



Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum agenda

Date: Wednesday 3 March 2021

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: MS Teams Virtual Meeting

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Agenda Item	Page No
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interest To disclose any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.	
3 Minutes of the Last Meeting/ Matters Arising To confirm the minutes from the meeting held on 23 September 2020.	3 - 8
4 Definitive Map Modification Order Targets To be presented by Mr R Jennings, Cycling UK.	9 - 12
5 Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 – 2030: Action Plan To be presented by Mr P Fox, Rights of Way Structures Inspector.	13 - 14

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| 6 | Rights of Way Group Report
To be presented by- Mrs H Francis, Interim Definitive Map & Land Charges Team Leader; Mr J Clark, Strategic Access Officer; and Ms J Taylor, Operations Team Leader. | 15 - 30 |
| 7 | LAF Members' Report | 31 - 44 |
| 8 | Any Other Business | |
| 9 | Date of Next Meetings
Wednesday 14th July 2021- 10am
Wednesday 3rd November 2021- 10am. | |

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Christina Beevers on 01296 382938, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum held on Wednesday 23 September 2020 in MS Teams Virtual Meeting, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.00 pm.

Members present

Mr D Briggs, Mr G Casperz, Mr A Clark, Mr N Harris, Ms A Heath, Mr R Jennings, Cllr A Turner and Mr B Worrell

Others in attendance

Ms C Beevers, Mr J Clark, Mr P Fox, Ms C Hudson, Ms N MacHaye and Ms J Taylor

Agenda Item

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

Mr J Elfes - Ramblers Association, Mr G Thomas - Independent, Cllr L Clarke OBE - Buckinghamshire Council, Cllr N Naylor - Buckinghamshire Council, Cllr A Lambourne – Parish Councils.

Changes in Membership-

Mr J Clark confirmed Cllr N Naylor and Cllr A Turner were made new members on the Local Access Forum following the new Buckinghamshire Council coming into being on 1st April 2020. As an independent body, the Local Access Forum remains otherwise unchanged.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3 Matters Arising

There were none.

4 Aylesbury Garden Town and Garden Way

Ms Ulrika Diallo, Aylesbury Garden Town Project Lead, Buckinghamshire Council gave an overview of the presentation appended to the minutes.

The masterplan link: <https://www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk/masterplan>

It was outlined the Garden Town Project in general:

1) Aylesbury had been awarded Garden Town status in Jan 2017 and the Garden Town team had now developed a Masterplan to 2050 (to be circulated after the meeting) and a governance structure was also in place;

2) Garden Town status aimed to develop Aylesbury as a more sustainable and 'green' town;

3) The Garden Town Strategic Board oversaw the project, with representation from Councillors, NHS, Homes England, Parish Councils, Town Council, and Local Enterprise Partnership;

4) Ms U Diallo sat within a Project Delivery Team, which included officers from transport, property and planning, while 'working groups' sat under that group;

5) Homes England funded the project via central government, which included 50 similar Garden Town projects across England;

6) The Garden Town Masterplan sought high level targets including (i) 50% of land as public green space in new communities, (ii) an increase biodiversity net gain of 20%, and (iii) at least 50% of trips originating by sustainable modes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. All high ambitions, but achievable;

7) Headline projects included: (i) Garden Way, which had been drafted on a plan by urban design specialists and landscape designers, aimed to connect existing and planned blue and green infrastructure, walking and cycling routes (bridleways, footpaths and Gemstone cycling routes); (ii) Town Centre Action Plan (includes a socio-economic study looked at why Aylesbury fell short of similar market towns to attract visitors and shoppers); (iii) an Infrastructure Supplementary Planning Document sat under the new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) that focused on a design guide for Aylesbury; (iv) a link road network that removed traffic from the town centre, with the Garden Way sitting inside the link roads; and (v) community projects would include a food growing network, Friends of Aylesbury Station to improve the arrival experience (installing hydraulic bike stands and revamping the station, such as hanging basket).

Communication and engagement would take place, to emphasise feedback, collaboration and ownership by the public. The existing Market Square and Kingsbury Square development projects would work in parallel with the Garden Town teams. A 'Design Charette' would take place (an extended workshop) to

include Aylesbury residents. Initial 'capacity funding was through Homes England to develop strategies and design principles, but future funding bids would be needed thereafter. Visual design examples were noted in the presentation slides.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Mr D Briggs asked how much would the Garden Way cost? At this point there was no set budget for the Garden Way project, but having looked at other commissions locally, such as the Waddesdon Greenway, it was likely to cost approximately £15 million, taking into account the cost per kilometre.
- It was confirmed that stakeholder mapping was currently underway, and this would be extensive. It was confirmed that schools, hand cycle users and local cyclists to Aylesbury would be included in the process.
- Mr R Jennings suggested a loose surface wouldn't be appropriate for activities such as shopping, and he would like early input on surface design; Mrs Heath suggested Flexi-pave was preferred by horses.
- Mr R Jennings requested a further offline conversation with Ms Diallo on stakeholder input from cyclists.

ACTION: Mr R Jennings/ Ms U Diallo

- Mr A Clark raised questions on long-term maintenance and protection of greenspaces. Maintenance was uncertain, but it was likely a stewardship model would be set-up to engage local communities to manage each green space. The land would be protected, but the mechanism by which this would be secured was uncertain.

5 Public Spaces Protection Order

Mr J Clark gave an overview of the report provided:

Cllr Lesley Clarke OBE, local member for Desborough Road, was due to speak in support of renewing the 3-year closure order but was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr L Clarke's recommendation was to renew the closure order. The existing order was due to expire in October 2020 and covered a public footpath in Desborough Road, which was closed by gates at either end. Objections to renewing the order had already been registered by the Ramblers, Open Spaces Society and Chiltern Society.

Mr J Clark was happy to formulate a response on behalf of the Bucks Local Access Forum following discussion of their recommendations.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Cllr A Turner felt that this would not be a great loss to the local area if a closure went ahead as there was an easy detour around the block. Anti-social behaviour was concerning for local residents and had been an ongoing issue for a number of years. There were currently rejuvenation work in the area and it was hoped once these had been completed the access route could potentially reopen.
- Mr C Hurworth supported Cllr Turner's comments due to the anti-social

behaviour.

- Mr N Harris outlined the route was ideal for encouraging anti-social behaviour, being hidden away at the back of houses; it wasn't a great loss and supported the closure, perhaps looking to re-open in 3-years' time.
- Mr A Clark confirmed the route was continuous with surrounding pedestrian networks and the diversion along busy streets was less attractive; it would also displace the same anti-social behaviour elsewhere. Mr A Clark also asked if the process remained the same in light of Unitary.
- Mr J Clark confirmed that, although Buckinghamshire now had a unitary council, the process and consultees remained unchanged.
- A vote was taken for and against the proposed closure. Of the voting members, six were in favour of the closure and one was against.

RESOLVED: The forum **AGREED** in favour of the access closure.

6 Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 - 2030: Action Plan

Mr P Fox gave an overview of the Action Plan appended to the agenda. An updated document was appended to the minutes.

Buckinghamshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was adopted in April 2020 and the next stage is to produce an Action or Delivery Plan, a draft of which had been circulated in advance. The action plan translated the aims and objectives of the main ROWIP into actions with a timetable, in the context of resources and priorities, and which partners could help deliver the actions?

The following points were raised in discussion:

- Mr D Briggs confirmed it was an impressive and wonderful piece of work. The ROWIP item had been on the Agenda for some time and would continue to be into the future.
- Cllr A Turner noted this was a very thorough and impressive piece of work and commended and appreciated the Team's work.
- Mr B Worrell agreed it was an excellent piece of work. Mr B Worrell, Mr A Clark and Mr R Jennings all wanted to feedback comments offline.
- Mr P Fox reminded the LAF of their statutory role in the process and the need to comment annually throughout the 10-year Action Plan. The deadline for comments was 12th October 2020.

ACTION: All Members

7 Rights of Way Group Report

Ms C Hudson, Mr J Clark and Ms J Taylor gave an overview of the report provided.

The following points and questions were raised in discussion:

- Section A, point 4 (Great & Little Kimble) it was clarified the only prohibition was Motorcycles.

Mr J Clark confirmed HS2 construction had formally started and included a number of footpath closures. An additional footpath link to South Heath from Great Missenden had recently been reopened having been previously been closed by HS2's contractors. This was a particular problem for visitors unfamiliar with the area. New diversion signs had been agreed. Significant closures would be in place around Calvert and Steeple Claydon. The website would update both HS2 and East West Rail closures in detail. The Dorney Rowing Lake closure would reopen once fencing had been constructed. The two donate-a-Gate projects (Ramblers and Chiltern Society) had been on hold in the last 6-months as work parties were cancelled. All were now back up and running, but with limited capacity in some areas due to social distancing restrictions and vulnerable volunteers remaining shielded.

Ms J Taylor provided BVPI figures for 2019 and confirmed the 'paths easy to use' measure should have been 66%. Capital Project delays were experienced during lockdown as contractor's stayed at home. Denham Bridleway 52 had been closed due to a bridge failure. A temporary structure was in place at Fawley alongside the Thames. Two additional clearance teams were employed over the summer of 2020 and most jobs were now complete. Officer inspections were suspended during lockdown, so some catch-up works were still being undertaken. Covid-19 resulted in a big increase in users reflected by an increase in landowner concerns reported. Around 50 complaints were received due to signs erected stating footpaths were closed (or similar). The volunteer crews from the Chiltern Society and Ramblers were also suspended due to Covid-19 which had reduced gate installations significantly.

- Mr Briggs noted he had seen a significant increase in walkers using his land during the lockdown period.
- Mr B Worrell asked about the impact of delegated powers? There was a discussion regarding the implications of officers now having delegated powers to determine applications which were once determined by the Rights of Way (ROW) Committee. It was confirmed that the officers who provided the reports and research to the previous ROW Committee were the same officers who will be working towards determining the applications now, and therefore the forum could be assured that the same level of expertise and knowledge would be applied. Whilst this now created extra responsibility for the officers, it was hoped it would help to determine applications quicker due to no longer being restricted by Committee timetables. There was the option to refer some cases to the Strategic Sites Committee if the Service Director deemed it necessary, e.g. if the case was very controversial or the evidence was very finely balanced. Buckinghamshire Council was now in line with many other authorities whose officers had delegated powers and no ROW Committee.
- Mr A Clark asked if a series of accessible bridges were planned from Marlow to the main road in Fawley. Ms J Taylor confirmed that, as part of the rights of way improvement plan, there was a strategy to make bridges more accessible as each is replaced. With regard to Fawley, the aim was to increase the number of sleepers on each bridge, so they were wider.

- Mr A Clark requested a progress report on 'CAMS web' software (the system by which the public registered network issues online and by which the council then managed those reports). An update would be shared at the next meeting, but to note with the introduction of 'CAMS web' 18 months ago there had been a significant increase in the number of reports as the system made it easier for the public to report issues.

ACTION: Ms J Taylor

- An offline conversation would take place with Mr R Jennings regarding HS2 temporary closures for construction detailed on the Buckinghamshire Council website and whether users could be provided with automatic updates wherever there were changes.

ACTION: Mr J Clark

8 LAF Members' Report

The forum **NOTED** the report.

9 Any Other Business

- Mr A Clark advised Chilterns Walking Festival was due to take place in October 2020.

10 Dates of Next & Future Meetings

03 March 2021 - venue to be confirmed.



**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 3rd March 2021

Title: Definitive map modification order targets

Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer

Contact Officer: Christina Beevers (01296 382938)

Local Access Forum member Richard Jennings, Cycling UK, has raised concern regarding the current delay in processing applications by the Council. He has requested information on the status of processing DMMO Applications and how the backlog will be addressed, based around the following:

- i) targets and current DMMO application status;
- ii) addressing the backlog; and
- iii) reporting future progress against targets.

Local Access Forum member, Alison Heath, British Horse Society, updates the Forum with regard to Defra's response (APPENDIX 1) to the petition:

"Extend the 2026 deadline for the recording of historic footpaths & bridleways."

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APPENDIX 1

Government response to the petition:

“Extend the 2026 deadline for the recording of historic footpaths & bridleways.”

We are committed to protecting rights of way. The cut-off date is currently 2026 and could be extended by regulations for up to five years. We are discussing a potential extension with stakeholders.

The Government supports access to the countryside and the benefits this can bring. We are committed to protecting, enhancing and increasing our green and blue spaces, including our network of public rights of way, which are a vital part of our national heritage.

We intend to pass legislation this year to streamline the processes for recording and changing rights of way. This will make it easier and quicker for local authorities to process applications and add rights of way onto the definitive maps, protecting them for the future. As part of this we will bring into force the cut-off date which is the deadline for registering historic rights of way. This will provide certainty about where rights of way exist.

The cut-off date is currently 2026 and could be extended by regulations for a maximum of five years. There are different views on a possible extension, and we are considering this option. An earlier cut-off date will provide certainty about where rights of way exist for users and landowners, as soon as possible. A later cut-off date would allow more time for unrecorded rights of way to be recorded. We are working closely with stakeholders to understand these different views and will take them into account when reaching a decision.

The Government is also supporting and enhancing access to the countryside in other ways. We are working to complete the 2,700 mile England Coast Path that, when completed, will be the longest waymarked and maintained coastal walking route in the world. There will also be new public rights of access to areas of coastal land such as beaches, cliffs and foreshore, in many places for the first time.

We continue to support our network of National Trails and we intend to create a new National Trail across the north of England. We are also looking at how the Environmental Land Management scheme could fund improvements to access, including the creation of new paths.

Our 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to connect more people from all backgrounds with the natural environment for their health and wellbeing. We are committed to supporting people to access and enjoy outdoor spaces.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 3rd March 2021

Title: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020 – 2030: Delivery Plan

Author: Phillip Fox, Rights of Way Structures Inspector

Contact Officer: Christina Beevers (01296 382938)

The new Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030 (ROWIP) came into being on 1st April 2020 and a detailed 10-year ROWIP Delivery Plan (or action plan) has now been published on the website and elected council members have been briefed.

The council agrees with the Delivery Plan timescales presented to the LAF on 23rd September 2020:

YEAR 1	1 st April 2020 – 31 st March 2021
YEAR 2-4	2021 - 2024
YEAR 5-7	2024 - 2027
YEAR 8-10	2027 - 2030

Each statement summarises how the council will manage and improve the network for users, based on the aims and priorities taken from the ROWIP. Details are provided on which team will deliver the actions alongside internal council teams and external partner organisations.

The Local Access Forum will receive updates annually on progress and a rolling review of targets will enable the Rights of Way Maintenance & Enforcement team and Definitive Map team to adapt to any significant changes arising through Buckinghamshire council or national policies.

It is proposed to review Year 1 at either during the July 2021 or November 2021 Local Access Forum meetings, if members agree.

For further information please contact: Phillip Fox 01296 383342

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 6

Date: 3rd March 2021

Title: Rights of Way group update

A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED

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 have been referred to the Secretary of State for determination; **Confirmed by Secretary of State and advertised.**
2. **Denham** – application to upgrade Shire Lane from bridleway to restricted byway. **Application dated 23 January 2016. Order confirmed and advertised.**
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. Rights of Way in Herefordshire, to be removed from Bucks Definitive Map.**
4. **Great and Little Kimble and Ellesborough** – Prohibition Order along BOAT Nos. 40, 40A and 62. **Prohibition order made and came into force from 3rd July 2020.**
5. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 14 to public bridleway status based on historical evidence. **Order made. Objection received, referred to the Secretary of State for determination.**
6. **Little Chalfont** - application to record a public footpath around Statters Field off Burton Lane. **Application dated 13 January 2016. Application presented to Committee and accepted. Order made and advertised. Referred to Secretary of state for determination.**

B. DEFINITIVE MAP APPLICATIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED (DMMO)

All Definitive Map Modification applications are dealt with in chronological order of receipt. However, we will prioritize 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 are ongoing with developer regarding a potential Creation Agreement.**
 2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Application dated 15 January 2016. Under investigation.**
 3. **Wooburn** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 3 between Princes Road Groves Close to byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 26 February 2016. Under investigation.**
 4. **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. Under investigation.**
 5. **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. Under investigation.**
 6. **Chesham** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Fair Leas and Asheridge Road. **Application received 20 December 2016. Under investigation.**
 7. **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.**
 8. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Application received 9 October 2017.**
 9. **Penn** – Application to add a route to the Definitive Map between Public Footpath No. 36 and No. 44. **Application received 19 December 2017.**

10. **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.**
11. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**
12. **Buckingham** – application to add a Public Bridleway to the Definitive Map following the dismantled railway walk from the A421 to Tingewick Road. **Application dated 14 May 2019.**
13. **Chalfont St Peter** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map at Windmill Farm connecting Public Footpath No 19 with Footpath no 55. **Application dated 17 July 2019.**
14. **Chesham** – application to add various routes south of Nashleigh Hill to the Definitive Map connecting with Public Footpath nos. 117, 37 and 67. **Application dated 27 August 2019.**
15. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application dated 27 August 2019.**
16. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started.**
17. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started.**
18. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 25 June 2015. Investigation not started.**
19. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started.**
20. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
21. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
22. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 29 February 2016.**
23. **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.**
24. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford **Application received 27/03/2017.**

25. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17/01/2020.**
26. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19/02/2020.**
27. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 07/03/2020.**
28. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15/03/2020.**
29. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1/05/2020.**
30. **Chesham** – application to add a footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27/01/2020.**
31. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23/10/2019.**
32. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7/12/2020.**
33. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
34. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21/12/2020.**

C. PUBLIC PATH ORDERS (PPO) – decisions made by officers through their delegated powers.

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order Made; awaiting completion of works.**
2. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **Awaiting signed creation agreement.**
3. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 29(part) and 31 and Stop-Up Footpath No. 30(part) and create new Footpath and Bridleway – **Order confirmed. Creation order to be made.**
4. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 – **Order confirmed. Cycle Track Order to be made.**
5. **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.**

6. **Mursley, Swanbourne and Little Horwood** – Application to divert Public Footpaths No. 19, 20 and 27. **Awaiting completion of works on site.**
7. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 – **Confirmed Order advertised. Awaiting works.**
8. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 & 4 – **Order to be made.**
9. **Chesham** – Application to extinguish part of the width of Footpath No. 114 – **Order made and objection received and being considered. CASE ON HOLD.**
10. **Aston Clinton** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3, 4 and 6 under the Town and Country Planning Act – **Order made, confirmed awaiting works to bring into effect.**
11. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
12. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 21. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
13. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Order confirmed. Awaiting works to be completed.**
14. **Thornborough** – Application to divert Footpath No. 6. **Order confirmed.**
15. **Lane End** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 14. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
16. **Beachampton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12. **Order to be made.**
17. **Stowe** – Application to divert Footpath No. 13. **Under investigation. ON HOLD.**
18. **Tingewick** – Application to divert Footpath No. 25. **Order Made. Objections received. Submitted to the Secretary of State for determination.**
19. **Hambleton** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Under investigation.**
20. **Stowe** – Application to divert Bridleway No. 2. **Under investigation.**
21. **Chepping Wycombe** – Application to divert Footpath No 45. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
22. **Waddesdon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 7A. **Order to be made.**
23. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed.**
24. **Aston Abbot** – Application to divert Footpath No. 1. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
25. **Stowe** – Application to divert bridleway no 19, 21 and 23. **Under investigation.**

26. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed, awaiting works.**
27. **Shabbington** - Application to divert Footpath No. 9. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
28. **Wexham** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
29. **Westcott** - Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Order made and objections received. To be submitted to Secretary of State.**
30. **Bierton** - Application to divert Footpath No. 3. **Order to be made.**
31. **Fulmer** - Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Under investigation.**
32. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 12. **Under investigation. ON HOLD.**
33. **Great Marlow** – Application to divert Footpath No.3. **Under investigation. ON HOLD – enforcement action.**
34. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – Application to divert Footpath No.23. **Order to be made.**
35. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpath No.3. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
36. **Princes Risborough** – Application to divert footpath No.26. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
37. **Buckland** – Application to divert footpath No. 7 – **Order to be made.**
38. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13 – **Under investigation.**
39. **Wingrave** – Application to divert footpath No. 11 – **Order to be made.**
40. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70 – **Order to be made.**
41. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – Application to divert footpath No. 23-2 – **Order to be made.**
42. **Little Horwood** – application to divert footpath No.4 – **Order to be made.**
43. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5 – **Application received.**
44. **High Wycombe** – application to divert footpath No. 59 – **Order to be made.**
45. **Oakley** – application to divert footpath No. 29 – **Under investigation.**

46. **Ashley Green** – application to divert footpath No. 7D – **ON HOLD, applicant resubmitting planning application.**
47. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – diversion of footpath No. 3 – **Order to be made.**
48. **Winslow** – cycle track order to be made – **Application received.**
49. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14 – **Under investigation.**
50. **Kingsey** – diversion of footpath No. 1 – **Application received.**
51. **Ashley Green** – diversion of footpath No. 5B – **Application received.**
52. **Steeple Claydon** – creation agreement connecting existing footpath with Queen Catherine Road – **Creation Agreement to be made.**
53. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6 - Under investigation.

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.**
3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Application rejected – Trigger Event.**
4. **Chesham** – land in Lye Green. **Investigation not started.**
5. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Investigation not started.**

To note

As part of the transition to the new Buckinghamshire Council, the Rights of Way Committee has been removed. Officers now have delegated powers to determine applications which would have previously been determined by the Rights of Way Committee i.e. Definitive Map Modification Order Applications and Village Green Applications.

E. Strategic Access Update

1. The number of rights of way closures and diversions as a result of construction increases as construction begins to start. Powers to close rights of way are contained in Schedule 4 of the HS2 Act. Issues have previously arisen with onsite diversion signage, but it is hoped communication with HS2 contractors has established a clear signage protocol. Additional issues have arisen with landowners feeling they have license close rights of way even though HS2 have ceased working in the area (e.g. Footpath SMA/10 [boarded up railway crossing]; and Bridleway WEN 37/1 [locked gates at weekends]). These matters have been referred to the Enforcement Team. A full list of major diversions are on the

website, ranging from major closures for several years (whereby the original right of way is lost forever), down to minor diversions or contractors driving along footpaths. The latter are not covered on this list:

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

2. HS2 contractors have recently outlined closures at pre-application meetings, commencing 1st April 2021, mostly for at least 3 years, for stretches between Stoke Mandeville and Waddesdon. Only one footpath – the Waddesdon Greenway – remains open while construction takes place. While some of these footpaths and bridleways are relatively remote, there is concern the busier areas, for example, around south-west Aylesbury, and perhaps the Chilterns with higher visitor numbers (between Great Missenden and Wendover), where connectivity is severed for significant periods. No details are yet available for the Chilterns or north of Waddesdon. The HS2 Bill outlines on ‘Map Books’ the proposed temporary routes, based around constructing bridges first then allowing the public access while the line is built, but these have been abandoned in favour of ‘compressing the construction period’ and closing most routes. The LAF will be consulted when more ‘route-wide’ information is available.
3. In the coming months, detailed design of features such as bridges, landscape planting and drainage will emerge in ‘Schedule 17 applications’. These are submitted for comments to the local authority. Some unforeseen structures and features not forming part of the HS2 Bill will require planning permission, judged against local plan policy.
4. On the positive side, recent discussion have taken place with the Chilterns Conservation Board and HS2 regarding a new public access route between the Great Missenden North Tunnel Portal (Frith Hill) and Wendover (Nash Lee Lane), utilizing a proposed vehicular maintenance track on the north-east side of the line. This is part of wider landscape and ecology mitigation secured within ‘Undertakings and Assurances’ (commitments made by the Secretary State) when the Bill passed through parliament. The council has stressed the route should be ‘access for all’, including disabled users, walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Further LAF consultation will be available as plans emerge.
5. The timing of the Development Consent Order for Western Rail Access to Heathrow remains uncertain due to Covid-related delays at the DfT. This project impacts upon Iver Footpath 15 (IVE/15/1). Moreover, we have been advised by Network Rail that “*all council work on Western Rail Access to Heathrow should cease*”. It is understood Network Rail anticipate a public consultation after May 2021.
6. Members may recall a presentation to the LAF in March 2020 regarding the proposed ‘Misbourne Greenway’, a proposed walking and cycling route (with equestrian access where possible) between Wendover and Uxbridge. Planning permission has recently been granted for the Great Missenden to Wendover route. The BHS are having conversations with Sustrans to investigate the opportunities some sections may present for providing safer access for horse

riders away from the local roads. The opening of the route will be conditional upon the diversion (and closure) of the railway crossing Footpath GMI/71 near Road Farm, Great Missenden.

7. East West Rail: significant rights of way c disruption continues for around 3 years along the new railway line between Oxford and Milton Keynes. A full list of closures can be found here:
<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/changes-to-public-rights-of-way/east-west-rail-phase-2-temporary-public-rights-of-way-closures/>
8. The Chiltern Society’s Donate-a-Gate partnership scheme with the council has seen 8 new donors since 23rd September 2020 LAF meeting, totalling 8 proposed new gates. Due to the Coronavirus restrictions the Chiltern Society volunteer work parties have all but ceased since April 2020, so the council’s maintenance team and private contractors have been filling the gap. Delays have been inevitable.
9. The Ramblers Donate-a-Gate project (North Bucks RIPPLE) has also been on hold during the recent Coronavirus restrictions. Work parties resumed in August 2020, but ceased again in December 2020 and remain so at the time of writing. APPENDIX 2 summarises the group’s 2020 achievements despite the restrictions.

F. ROW OPERATIONS UPDATE (Joanne Taylor)

- 1 **The current staff structure** is 6.4 FTE staff: 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 2 Area RoW Officers, 2 Assistant RoW Officers and 1.4 Bridge Structure Inspectors. From the 1st March 2021 the South Area Rights of Way Officer Sophie David will be on maternity leave, her post will be covered by the Assistant RoW officer Savannah Fradley.
- 2 **BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey** – interim results for the 5% network survey, carried out between November 2020 and February 2021 are as follows:

Paths rated easy to use	75%
Structures rated easy to use	94%
Routes with roadside signs	94%

- 3 **Capital projects update:**

Route No. & Parish	Works	Stage
Middle Claydon Bridleways	6 plastic Bridges	Ongoing
Denham Bridleway number 52	Large equestrian bridge replacement	Design Engineer engaged
Buckland Bridleway 3	Resurface works	Completed
Amersham FP17	Bridge replacement	Completed

Haddenham FP21	Bridge replacement	Completed
Fawley Footpath No 12 Bridge Replacement	Accessible bridge to replace landowner's structure	Ongoing
Chartridge - Buslins Lane BW7A	Resurface works	Completed
Little Missenden - Featherbed Lane BW24	Resurface works	Site to be re- assessed
Waddesdon Footpath 10	Sluice bridge renovation	Contractor engaged
Marlow - Thames Path	Surface works and bridge renovation	Works Ordered
Wendover Ridgeway	Clearance and resurface works	Started - ongoing
Church Lane – Bledlow- cum-Saunderton	Resurface works	Completed
Chalfont St Giles BW60	Resurface works	Site to be assessed
Denham BW46	Resurface works	Site to be assessed
Marsworth FP8	Resurface works	Site to be assessed
Stokenchurch BW7A	Resurface works	Site to be assessed

- 4 **Fawley Bridge** - in December 2019 the landowner installed a temporary replacement structure. Discussions are still ongoing regarding replacement this bridge with a wider structure.
- 5 **Annual Clearance** - the Council commissioned two extra clearance crews for 10 weeks over the summer to work on the rights of way annual clearance schedule. All scheduled clearance jobs were completed by the mid-August, but additional clearance works reported by the public including winter clearance works are still ongoing.
6. **Restructure – Better Buckinghamshire Review of Services** - Buckinghamshire Council is currently reviewing all service areas, and as part of the outcome of the review an early decision is for the Rights of Way Operations Team and the Definitive Map and Highway Searches Team, from the beginning of March 2021, to sit within the same service area. Both teams will be relocated into Highways and Technical Services under Rob Smith, Service Director, and Councillor Nick Naylor, Cabinet Member.

6. Summary of Maintenance – see APPENDIX 3

For further information please contact: Joanne Taylor 01296 383410

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APPENDIX 2

**RAMBLERS RIPPLE VOLUNTEERS
2020 JOBS LIST**

The total achievement for the period was 24 gates and one stile to gap on the following routes:

7/1/20 Ford DFU/41/1 CAMS 90898 at SP779092. 6 x 5 = 30 man hours.
 14/1/20 Hulcott HUL/7/1 CAMS 90962 at SP850163. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours.
 22/1/20 Weedon WEE/11/1 CAMS 90991 at SP815183. 5 x 6.5 = 33 man hours.
 4/2/20 Weedon WEE/9/2 CAMS 90989 at SP815182. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours.
 11/2/20 Bishopstone SBH/18/2 CAMS 91192 at SP804106. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours.
 3/3/20 Westcott S2G WES/10/1 CAMS 91455 at SP717172. 4 x 5 = 20 man hours.
 10/3/20 Oving OVI/8/1 CAMS 91514 at SP788223. 5 x 7 = 35 man hours.
 18/3/20 Whitchurch WHI/25/1 CAMS 91569 at SP798204. 4 x 6 = 24 man hours.
 29/7/20 Shabbington SHB/9/5 CAMS 92614 at SP664070. 3 x 5 = 15 man hours.
 19/8/20 Dinton with Ford & Upton. DFU/12/1 CAMS 92181 at SP770101. 3 x 6 = 18 man hours.
 2/9/20 Oakley OAK/12/6 CAMS 91136 at SP635118. 4 x 6.5 = 26 man hours.
 8/9/20 Dinton DFU/9/2 CAMS 91898 at SP760103. 3 x 5.5 = 17 man hours.
 16/9/20 Dinton DFU/14/2 CAMS 92182 at SP760104. 3.5 x 6 = 21 man hours.
 16/9/20 Dinton DFU/9/2 CAMS 92183 at SP760103. 3.5 x 6 = 21 man hours.
 22/9/20 Hulcott HUL/6/1 CAMS 83591 at SP854171. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours.
 22/9/20 Hulcott HUL/5/1 CAMS 90963 at SP853167. 5 x 5 = 25 man hours.
 30/9/20 Great Horwood GHO/5/1 CAMS 90889 at SP758319. 4 x 6 = 24 man hours.
 7/10/20 Oakley OAK/12/5 CAMS 92072 at SP633118. 5 x 6 = 30 man hours.
 14/10/20 Chearsley CHR/4/3 CAMS 93406 at SP722105. 4 x 6 = 24 man hours.

21/10/20 Padbury PAD/1/2 CAMS 91896 at SP719308. 3 x 7 = 21 man hours.
 21/10/20 Padbury PAD/1/2 CAMS 91897 at SP719308. 3 x 7 = 21 man hours.
 27/10/20 Great Horwood GHO/5/1 CAMS 93308 at SP760319. 5 x 7 = 35 man hours.
 4/11/20 Ickford ICK/15/2 CAMS 92687 at SP655075. 4 x 6 = 24 man hours.
 2/12/20 Hulcott HUL/4916 CAMS 93495 at SP851170. 4 x 5 = 20 man hours.
 2/12/20 Hulcott HUL/4917 CAMS 93496 at SP851170. 4 x 0.5 = 2 man hours.

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**Buckinghamshire Council - Rights of Way
Summary of Maintenance Carried Out
Between 1/04/18 and 12/02/21**

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	Aprl 18 - Mar 19	Aprl19- Mar 20	1 Aprl20-12Feb21
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	41	31	19
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	112km	149km/361	85km/285interim
Bridge	Installed or repaired	70	78	67
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	137	163	106
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	16	49	35
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	80	104	63
Intimidation + animal	Intimidation - resolved	14	16	16
Intimidating sign/per	Misleading Sign - removed	6	14	38
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	13	16	20
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	123	115	121
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	11	15	39
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	299	276	242
Obstruction - resolved	Locked Gate	17	6	6
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	131	129	113
Other	Delivery of materials	39	43	18
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	62	103	142
Stile	Installed or repaired	188	177	175
Stile	Stile To Gap	8	16	18
Stile	Stile To KG	45	50	28
Stile	Stile To PG	34	52	53
Terrain	Bank Steps	9	9	8
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	93	57	40
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	207	167	144
Issues Signed off		1999	2047	1783
Volunteer Hours	The Chiltern Society	1416	1305	TBC
Volunteer Hours	Iver Volunteers		38	TBC
Volunteer Hours	RA Only	1034	1160	TBC
Improvements	To aid mobility access	167	222	158
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	74%	65%	75%
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	86%	88%	94%
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	91%	94%	94%
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 31/03/19	1740		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/2020		2450	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 12/02/2021			3103
% of issues in targ time	Category C issues on Matrix	74%	63%	tbc
% of issues in targ ave.	% Enf issues in targ time in mth	74%	61%	tbc

Above includes	Volunteer Jobs Completed			
Clearance direct from BCC		129/26.6km	85/15km	61/20km
Miscellaneous Jobs		13	24	9
Waymarking and signs		150	78	59
Gates Repaired and installed		77	105	4
Bank Steps				
Stiles replaced and repaired		29	16	18
Trees removed		53	17	17
Total Jobs		451	325	168
Hours		2450 hours	2472	tbc hours

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

Date: 3rd March 2021

Title: LAF members' report

Author: Jonathan Clark, Strategic Access Officer

Contact Officer: Christina Beevers (01296 382938)

Aylesbury Garden Way

Members have been invited to attend a series of design workshops on the proposed form and alignment of the Garden Way – a circular 'park' for walking, cycling and horse riding route around the outskirts of Aylesbury. This is part of the Aylesbury Garden Town initiative and envisaged to include open spaces for activities such as allotments, cafés, community orchards, gardens and informal play areas. The member for Disabled Ramblers, Gavin Caspersz, attended one workshop. Anyone wishing to be included on the Garden Town mailing list please email ulrika.diallo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk; a draft outline of the route is enclosed in APPENDIX 4.

Public Spaces Protection Order Consultation (PSPO)

At the 23rd September 2020 meeting, the Local Access Forum voted 7-1 in support of the 3-year renewal of the PSPO for Footpath 40 High Wycombe (HWU/80/1). The chairman's letter summarising the Forum's comments was sent to the Deputy Chief Executive's Department of Buckinghamshire Council on 23rd September 2020 and a copy is enclosed in APPENDIX 5.

Highway Code Review to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders

The Forum made comments relating to horse riders, cyclists and the hearing impaired to the Department for Transport Highway Code review. These are included in APPENDIX 6.

Countryside Code Review

In December 2020 Natural England invited the LAF to take part in an online survey seeking views on updating the Countryside Code. The COVID-19 pandemic saw a significant increase in countryside visitor numbers which was welcome, but also accompanied by undesirable activities. The website format didn't lend itself to a co-

ordinated, single LAF reply, so individual responses were suggested. Any updates to be provided from organisation can be summarised at the 3rd March 2021 meeting.

Ridgeway Delivery Group Meeting 14th December 2020 (on Zoom)

Brian Worrell provided an update from his attendance at the above meeting with partners from neighbouring authorities and Ridgeway National Trail. Brian reports that a Ridgeway motorised driving leaflet is being drafted by the Ridgeway Officer and will liaise with carriage drivers.

Local Access Forum Annual report - 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

This is enclosed in APPENDIX 7 for member's approval.

APPENDIX 4

PROPOSED GARDEN WAY ROUTE



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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Sarah McBrearty
Localities & Strategic Partnerships Service
Deputy Chief Executive's Department
Buckinghamshire Council

23rd September 2020

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with 13 members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.

FOOTPATH HWU/80/1 – PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

Dear Sarah,

The above matter was discussed at the most recent meeting of the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum on 23rd September 2020 and I would like to summarise the debate and subsequent vote. Cllr Lesley Clarke was unable to attend the meeting, but her sentiments were summarized in support of renewing the closure. A recording of the debate can be accessed here: <https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

The vice-chair, David Briggs, representing the Country Land and Business Association, open the discussion by stating he would like to see measures introduced other than an outright closure.

Cllr Alan Turner voiced his support for renewing the closure due to ongoing anti-social behavior which was worrying for residents, such as drug-taking and drug-dealing. He stated there was an ongoing program of regeneration in the Desborough Road area of High Wycombe and hoped the outcome of this work would mean the closure would be unnecessary beyond 3 years. The alternative route for walkers was relatively short and convenient. Chris Hurworth, who lives in High Wycombe, supported the closure, a sentiment reiterated by members representing cyclists (Richard Jennings); the National Trust (Neil Harris); carriage drivers (Brian Bowman); and British Horse Society (Alison Heath).

Andrew Clark (Chiltern Society) spoke against the closure, suggesting the existing route of HWU/80/1 was convenient, being a linear continuation of the previous footpath, and the roadside route displaces walkers to a longer alternative which was

less pleasant beside traffic. Would the anti-social behavior simply be displaced, risking an additional footpath closure elsewhere?

A vote was taken with the following result:

FOR extending the closure for a further 3-years.

Chris Hurworth, David Briggs, Neill Harris, Cllr Alan Turner, Richard Jennings, Brian Worrell and Alison Health.

AGAINST extending the closure for a further 3-years.

Andrew Clark

In summary, by a majority of seven to one of those voting at the meeting, the Local Access Forum supported the council's proposal to extend the closure for an additional 3-year period.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Richard Pushman', written in dark ink.

Richard Pushman (Chairman)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Department for Transport
Great Minster House
Horseferry Road
Westminster
LONDON
SW1P 4DR

14th October 2020

The Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum is an independent, statutory advisory body on all matters relating to countryside access, with 13 members representing a wide range of interests including farmers, landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians, parish councils, National Trust and those with disabilities.

Review of The Highway Code to improve road safety for cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders

Dear Sir/Madam,

The above matter has been addressed by way of written representations by members of the Local Access Forum outside our normal meeting program. Comments have been made by our members representing: (i) horse riding / deaf and hearing impaired; (ii) cycling; and (iii) disabled access. Please note the following comments.

(i) Horse riding / deaf and hearing impaired

Rule 63 - This rule recommends that all cycles should be fitted with a cycle bell and this should be rung or cyclists should call out politely. Cycle bells are high frequency and most hearing impaired people may find it hard to hear them as they generally have high frequency hearing loss. Calling out 'Hi' is a much better option and will alert most hearing impaired people to the presence of a cyclist. It should be noted that 1 in 7 have a significant hearing loss and 1 in 3 aged over 60.

Rule 66 - recommends: '*be considerate of other road users, particularly blind and partially sighted pedestrians, for example by calling out or ringing your bell*'. Again, calling out is a much better option than ringing a bell and mention should be made of deaf and hearing impaired people.

Rule 163 – cyclists should pass slow moving traffic on left or right. This can be dangerous as the driver may not be aware of their presence. Pedestrians may be caught out as they do not expect vehicles to be overtaken from the inside especially if they are crossing in front of slow moving vehicles.

If slow moving traffic is taken as including pedestrians and horse riders there are several matters to be considered. Clarity is needed to ensure this *doesn't* mean cyclists overtaking horse riders on the left, as this would be unexpected. On becoming aware of the presence of a cyclist, horse riders automatically move left towards the verge to make way for the cyclists, so horse riders need certainty cyclists will only pass on the right.

p.42

Leave a minimum distance of 1.5m when travelling at under 30 mph. This is not possible on some rural single track roads which may only be 4m wide, so may need clarifying.

(ii) Cycling

Rule 66

This item is confusing:

"• update Rule 66 to ensure cyclists are considerate towards horse riders, along with the following text":

"cyclists should ride in single file when drivers wish to overtake and it is safe to let them do so. When riding in larger groups on narrow lanes, it is sometimes safer to ride two abreast"

Please correct the Rules / Recommended Actions in these two paragraphs, they are inconsistent – the updated rule summary refers to cyclists being considerate to horses; whereas the amendment refers to cyclists maintaining a single file when drivers wish to overtake.

Please clarify any new rules for cycling in groups when drivers want to overtake and along narrow lanes. The recommendation to ride two abreast along narrow lanes is questionable.

(iii) Disabled Access

All conditions that apply to cyclists should also apply for users of mobility scooters when using the vehicular highway. It would be helpful to clarify motor vehicles should also pass mobility scooters at a comfortable width as they can travel with the flow of traffic on country lanes (absent of footways) or sometimes against the flow.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Pushman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard Pushman (Chairman)

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APPEXDIX 7

Local Access Forum Annual Review 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020

LAF	Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum
Chairman	Richard Pushman
LAF Secretary	Jonathan Clark
Meetings	JULY, NOVEMBER 2019 & MARCH 2020

Total number of LAF members	14
Members representing users of public rights of way and access land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>British Horse Society</i> - <i>Ramblers</i> - <i>British Driving Society (Beds, Bucks & Herts)</i> - <i>Cycling UK</i> - <i>Disabled Ramblers</i> - <i>Trail Rider's Fellowship</i> - <i>Chiltern Society</i> 	7
Members representing owners and occupiers of access land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Country Land & Business Association</i> - <i>Buckinghamshire Conservation Trust</i> - <i>National Trust</i> 	3
Members representing other interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>2 Buckinghamshire council members</i> - <i>Parish councils</i> - <i>Independent</i> 	4

Improving public access: making a difference

The member representing the Chiltern Society advises the council on improvements relevant to donate-a-gate where stile removals would have the most public benefit.

The member representing disabled users tests routes throughout the year, reporting back on mobility scooter accessibility and improvements. This year surveys included the Waddesdon Greenway; Waddesdon Manor and Ethrope Park; footpaths between Wingrave to Rowsham; and the Jubilee River, near Maidenhead. The same member met developers at a public consultation seeking bridge improvements as part of the Hulcott Solar Park planning application; and the member for Cycling UK provided advice to the same application on cycling mitigation.

The LAF member for the British Driving Society meets regularly with the Ridgeway Delivery Group to support coordinated improvement works along the National Trail.

The LAF member for the British Horse Society responds to planning applications impacting bridleways: in particular, Buckinghamshire council and Network Rail seeking equestrian access along part of the Misbourne Greenway: a multi-user route between Wendover and Great Missenden. HS2 continue to be lobbied to mitigate the impacts of construction on the bridleway network.

The LAF member for the British Driving Society commented on the Colne Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy consultation; and meets regularly with the Ridgeway Delivery Group to support their improvement works along the National Trail.

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2020-2030

Information to support the new ROWIP was gathered up to 31st April 2019. Thereafter, the LAF contributed positively advising the council on amendments and additions to complete the assessment phase. The assessment included understanding the public's present and future needs; together with reviewing the condition of the network and relevant strategies.

An extraordinary LAF meeting was held on 21st May 2019 to discuss emerging findings from the stakeholder and public engagement. This covered the draft plan structure, next steps and setting timelines. The findings of this meeting were discussed and approved at the formal 24th July 2019 LAF meeting.

The LAF's advice shaped the draft ROWIP prior to the formal public consultation between 1st October 2019 and 24th December 2019. Further comments were provided during the full public consultation phase, coinciding with the 3rd November 2019 LAF meeting.

Scrutiny

The LAF provides independent strategic oversight of the council's public access work across the county, which has multiple positive outcomes for public access. A standing item for LAF meetings provides officer updates from Definitive Map and Maintenance & Enforcement teams, through which the members monitor progress and provide advice on the work and priorities.

Regular bi-annual BVPI-type surveys provide 'Easy to Use' scores and every meeting is provided with a maintenance and improvement summary and major bridge / surfacing schemes for members to monitor progress.

Training

Tom Bindoff and Chris Beney presented a lecture on 'Gates & Other Access Issues', including the 'least restrictive access' concept as part of 'BS5709: 2018 gaps, gates and stiles'. Members were provided with a virtual tour of Natural England's Aston Rowant gate demonstration area and an open invitation to visit.

Priorities for the year ahead:

1. Provide advice towards the ROWIP Action Plans;
2. Maintain the profile of the LAF as an important consultee; and
3. Monitor progress and provide ongoing advice to the new ROWIP.

Comments from the appointing authority

The LAF membership remains experienced, well-balanced and well-informed to make good decisions and valuable advice to the council. We are grateful to have such a broad range of skills and knowledge.

Members hold the council to account, challenging the work and decision-making undertaken. Meetings attendance is good and supported by cabinet members and committee staff. We enjoy use of a 'speech to text' reporter to support members hard of hearing and ensure minute-taking is accurate.

There is much development pressure and major infrastructure, such as East West Rail, HS2 and Heathrow expansion, resulting in threats to a cohesive rights of way network. The LAF have been supportive and positive in their outlook when commenting on these pressures.

The LAF provided close scrutiny of the new ROWIP at each of the design and consultation phases and advised the council when drafting the new strategy.

We welcome the new member from Cycling UK and look forward to welcoming new cabinet members when the council transitions to the new unitary authority on 1st April 2020. Membership numbers continue to remain good at 14, though we would benefit from a young people's representative.

Comments from the Chairman

This concludes my third annual report as chairman. A great many thanks go to our long-serving LAF volunteer members for their continued support, extended to support officers and our committed rights of way staff. The COVID-19 pandemic touched only briefly into this year, during the latter part of March 2020, and will therefore be covered in the 2020/2021 annual report.

Huge thanks also to the army of volunteers maintaining the network over and above that provided by the council, particularly the Ramblers and Chiltern Society, whose combined effort save the public purse many thousands of pounds. The excellent condition and improvements on the network is a proud reflection of their work and commitment.

The main work of the Forum this year oversaw the production of the new ROWIP 2020-2030, which I'm delighted to say was published on 1st April 2020. This was a mammoth effort and we look forward in the coming year to helping produce the 10-year Action Plan.

2020 sees the transition from 1 county and 4 district councils to a single unitary authority, which has been somewhat unsettling. Nevertheless, the Forum remains largely unchanged as a result of this political reorganization, but staff restructuring is likely to continue through 2020 and 2021. We enjoy good support within the council's committee structure for administration, and cabinet member attendance informs our debates greatly and is both reassuring and welcome.

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

Richard Pushman (Chairman)