



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Democratic Services, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1UA

The Sponsorship, Landscape and Recreation Division
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Your Ref:
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Date: September 2005

Dear Sir

CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE AMENDMENT OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2002

On behalf of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum, I have the following comments in respect of the proposals contained in the above-mentioned document.

Proposal 1. We agree that the Regulations should be so amended.

Proposal 2. We agree that the Regulations should be so amended.

Proposal 3. We consider that the appointing authorities **should** carry out the type of consultations outlined.

Proposal 4. We agree that the Regulations should be so amended.

Proposal 5. We consider that appointing authorities **should** be so required.

Proposal 6. We agree that a copy of annual reports should be forwarded to the Countryside Agency.

Proposal 7. We have no particular view on the reduction of minimum numbers from 10 to 8.

Our views on (A). There is strong feeling that if public access policies are being developed by bodies such as (in particular) The Environment Agency or by an AONB / Conservation Board that they should be compelled to 'be mindful' of the advice of the Local Access Forums operating within the area. We are not clear on the mechanics of this and whilst we would not wish that the same formal procedures (in terms of meetings etc) should apply to bodies other than the highway / access authority, we feel that Local Access Forums should, at least, be statutory consultees for any such proposals or strategies.

Our views on (B). No additional views to those in (A) above.

Our views on (C). There is concern as to the lack of any discernible link between

Local Access Forums and the NCAF and we feel that this must be developed further.

Our views on (D). We have no specific comment to make.

Our views on (E). The examples of good practice that we have are, effectively, those referred to within the 'Review of Local Access Forums' document. For example: -

- Training sessions on ROW matters, Definitive Mapping, access, LTP etc.
- Specific presentations by outside organisations, such as English Nature, AONB, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, etc.
- Site visits
- Email network between meetings
- Regular ROWIP progress reports
- Sub-Groups to work up specific issues
- Ensuring time is given over to consider all relevant Government Consultation documents

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Elfes', written in a cursive style.

John Elfes
Chairman, Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum