations	Ridgeway National Trail	Letter and meeting
Organisations	Thames Path National Trail	Letter and meeting
Organisations	Open Spaces Society	Letter and offer meeting with Ramblers and OSS
Organisations	Ramblers Association	Letter and offer meeting with Ramblers and OSS
Organisations	Colne Valley Regional Park	Letter and offer meeting
Organisations	Tourism - Visit Buckinghamshire	Letter and offer meeting
Organisations	National Trust	Letter and offer meeting
Parish Councils	See separate sheet	Letter and online survey
Bucks CC	Aylesbury Garden Town	Meeting
Bucks CC	Highways - Policy and Strategy	Ongoing liaison
Bucks CC	Sustainable Transport	Ongoing liaison
Bucks CC	Health	Ongoing liaison
Bucks CC	Country Parks	Ongoing liaison

For further information please contact: Sharon Bayne 01622 746316

DRAFT ROWIP 2 Timetable at 23rd October 2018

Element	2018				2019												2020
	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January
Stage 1																	
Inception																	
Review of ROWIP																	
Refining aims, objectives and programme and how to deliver stakeholder engagement and network assessment																	
Produce assessment of ROWIP and ROWIP 2 process and timetable and gain approval of portfolio holder and LAF																	
Preparation for stakeholder engagement																	
Stage 2																	
Stakeholder engagement activities																	
Carry out network analysis																	
Stage 3																	
Analysis of results																	
Drafting of ROWIP 2																	
Internal review of ROWIP prior to publication of 1st draft																	
Consultation (12 weeks)																	
Review of consultation responses																	
Redraft of ROWIP and publication of final plan																	



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 20th March 2019

Title: Ridgeway Riding Route & Circular Routes Vision

Author: Sarah Wright, Ridgeway National Trail Officer
Kieran Foster, Cycling UK

Contact Officer: Ghazala Naeem (01296 383246)

Ridgeway Riding Route

The Ridgeway Partnership hope to make it possible for cyclists and horse riders to connect between Goring on Thames and Ivinghoe Beacon. Cycling UK and the British Horse Society are working with the National Trail Officer to create a Ridgeway Riding Route and volunteers are gearing-up to start surveys.

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum members are invited to provide their thoughts and comments.

Circular Routes Vision

A vision document (APPENDIX 1) has been drafted on circular and linear walks and rides that connect with The Ridgeway. This vision aims to set out how the demand for shorter, day walks and rides can be met, alongside the long distance walking and riding provided on the Ridgeway.

In the attached vision, there is a draft list of Ridgeway landmarks and highlights that visitors may be interested to discover whilst using the Trail – these have been linked to the Ridgeway's 5 themes (ancient, natural, creative, living, sporting), with the idea being that the circular walks and rides could include the best of these attractions and so open up the area for people to explore the trail corridor.

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum members are invited to provide their thoughts and comments.

For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695

Vision for Ridgeway circular and linear routes promoted by The Ridgeway Partnership

We aspire to offer a set of circular and linear walks and rides which:

1. Provide opportunities for all Ridgeway user groups – walkers, cyclists, horse riders.
2. Offers experiences for the full range of abilities within these user groups, from easy/introductory to moderate to difficult/challenging. However, since a National Trail is pitched as being an ‘introduction’ to long distance walking/riding and since as many people as possible are invited to enjoy Trails, the main focus should be upon easy to moderate. This applies to The Ridgeway in terms of distance, complexity of navigation, distance from services/remoteness, gradient and surface condition. See table below.

User group	Distance range (miles)	Maximum gradient
Walkers - challenging		
Walkers – able bodied, moderate		
Walkers – easy access		
Cyclists – challenging		
Cyclists – able bodied, moderate		
Cyclists – easy access		
Horse riders - challenging		
Horse riders – able bodied, moderate		
Horse riders – easy access		

3. There should be at least one walk and one ride in the Chilterns and in the North Wessex Downs AONB which could be considered ‘easy access’, i.e. family friendly, accessible to disabled people using trampers.
4. Inspires people to visit The Ridgeway and try areas they have not visited before.
5. Provides positive visitor experiences throughout the year.
6. Is convenient to travel to, e.g. train station, car parking.
7. Promotes good quality and distinctive local businesses.
8. Encourages sustainable and responsible behaviour.
9. Meet or are close to meeting ? National Trail standards in terms of the quality of the signage, structures and surfaces.
10. Strengthens The Ridgeway and National Trail brand, including the website.
11. Recognises the assistance of partners and volunteers in the maintenance of the routes.
12. Celebrates the highlights/landmarks on and very near The Ridgeway, giving people positive experiences of these features. These features do not necessarily have to be well-known but they must be special. Together these features must convey the full ‘story’ and local distinctiveness of the Trail in terms of range of natural and cultural heritage, local communities, great local services, sporting challenge etc. They have been grouped into first and second tier and their attributes linked to the Partnership’s 5 themes – see following table.

First tier (national/international highlights marked yellow and * indicating it is marked on Ridgeway mapboards)

Ref	Highlight/landmark	County	Grid ref	Ancient / attractive historic	Natural / Landscape / viewpoints	Creative / Spiritual	Living	Sporting
A42	*Bledlow Cross	Buckinghamshire		Y				
A43	*Whiteleaf cross / *Neolithic barrow / Nash brother artists / Whiteleaf and *Brush Hill nature reserves Chiltern Society	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y	Y		
A44	*Granglands SSSI BBOWT	Buckinghamshire			Y			
A45	*Pulpit Hill SSSI / hillfort National Trust	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y			
A46	Chequers Knap SSSI	Buckinghamshire			Y			
A47	Kimble box woods	Buckinghamshire			Y			
A48	*Chequers / prime ministers	Buckinghamshire		Y			Y	
A49	*Coombe hill SSSI National Trust/ *Bacombe BBOWT / *monument / trig point	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y			
A50	*Chiltern Brewery, Butlers Cross	Buckinghamshire					Y	
A51	Wendover village	Buckinghamshire		Y			Y	
A52	*Wendover Woods and Aston Hill mountain bike centre Forestry Commission / *Boddington hillfort	Buckinghamshire		Y	Y			Y



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 6

Date: 20th March 2019

Title: Rights of Way group update

Authors: Helen Francis, Interim Definitive Map and Local Land Charges Team Leader; Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer; and Joanne Taylor, Team Leader – Rights of Way Operations

Contact Officer: Ghazala Naeem (01296 383246)

DEFINITIVE MAP TEAM – Outstanding Caseload

A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED BY COMMITTEE

1. **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. Awaiting permission from one of the landowners to allow an Inspector access to the land to walk the Order route.**
2. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Order made and advertised, objections received. Awaiting response from Objector. If objection not withdrawn the Order will be sent off.**
3. **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. Connected with No.2 above. Order made and advertised, objections received.**
4. **Great and Little Kimble and Ellesborough** – Prohibition Order along BOAT Nos. 40, 40A and 62. **Draft Order advertised, objections received and under consideration. Second report presented to Committee 26 February 2019. Committee agreed to implement an all year round Prohibition Order preventing access for motor vehicles. Motorcycles and quadbikes to be permitted 12 months of the year but must apply for a yearly permit to use the byway. The Prohibition Order will be reviewed after 12 months.**
5. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Application dated 5 December 2013. Application accepted by Committee. An Order will be made and advertised.**

B. 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, discussions with developer regarding a Creation Agreement.**
 2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Under investigation – scheduled for mid-2019 Committee.**
 3. **Thornborough** – application to record a public footpath around the field off Back Street. **Application dated 6 January 2016. Rejected by Committee – 26 February 2019. CASE CLOSED.**
 4. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Under investigation – scheduled for mid-2019 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-2019 Committee meeting.**
 6. **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-2019 Committee meeting.**
 7. **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.**
 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 early-2020 Committee meeting.**
 9. **High Wycombe** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Pinewood Road and Public Footpath No. 93. **Application received 3 October 2017 – scheduled for early-2020 Committee meeting.**
 10. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Application received 9 October 2017 – scheduled for mid-2020 Committee meeting.**

11. **Penn** – Application to add a route to the Definitive Map between Public Footpath No. 36 and No. 44. **Application received 19 December 2017 – scheduled for mid-2020 Committee meeting.**
12. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement – Awaiting acknowledgement and addition to the register of applications. **Investigations not started – scheduled for late-2020 Committee meeting.**
13. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018 – scheduled for late-2020 Committee meeting.**
14. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started – scheduled for late-2020 Committee.**
15. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2021 Committee.**
16. **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 early-2021 Committee.**
17. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started – scheduled for early-2021 Committee meeting.**
18. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 - scheduled for mid-2021 Committee meeting.**
19. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016 – scheduled for mid-2021 Committee meeting.**
20. **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 mid-2021 Committee meeting.**
21. **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 late-2021 Committee meeting.**
22. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford – **scheduled for late-2021 Committee meeting.**

C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order Made, awaiting for completion of works.**

2. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 13 (part). **Order made and advertised, no objections received, awaiting completion of works.**
3. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **Awaiting draft Order.**
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 – **Awaiting draft Order.**
6. **The Lee** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Order advertised, objection received. The Order will be sent to the Secretary of State for determination.**
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 – **works completed, awaiting adoption of alternative route.**
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 – **Order made, no objections received, awaiting for completion of works on site.**
11. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Confirmed Order being advertised.**
12. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 – **Confirmed Order being advertised.**
13. **Chepping Wycombe** – Application to divert Footpath No. 47 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
14. **Coleshill** – Application to divert Footpath No. 1 – **Made Order to be advertised 8th February 2019.**
15. **Calvert Green and Steeple Claydon** – Application to temporary divert Footpaths No. 5 and 17 for quarry works – **Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to be made until works finished.**
16. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 – **Investigation not started.**
17. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
18. **Chesham** – Application to extinguish part of the width of Footpath No. 114 – **Order to be made.**
19. **Aston Clinton** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3, 4 and 6 under the Town and Country Planning Act – **Order to be made.**
20. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6 – **Order to be made.**

21. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 35 - **Investigation not started. NO FURTHER ACTION.**
22. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 11 – **Investigation not started. NO FURTHER ACTION.**
23. **Fulmer** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2 – **Under investigation.**
24. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Awaiting a revised application.**
25. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 21. **Made Order advertised. Order to be confirmed.**
26. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Made Order advertised. Confirmed Order advertised.**
27. **Aylesbury** – Application to extinguish Footpath No. 7. **Order to be made.**
28. **Little Missenden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 8. **Under investigation.**
29. **Slapton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 14. **Investigation not started.**
30. **Thornborough** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6. **Investigation not started.**
31. **Slapton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6. **Investigation not started.**

D. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

1. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started.**
2. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **Investigation not started.**

Background Papers

None

For further information please contact: Helen Francis 01296 387123

E. STRATEGIC ACCESS UPDATE (JONATHAN CLARK)

32. HS2: at present there is little disruption to the rights of way network as a result of HS2 construction, with contractors allowing for minor diversions while temporary utility, fencing, archaeology and ecology works are undertaken. Any closures or diversions are advertised on the council's website at the following location, where a link can be found named 'HS2 Construction Closures and Diversions' with maps enclosed.

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/changes-to-public-rights-of-way/>

33. We continue to process applications under Schedule 4, Part 2 of the HS2 Act 2017 to grant permission for HS2 related works and attend monthly meetings with HS2 and their contractors as part of the Traffic Liaison Group. Denham Bridleway 3 alongside the M25 near Maple Cross (Chalfont Lane) remains the only route fully closed (estimated 7 years) in order to construct the Chilterns tunnel portal. Contractors have shared with us preliminary bridge designs for rights of way crossings and we have made early representations regarding surface construction

and legally recorded widths. We have also had our first meeting with HS2 contractor Eiffage Kier to discuss detailed bridge designs between Chesham Road, Great Missenden and Bowood Lane, Wendover.

34. Bilateral meetings are scheduled with Heathrow Airport Ltd throughout 2019 with regard to the 3rd Runway and associated development. We have suggested strategic connections from Heathrow to Iver, Black Park, Pinewood Studios and Slough. So far only proposals within the development's red line have been made (i.e. outside Buckinghamshire), but the council are lobbying for wider 'Blue' (flood storage) and Green Infrastructure improvements.
35. District Council planning consultations continue apace, with the number affecting rights of way remaining high, for example, 63 responses were made in January 2019, mainly to AVDC. Major development areas include the site named 'Land West Aylesbury', situated along the 'infill' between Ellen Road, Aylesbury and HS2, to include a new link road with the A418. Outline applications have also been submitted north-west of the railway line in Princes Risborough as part of the town's planned growth. This will potentially involve around 4 crossings being closed and diverted or provided with a bridge or underpass.
36. The Chilterns Donate-a-Gate scheme has had 30 new donors in 2019 totalling 55 gates. The Ramblers Donate-a-Gate project through RIPPLE's (North Bucks) continues to provide significant funds to purchase new gates.

For further information please contact: Jonathan Clark 01296 387695

F. ROW OPERATIONS UPDATE (Joanne Taylor)

37. The current staff structure is 6 FTE staff: 1 RoW Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officers and 1 Bridge Structure Inspector. The bridge inspection officer is currently on maternity leave, but is set to return in Mid-May.
38. APPENDIX 1 shows the Rights of Way Operations output from 1st April 2016 to the 31st March 2018, and it includes a break-down of works undertaken by volunteers. A third column has been added including work completed up to the end of December 2018.
39. Capital projects update:
 - Iver bridleway no 30 bridge replacement; Completed
 - Chesham FP107 bridge renovation; Work underway, additional work Id'ed
 - Great Missenden FP33 A413 bank steps; Completed
 - Bledlow BW59 surface works; Project on hold – Clearance undertaken
 - Thames Path Marlow 1 Surface/Bank stabilisation - Completed
 - Stewkley FP2/2 surface and drainage works - Completed
 - Great Marlow BW52 Gullied surface repairs – Completed
 - Ivinghoe FP37 - Bridge replacement – Ordered – commence March
 - Ellesborough BW51 surface works. – Completed
 - Hillesden BW11A – stabiliser badger setts – Completed
 - Fawley FP12 – Bridge Replacement – Ordered – commence March
42. Extra capital money was acquired for works to be carried out in this financial year on Hillesden Bridleway 11A, Great Marlow BW52, Ivinghoe FP37 and Fawley FP12. This will reduce the amount of money available for capital projects for next year 2019/20 by the equivalent amount of overspend in 2018/19.

- 43 Wexham BW21 improvements have been put on hold due to a possible County Council planning application to carry out major groundworks on the site.
- 44 The County Council commissioned additional works crews for clearance over the summer which enabled the RoW north Gang to carry out important bridge repairs and replacements, with 64 bridges completed so far this financial year. However there are now 84 bridges awaiting repair or replacement, a slight increase over the year.
- 45 Launch of the new Rights of Way online reporting tool CAMs Web has been set back several months due to 'accessibility' compliance. However, testing is in the final stages and hopefully it will be due to go live shortly.

For further information please contact: Joanne Taylor 01296 383410

**Buckinghamshire County Council - Rights of Way
Summary of Maintenance Carried Out
Between 1/04/16 and 31/12/18**

TYPE	DESCRIPTION			
		April 16 - Mar 17	April17- Mar 18	1 April18- Dec18
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	55	8	23
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	135km	90km	108KM
Bridge	Installed or repaired	82	33	55
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	139	186	83
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	17	18	9
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	95	75	64
Intimidation + animal	Intimidation - resolved	28	18	11
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	10	7	4
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	17	6	6
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	211	91	95
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	30	8	8
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	277	260	224
Obstruction - resolved	Locked Gate	27	12	13
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	131	96	120
Other	Delivery of materials	45	32	24
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	45	27	50
Stile	Installed or repaired	226	159	142
Stile	Stile To Gap	17	8	6
Stile	Stile To KG	56	47	33
Stile	Stile To PG	79	38	20
Terrain	Bank Steps	19	7	1
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	117	66	57
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	171	147	141
Issues Signed off		2443	1668	1462
Volunteer Hours	The Chiltern Society	1717	1341	1046
Volunteer Hours	RA Only	698	717	801
Improvements	To aid mobility access	247	168	123
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	66%	76%	74% interim
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	97%	91%	86% interim
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	89%	92%	91% interim
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/12	799		
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/13	1150		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/14	1085		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/15	1423		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/16	1531		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/17	1114		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/18		1498	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 16/01/2019			1739
% of issues in targ time	Category C issues on Matrix	73%	47%	80%
% of issues in targ ave.	% Enf issues in targ time in mth	74%	69%	75%

Above includes

Clearance direct from BCC
Miscellaneous Jobs
Waymarking and signs
Gates Repaired and installed
Bank Steps
Stiles replaced and repaired
Trees removed
Total Jobs
Hours

Volunteer Jobs Completed

149 jobs/36km	99 jobs/26km	93/19.3km
17	4	14
121	102	95
67	79	53
7		
75	62	22
69	82	40
536 jobs	432 jobs	317
2415 hours	2335 hours	1847 hours



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

Date: 20th March 2019
Title: LAF members' report
Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer
Contact Officer: Ghazala Naeem (01296 383246)

Annual Review

1. The Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Report for April 2017 – March 2018 has been drafted and members are asked to review and agree the content (APPENDIX 1).

Events

2. Andrew Clark will be leading a number of walks during the spring Chilterns Walking Festival between Saturday 18th May 2019 and Sunday 2nd June 2019. The programme includes more than 50 guided walks, events and activities.

2019 LAF dates

3. 21st May 2019 ROWIP review meeting (Green Park); 24th July 2019 (county hall) and 6th November 2019 (county hall).

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form April 2017 to March 2018

Name of LAF	Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum
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		Local Enterprise Partnerships	
Health and Wellbeing Boards		LEADER funding Local Action Groups	

LAF achievements/making a difference?¹ 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?

¹ 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

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2017 to March 2018

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 2nd 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

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2017 to March 2018

			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	

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2017 to March 2018

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	

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2017 to March 2018

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) bodies²

² 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

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2017 to March 2018

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

English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.