



Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum agenda

Date: Wednesday 19 July 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Paralympic Room, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury
HP19 8FF

Membership:

Mr D Briggs (NFU, CLA, farming, Chairman of the Bucks CLA, Chairman of the Chilterns LEADER) (Vice-Chairman), Cllr S Broadbent, Mr G Casperz (Disabled Ramblers), Mr A Clark (Chiltern Society), Mr N Harris (National Trust) (Chairman), Ms A Heath (British Horse Society), Mr C Hurworth (Trail Riders' Fellowship and MPV users), Mr R Jennings (Cycling UK), R Johnson (Ramblers Association), Ms M Rose (Parish Councils), Mr G Thomas (Independent), Cllr A Turner and Mr B Worrell (British Driving Society Beds, Bucks and Herts)

There will be a ten-minute break at 11am.

Officers may attend remotely.

Agenda Item	Page No
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Matters Arising / Minutes	
4 Local Transport Plan 5 Hannah Joyce, Head of Transport Strategy & Funding, Planning, Growth and Sustainability, Buckinghamshire Council.	3 - 6
5 Chilterns Conservation Board Access Update Annette Weiss, Head of Engagements & Partnerships, Chilterns Conservation Board.	7 - 8
6 Disabled Ramblers Access Surveys James Spratley, Strategic Access Officer, Buckinghamshire Council.	9 - 10

- 7 Rights of Way Group Update 11 - 22**
Claire Hudson, Definitive Map and Highways Searches Team Leader;
Jonathan Clark, James Spratley Strategic Access Officers; and Joanne
Taylor, Rights of Way Operations Team Leader.
- 8 LAF Members' Report 23 - 28**
- 9 Any Other Business**
- 10 Date of the Next Meeting**
10am Paralympic Room, The Gateway, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF, 1st
November 2023.

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: Harry Thomas via
democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 4

Date: 19th July 2023

Title: Buckinghamshire Local Transport Plan 5

Author: Hannah Joyce, Head of Transport Strategy and Funding

A local transport plan (LTP) is a statutory requirement of the Transport Act 2000. It sets out the long-term priorities for transport and is normally supported by a 5-year implementation plan. We are currently awaiting guidance from the Department for Transport on how they would like us to develop our next LTP but we are aware there will be a requirement to show how our policies and implementation plan will reduce carbon emissions.

Preparations for developing Buckinghamshire's new LTP5 have involved internal engagement with relevant highways, public transport, planning teams and members, and a review of available evidence to develop a draft central vision and three key objectives.

Our draft over-arching Vision for LTP5 states:

"In 2040 Buckinghamshire will have substantially tackled its transport related carbon emissions and be on target to net zero by 2050. We will have done this by prioritising sustainable growth locations as well as maximising alternative fuel opportunities; offering viable, inclusive and attractive public transport; encouraging healthy and active travel for shorter local trips; and greening our highway network.

We will have delivered high quality, future proofed and sustainable transport links to our local economic centres and housing sites as well as ensuring our economy is supported by fast connections to the Midlands, London and the South-East.

We recognise the continuing importance of the car in supporting individuals' freedom and independence in our rural setting and we will have focused on minimising the impacts of car travel on communities. We will have done this by focusing investment on congestion hotspots and key corridors, ensuring through-traffic is routed away from residential areas, and delivering people-focused public realm schemes in town and village community centres."

To achieve the vision for 2040, we have created 3 draft objectives: **Connecting our economy, decarbonising our transport system and building places for people**, and under each there will be specific policy themes. These are set out below:

Connecting our economy

This objective focuses on maximising the benefits of investment into transport for the benefit of local residents and businesses. Suggested policy areas include:

- a. Manage our highway assets, with focus given to schemes that reduce people's and delivery's time lost to congestion.
- b. Focus investment on our key road corridors to improve productivity. The A421, Aylesbury Orbital Network, A404, A4010 have already been identified as priorities as well as 'placemaking' to reduce traffic impacts in Wing & Rowsham, Waddesdon, Stone & Hartwell.
- c. Deliver faster, easier transport connections to London, the Midlands and the South-East, such as via East West Rail with the Aylesbury link, faster Chiltern services, or a direct link to Old Oak Common
- d. Facilitate sustainable travel options to our town centres and high streets, visitor attractions and leisure facilities, Enterprise Zones and key employment centres.
- e. Ensure developers forward fund and deliver transport infrastructure ahead of occupancy.
- f. Prepare and provide for increasing freight vehicle movements.
- g. Continue to be a living lab for transport innovation.

Decarbonising our transport system

This objective focuses on meeting the requirements for setting Quantifiable Carbon Reduction (QCR) goals. Some suggested policy focuses in this area include:

- a. Support location and design of new housing and employment sites to minimise the need for travel by car, for example centred on 20-minute walkable neighbourhoods.
- b. Utilise the transport network to improve digital connections which will reduce the need for travel.
- c. Improve alternative options to encourage 'mode shift' and reduce car dependency, for example: buses, demand responsive services, taxis, e-scooters and e-bikes.
- d. Make it realistic and safe for more people to walk, wheel, and scoot for shorter local journeys.
- e. Maximise opportunities to use and normalise alternative fuels.
- f. Prepare our highway network for climate change impacts, such as increased extreme weather events.
- g. Utilise the highway network to support biodiversity and reduce carbon, such as the Wilder Verges project.

Building places for people

This objective focuses on aligning our transport ambitions with other aspects of Council services, such as town planning and regeneration, public health, and environmental health. Suggested policy focuses include:

- a. Directing non-essential motorised journeys away from residential areas and community centres/high streets
- b. Optimise traffic signals along corridors to 'smooth' traffic flow through residential areas, improving overall journey times for drivers, and reducing air quality and noise impacts for local residents.

- c. Encourage transition away from combustion engine through policies such as emissions-based parking management and ease of access to alternative fuel options.
- d. Design walking and cycling-friendly neighbourhoods, for people and goods
- e. Deliver high quality public realm improvements which meet the needs of all users of the street space (put the emphasis on people rather than vehicles)
- f. Where appropriate, build on the transport improvements made because of HS2 and EWR projects, for example laybys, roundabouts, and cycleways.
- g. Improve road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorcycles, our most vulnerable road users.

Whilst the LTP5 is a very high-level strategy, we have attempted to ensure that these complement the Rights of Way Improvement Plan in addressing the various challenges faced by users of our rights of way: encouraging walking and cycling, supporting health and wellbeing, and protecting our vulnerable road users such as horse riders and disabled people.

The draft LTP5 vision and objectives have been aligned with those of the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire (LP4B) to ensure land use and transport planning are integrated from an early stage. A public consultation was carried out on the Vision and Objectives from 19th April – 4th June 2023, alongside the LP4B Vision and Objectives. Early consultation analysis results have shown support for the overall vision and proposed policies; and further details will be provided to the Forum in a PowerPoint presentation.

The consultation results will be used to inform the development of the policies that will be set out in the main LTP5 document.

We are aiming to conduct a further consultation on the draft core LTP5 document and implementation plan in Winter 2023. Alterations based on any feedback from this consultation will follow, with an estimated completion date of Summer 2024 for formal adoption by the Council.

The Local Access Forum are encouraged to provide feedback to influence the LTP5 policies and this will be included within the analysis mentioned above.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 19th July 2023

Title: Chilterns Conservation Board [CCB] – Access Consultation

Author: Annette Weiss, *Head of Engagements & Partnerships*

Contact Officer: Harry Thomas [01296 585234]

1. Defra access funding

Updating members on Defra’s access funding – covering projects the CCB has funded in 2022/23; those being proposed for funding in 2024/25 (£270k); and ideas for future projects.

2. Widening the Welcome

The CCB are planning a ‘Widening the Welcome’ workshop in autumn 2023 for stakeholders to discuss ideas and suggestions for strategic access and engagement projects. Buckinghamshire Council Officers and Local Access Forum members will be welcome to attend.

3. Chess Valley

The CCB commissioned Sustrans to carry out an accessibility survey in the Chess Valley to see what improvements could be made in the next 3 years, with ballpark costings.

The CCB’s Steph Horn is also looking at accessibility across the Chess Smarter Water Catchment areas and is holding a stakeholder workshop in July 2023.

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 19th July 2023

Title: Disabled Ramblers Access Survey

Author: James Spratley, *Strategic Access Officer*

Contact Officer: Harry Thomas [01296 585234]

The Disabled Ramblers are working on a project to photographically survey parts of the Ridgeway National Trail.

They have been awarded £2,900 from the Community Lottery Fund to buy two GoPro Max 360-degree cameras (£479 each) and cover expenses. The aim of their project is to record the Ridgeway route and upload it to Google Street View, enabling visitors with mobility issues to remotely survey the accessibility of the route in advance.

They have recently taken delivery of the cameras so are currently trialling them to see whether they will be stable enough if attached to a Trampler mobility scooter to provide decent quality imagery. John Cuthbertson [Chairman of Disabled Ramblers] plans to survey the western half of the Ridgeway [Avebury to Streatley] while LAF member Gavin Caspersz will record the eastern half [Goring to Ivinghoe Beacon].

If the GoPro cameras prove insufficient, the next tier up is a semi-professional camera, potentially the Labpano Pilot Era which, with accessories, costs about £3,000. Their lottery funding does not stretch to this cost.

The Forum's advice is sought on these proposals and potential future applications.

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**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Report

AGENDA ITEM 5

Date: 19th July 2023

Title: Rights of Way Group update

1. DEFINITIVE MAP

A. MATTERS PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED

1. **High Wycombe** – Application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Pinewood Road and Public Footpath No. 93. **Order made; objections received.**
2. **Marlow** – application to record a public footpath from Cromwell Gardens to New Court. **Order made, in objection period.**
3. **Bledlow-cum-Saunderton (North Mill Road)** - investigation clarifying the status of the disputed route – **Order made, in objection period.**

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:

Summary:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Applications received for Definitive Map Modification Orders	2	14	4	4	5	12	12	7	2
Application determined (accepted or rejected)					1		1	1	2 determined, 4 (being prepared for determination)
Applications completed (order confirmed or not confirmed)					1	1	0	3	0

No data collected

Applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders	
Apps. waiting to be investigated	48
Apps. under investigation	6
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	0

- 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. **Wooburn** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 3 between Princes Road Groves Close to byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 26 February 2016. Decision report being prepared.**
 3. **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. Decision report being prepared.**
 4. **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. Decision report being prepared.**
 5. **Stokenchurch** - Application to add routes to the Definitive Map at East Wood, Stokenchurch. **Application dated 12 December 2017. Decision report being prepared.**
 6. **Penn** – Application to add a route to the Definitive Map between Public Footpath No. 36 and No. 44. **Application received 19 December 2017. Under investigation.**
 7. **Whitchurch** – 3 new applications received to add footpaths to the Definitive Map and Statement – Awaiting acknowledgement and addition to the register of applications.
 8. **Whaddon** – application to add a Public Footpath to the Definitive Map between Whaddon Hall and Public Footpath No.6. **Application received 21 December 2018.**

9. **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.**
10. **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.**
11. **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.**
12. **Chesham** – application to add two routes to the Definitive Map from Lye Green Road connecting with footpath 37. **Application dated 27 August 2019.**
13. **Quainton** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 4 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 21 October 2014. Investigation not started.**
14. **Bledlow** – application to investigate the alignment of public footpath No. 52. **Application dated 19 December 2013. Investigation not started.**
15. **Hedgerley** – application to upgrade public footpath No. 11 and No. 12 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 25 June 2015. Investigation not started.**
16. **Whaddon** – application to modify the alignment of Public Footpath No. 6. **Application dated 4 February 2016. Investigation not started.**
17. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No.1 to restricted byway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
18. **Lillingstone Dayrell** – application to upgrade Public Footpath No. 2 to public bridleway status. **Application dated 15 February 2016.**
19. **Chenies** application to add Hollaway Road to the Definitive Map and Statement as a byway open to all traffic. **Application dated 29 February 2016.**
20. **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.**
21. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement, Parish of Water Stratford **Application received 27/03/2017.**
22. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 42 and bridleway No. 29 to restricted byway. **Application received 17/01/2020.**
23. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 26 to restricted byway. **Application received 19/02/2020.**

24. **Little Missenden** - application to upgrade bridleway No. 24 to restricted byway. **Application received 07/03/2020.**
25. **Little Missenden** – application to upgrade bridleway No. 25 to restricted byway. **Application received 15/03/2020.**
26. **Water Stratford** – application to add a claimed bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 1/05/2020.**
27. **Chesham** – application to add a footpath between Hill Farm Road and Pump Lane to the Definitive Map and Statement. **Application received 27/01/2020.**
28. **Denham** – application to add public footpath from Priory Close to Alderbourne Field. **Application received 23/10/2019.**
29. **Waddesdon** – application to upgrade a footpath and claim public bridleway through Eythrope Park. **Application received 7/12/2020.**
30. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add public footpath between Burgess Lane and footpath No. 53. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
31. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add footpath between Watery Lane and Moreton. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
32. **Great Marlow** – application to add public footpath around perimeter of Wycombe Air Park. **Application received 21/12/2020.**
33. **Marlow** – application to add public footpath off Liston Road. **Application received 20/12/2020.**
34. **Little Missenden** – application to add public footpath from Parish Piece to Watchet Lane. **Application received 03/03/2021.**
35. **Radnage** – Application to add Public Bridleway from Bottle Square Lane to Bowers Lane. **Application Received 17/05/2021**
36. **Chesham** – Claimed Footpath off Pednor Road. **Application received 21/06/2021**
37. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Upgrading to a restricted Byway, Water Lane to Marsh Hill Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**
38. **Dinton with Ford and Upton.** Claimed Restricted Byway and Upgrading to a Restricted Byway, Moreton Road to Moreton Lane. **Application received 9/08/2021**
39. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell and Great and Little Kimble** – application to add public bridleway from Moreton Lane, Bishopstone to Marsh Hill Lane, Great Kimble. **Application received 14/09/2021.**

40. **Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell** – application to upgrade part of footpath no. 28 to public bridleway – **Application received 14/09/2021.**
41. **Little Marlow** – application to add public footpath around Roach Lane. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
42. **Little Marlow and Marlow** – application to add public footpath along A404. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
43. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpath along Crowne Plaza. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
44. **Little Marlow/Marlow** – application to add public footpaths, west of Westhope. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
45. **Little Marlow** – application to upgrade footpath no. 20 to public bridleway. **Application received on 02/12/2021.**
46. **Weedon** – application to add public footpath along Northcroft. **Application received on 09/03/2022.**
47. **Latimer** – application to add Restricted Byway from Kiln Lane to Tylers Hill Road. **Application received 22/03/2022.**
48. **Little Missenden** – application to register circular footpath off Stoney Lane. **Application received 25/03/2022.**
49. **North Marston** - application to add public footpath off Quainton Road. **Application received on 19/07/2022.**
50. **Wooburn** – application to add public footpath along River Wye. **Application received on 23/08/2022.**
51. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to add Public Bridleway from Stockwell Lane to Bridleway No. 14 – **Application received on 21/09/2022.**
52. **Longwick-cum-Ilmer** – application to upgrade Public Bridleway No. 14 to restricted byway. **Application received on 21/09/2022.**
53. **Penn** – application to add Public Footpaths off Footpaths Nos. 36 and 40 . **Application received on 28/03/2023.**
54. **Dinton with Ford and Upton** – application to add Public Bridleway between Lower Road and Footpath No. 10 and upgrade part of Footpath no. 10 to bridleway status. **Application received on 18/04/2023.**

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

Summary:

Applications for Public Path Orders	43
Apps. waiting to be investigated	3
Apps. progressing/Orders made	22
Orders waiting to be determined by PINS	2
Cases closed	6
Awaiting works by applicant	10

1. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 2. **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
2. **Dorney** – Creation of footpath. **Awaiting signed creation agreement.**
3. **Weston Turville** – Application to divert Footpath No. 33 –**Cycle Track Order Made. Awaiting works.**
4. **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.**
5. **Shabbington** – Application to divert Footpath No. 5 –**Order revoked. New order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
6. **Quarrendon** – Application to divert Footpath No. 3 and 4 – **Extinguishment of FP 3 confirmed. Diversion to be confirmed.**
7. **Stoke Mandeville** – Application to divert Footpaths Nos. 3 and 14 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
8. **Stewkley** – Application to divert Footpath No. 19. **Order confirmed. To be brought into effect.**
9. **Hambleden** – Application to divert Footpath No. 44. **Order made. Awaiting works.**
10. **Buckingham** – Application to divert Footpath No. 36. **Order to be confirmed. Awaiting works.**
11. **Waddesdon** - Application to divert Footpath No. 18. **Order confirmed, awaiting works.**
12. **Westcott** - Application to divert Footpath No. 30. **Confirmed by Secretary of State. CASE CLOSED.**
13. **Cuddington** – Application to divert footpath no 13 – **Order made. Objection received. Awaiting PINS decision.**

14. **Great Missenden** – Application to divert footpath No. 70 – **Confirmed by Secretary of State. Awaiting works.**
15. **Chalfont St Giles/Chenies** – application to divert bridleway No.43 and 5 – **Order made. Awaiting works.**
16. **Chalfont St Peter** – diversion of footpath No. 14 – **Order made. Objections received. Awaiting the Planning Inspectorate.**
17. **Kingsey** – diversion of footpath No. 1 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
18. **Steeple Claydon** – diversion of footpath No. 6 – **Order confirmed. Awaiting works.**
19. **Stoke Mandeville** – Extinguishment of Footpath No.8 & 10 – **Order confirmed. To be brought into effect.**
20. **Kingsbrook** – Diversion of Footpath No.1 – **Order to be revoked. New alignment agreed.**
21. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Footpath No.2 – **Order made. To be submitted to Secretary of State.**
22. **Maids Moreton** – Diversion of Footpath No.3 – **Order to be confirmed.**
23. **High Wycombe** – footpath creation off Abbey Barn Lane with Berkeley homes – **Agreement signed. Awaiting works.**
24. **Biddlesden** – Diversion of Public Bridleway no. 5 – **Order to be confirmed.**
25. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. FP1(F) – **Order to be confirmed.**
26. **North Marston** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 18 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
27. **Marsh Gibbon** – East West Rail creation of Footpath No. 5 – **To be advertised.**
28. **Great and Little Hampden** – Diversion of Footpath no. 43 – **Order confirmed. CASE CLOSED.**
29. **Stoke Mandeville** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 16 - **Order confirmed.**
30. **Wexham** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 7 – **Order made. In objection period.**
31. **Worminghall** – Diversion of Public Bridleways 6 and 7 and Bridleway 38 and 39, Oakley – **Under investigation.**
32. **Swanbourne** – East West Rail creation of public footpath No. 17 – **Under investigation.**

- 33. **Wendover** – Diversion of Public Footpath No. 18 – **Order confirmed. To be advertised.**
- 34. **Great Missenden** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 35 – **Order made. Objections received.**
- 35. **Radnage** – Diversion of Public Footpath no. 5 – **Order made. Objections received.**
- 36. **Whitchurch** – Diversion of Footpath no. 47 – **Order to be made.**
- 37. **Westbury** – Diversion of Footpath no. 11 – **Order to be made.**
- 38. **Broughton Hamlet** – Diversion of Footpath no. 5 – **Under investigation.**
- 39. **Waddesdon** – Diversion of Footpath no. 7 – **Order to be made.**
- 40. **Waddesdon** - Diversion of Footpath no. 7A – **Order to be made.**
- 41. **Berryfields** – Diversion of Footpath no. 2 – **Under investigation.**
- 42. **Akeley** – Diversion of Footpath no. 6 – **Order to be made.**
- 43. **Chesham** – Extinguishment of part of the width of Footpath no. 114 – **Order to be abandoned.**

D. VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATIONS

Summary:

Applications for Village Greens	
Investigation on hold	1
Under investigation	4

- 1. **Wooburn** – land off Cherwell Road, Bourne End. **Investigation not started. On Hold.**
- 2. **High Wycombe** – land off Warren Wood Drive. **Objection withdrawn; report being written.**
- 3. **Princes Risborough** – land at corner of Shootacre Lane and Picts Lane. **Public Inquiry to be arranged.**
- 4. **Chesham** – land in Lye Green. **Awaiting Inspector’s report.**
- 4. **Stoke Hammond** – land at Layton Road. **Awaiting Inspector’s report.**

2. STRATEGIC ACCESS

HS2

A new standard of PROW closure notices has been agreed with HS2 which should be coming online imminently. To date information boards have been found to be missing, vandalised or incorrect. This was complicated further by the difficulty of replacing all the maps in remote locations when a slight change in closure dates or routes has occurred – such as in Turweston. Now there will be simple closure notices with a small-scale map of the immediate locale, alongside a QR code which can be used to view up-to-date maps should the walker, cyclist or rider require.

Donate-a-Gate

The Chiltern Society has put forward a new volunteer to re-start the partnership with the council, aiming to remove more stiles and replace them with gates. The price will reflect the cost of steel gates and no wooden gates will be offered as they rot over a relatively short space of time – around 5-7 years.

3. OPERATIONS

1. The current staff structure

The structure allows for 7.5 FTE staff: 1 Rights of Way Team Leader, 3 Area ROW Officers, 2 Assistant ROW Officers and 1.5 Bridge Structure Inspector. Due to retirement and resignations, at the time of writing there are 2.5 vacant posts. All posts have been advertised, and one post has been filled following interviews. Regrettably, some posts are difficult to fill due to the limited number of people experienced in Rights of Way maintenance and management who are looking for employment. For this reason, it has been necessary to consult with Human Resources to review what is required for successful recruitment. Hopefully the team will be up to full complement by the time of the next meeting.

2. BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey 2022/23

The BVPI Rights of Way Condition Survey – the 5% network survey took place over the winter 2022 / early spring 2023 seasons and the results are as follows:

- *Percentage of paths rated 'Easy to Use' 73.1%*
- *Percentage of structures rated 'Easy to Use' 89.8%*
- *Percentage of paths signed from the road 91.6%*

3. Capital projects update

All capital works projects intended to be completed during 22/23 financial year have been finished.

The Rights of Way Team are currently reviewing 18 projects for capital funding for this financial year [2023/24] including delivery of the new bridges on Bridleway 52 Denham and Footpath 12 Taplow (Berryhill Footbridge) and 6 further bridge projects - including 2 larger equestrian structures, and 12 surface improvement projects. A full report of the projects will be available for the next LAF meeting in November 2023.

4. Rights of Way revenue works 2023/24 under review

The priority works on rights of way found in year is currently under review and will depend on budget. Projects identified so far, apart from capital projects, as outlined above – include small surface projects in Chesham, Chalfont St Giles, Chepping Wycombe, Great Missenden, Brill and Mursley.

5. Rights of Way Summer Clearance Schedule 2023

It has been possible this year to fund 4 clearance crews, that is two extra crews to last through the summer. Despite this we are receiving a larger than usual number of reports of overgrowth, due to the warm and wet conditions over May 2023 increasing vegetation growth. An update will be provided at the next meeting on the estimated length of path cleared over the summer.

5. Summary of Maintenance

Please see APPENDIX 1

**Buckinghamshire Council - Rights of Way
Summary of Maintenance Carried Out
Between 1/04/21 and 30/06/23**

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	Aprl 21- Mar22	Aprl22-Mar23	1 Aprl23-Jun23
Alignment	Path Off Line - resolved issue	33	21	3
Clearance	Clearance - carried out-jobs/km	120km/450	100km/360	10k/44
Bridge	Installed or repaired	65	74	9
Finger/post	Installed or repaired	187	176	28
Fly Tipping	Fly Tipping - removed	47	37	14
Gate	Gate repaired or installed	163	95	21
Intimidation+animal/per	Intimidation - resolved	25	26	6
Intimidating sign	Misleading Sign - removed	26	10	1
Obstruction - resolved	Barbed wire	36	17	4
Obstruction - resolved	Barrier - Fencing, wall or other	154	116	24
Obstruction - resolved	Electric fence	26	16	6
Obstruction - removed	Fallen Tree	316	345	68
Obstruction - resolved	Locked Gate	4		
Obstruction - resolved	Ploughing and Cropping	77	79	7
Other	Delivery of materials	29	27	2
Other	Miscellaneous issues resolved	155	119	37
Gap	structure removed To Gap	13	26	3
Stile	Installed or repaired	216	162	25
Stile	Stile To KG	48	25	5
Stile	Stile To PG	55	15	4
Terrain	Bank Steps	6	2	3
Terrain	Path Surface problem resolved	88	71	29
Waymark Post	Installed/Repaired	230	186	18
Issues Signed off		2451	2008	362
Improvements	To aid mobility access	279	161	33
5% Survey Results	Paths Rated easy to use	74%	74%	73%
5% Survey Results	Structures rated easy to use	93%	93%	92%
5% Survey Results	Routes with Roadside Signs	93%	93%	90%
Number on Database	No. of issues os 31/03/12	799		
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 31/03/2021	3100		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/2022	3199		
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 31/03/2023		3350	
Number on Database	No. of Issues os 03/02/2023			3530
Priority A issues	No of Issues recd/dealt with	187/184	174/188	38/41
Priority B/C issues	No of Issues recd/dealt with	2104/2076	1760/1638	528/289
Priority D (low)	No of Issues recd/dealt with	168/110	187/127	42/25

Above includes

Volunteer Jobs Completed

Clearance direct from BCC	137/10.3km	93/12.1km	3/0k
Miscellaneous Jobs	16	15	2
Waymarking and signs	222	181	4
Bank Steps Installed/Repaired		1	2
Gates Repaired and installed	77	43	9
Bridge replaced		1	
Stiles replaced and repaired	21	15	
Trees removed	13	15	1
Total Jobs	486	364	21

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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Report

AGENDA ITEM 6

Date: 19th July 2023

Title: LAF members' report

Author: Jonathan Clark and James Spratley, Strategic Access Officers

Contact Officer: Harry Thomas [01296 585234]

1. Retiring Chairman

A proposal was made at the March 2023 meeting to thank Richard Pushman for his many years volunteering as member and chairman of the Local Access Forum, which members agreed was a good idea. A card was posted to Richard in April 2023.

2. Ridgeway Board Meeting [Brian Worrell]

LAF member Brian Worrell and James Stratley, Buckinghamshire Council, attended by invitation the Ridgeway Board meeting on site at Bury Down, West Ilsley, Oxfordshire in the company of Sarah Wright, National Trail Officer, Simon Kearey, Chairman and Polly Martin, CEO National Trails Trust. This is a body which has just been created with the remit of sharing best practice across all national trails.

3. Natural England support

Natural England have contacted all LAF's in England announcing a proposed online support and information sharing system between LAFs via the software called SharePoint. Further updates will be provided in due course.

4. Draft Local Access Forum Annual Report

The Buckinghamshire LAF Annual Report is ready for publication following members' comments today [see Appendix 2].

5. Venue and dates of next meetings

Paralympic Room, The Gateway, Gatehouse Rd, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF - 10am
Wednesday 1st November 2023.

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Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum Annual Review April 2022 – March 2023

Chairman – *Neil Harris*

Vice-chairman - *David Briggs*

Meetings - *13th July 2022; 2nd November 2022; & 1st March 2023*

Membership [14] interests and organisations represented:

- *Country Land & Business Association*
- *National Trust*
- *British Horse Society*
- *Ramblers*
- *British Driving Society (Beds, Bucks & Herts)*
- *Cycling UK*
- *Disabled Ramblers*
- *Trail Rider's Fellowship*
- *Chiltern Society*
- *Buckinghamshire Council - Cabinet Member Transport*
- *Buckinghamshire Council - Member for The Risboroughs*
- *Parish councils*
- *Independent*
- *Independent [walkers, riders and equestrians]*

Meeting Diary

All meetings are held at 10am in the Paralympic Room, The Gateway, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF. Members of the public may attend in person or remotely having contacted the secretary in advance.

Dates of next meetings: 19th July 2023, 1st November 2023, 6th March 2024, 3rd July 2024 and 6th November 2024.

Guest Speakers and Advice

Members welcomed the following speakers on topics summarised below by number:

- Sarah Wright, Ridgeway National Trail Officer, Oxfordshire Council;
 - Ridgeway 50th Anniversary, promotional ideas
- Peter Beavon (KBI Flexipave, UK);
 - The suitability of Flexipave as a surfacing material for cycleways and bridleways
- Jonathan Fuller, Transport Strategy Lead Officer, Buckinghamshire Council;
 - High Wycombe Transport Strategy and LCWIP Consultation
 - Berryfields to Buckingham Cycleway
- Neil Jackson, Conservation and Landscape Officer, Chilterns Conservation Board;

- HS2 Additional Projects Funded projects, Ridgeway Riding Route, Wendover Canal Towpath Upgrade, Misbourne Greenway, Landscape and Biodiversity connectivity;
- James Spratley, Strategic Access Officer, Buckinghamshire council;
 - Utility of the Slow Ways national network of walking routes project
- Jonathan Clark, Senior Strategic Access Officer, Buckinghamshire council;
 - A Public Spaces Protection Order to temporarily close Footpath HWU/80/1 for additional 3 years
- Joanne Taylor, Rights of Way Operations Team Leader, Buckinghamshire council;
 - Clearance of overgrowth on footpath's and how to prioritise scant resources where landowners are responsible for maintaining hedge boundaries.
- Claire Hudson, Definitive Map and Highways Searches Team Leader, Buckinghamshire council;
 - Updates on DMMO applications, staff recruitment, and EWR

Observers attend from the British Horse Society and from a walker and horse rider based in Ellesborough.

Monitoring success

The regular business of the Local Access Forum includes updates from definitive map, strategic access and operations teams, with reports provided. Members provide feedback and ask a wider range of questions. In this way, progress, workloads and priorities are monitored by members.

Open access land advice

The Forum provided the National Trust and Forestry Commission with informal advice on their ash die-back felling proposals on Common Lane at West Wycombe Hill, which required some access closures. In addition, advice was provided to Natural England on open access restrictions at Wayside Farm and Chawley Manor Farm, Bledlow, two areas of chalk grassland near High Wycombe. This resulted in changes to the original proposals for the benefit of walkers.

National government

The Forum have been concerned locally with the progress of the HS2 and EWR rail projects. Regular updates are provided to the forum updating members on the council holding both Network Rail and HS2 to account, particularly with temporary, but long-term path closures.

Stewart Jackson was appointed on 25 April for a period of 3 years as the independent HS2 Residents' Commissioner who is tasked with overseeing and monitoring HS2's commitments to the people affected by the development. As such he will be an important contact to consult on emerging trends and concerns relating to the project in Buckinghamshire.

Mark Harper MP was appointed as Secretary of State for Transport on 25th October 2022. He stated that local impacts would be unavoidable on a project on the scale of

HS2, however, he expects HS2 Ltd. to do its utmost to reduce disruption where it is reasonable to do so and to treat communities affected by construction with respect, sensitivity, and professionalism.

Since the last annual report, the cut-off date for submission of Definitive Map Modification Orders has been reinstated but delayed from 2026 to 2031 which will likely be a topic of consolation for the LAF in 2023-2024.

Improving public access: making a difference

Members remain locally involved in the following voluntary activities:

1. publishing and leading walks in the Chilterns;
2. surveying promoted routes and completing Best Value Performance Indicator [BVPI] survey reports;
3. surveying and suggesting improvements to new cycling and walking routes;
4. attending Ridgeway National Trail Delivery Group meetings;
5. lobbying HS2 to address impacts of construction on equestrians; and
6. making DMMO applications.

Scrutiny

The LAF provides independent strategic oversight of the council's public access work. For example, the maintenance team provide a major works programme and minor works summary, together with Best Value Performance Indicator [BVPI] results. The Definitive Map Team list their workload and the LAF monitor progress of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders [DMMO's], Public Path Orders [PPO's] and Village Greens [VG's].

Comments from the appointing authority

The ability to consult the Buckinghamshire LAF is an invaluable resource to Buckinghamshire Council and we continue to be very fortunate to have members with such a broad range of experience and expertise in countryside matters. We appreciate the balanced advice this generates, and much credit should be given to our retiring Chairman Mr Richard Pushman for his stewardship and dedication over many years.

We extend a warm welcome to long-time member and our newly elected Chairman, Mr Neil Harris, and look forward to his chairmanship of the LAF.

The council has attempted to recruit new members from underrepresented groups this year, particularly young people and members from diverse ethnic backgrounds, but have been unsuccessful. The council remains keen for prospective members to and observe the LAF prior to applying for membership.

Numbers continue to remain good at 14.

Members challenge and scrutinise the council and speakers. In this way the forum holds the council to account. At the same time, members understand pressures from increasing workloads and residents' high expectations.

Comments from the Chairman.

I would like to thank the outgoing chairman for his exemplary work overseeing the efficient running of the Forum for a number of years. I shall look forward to working with members and the council and am grateful to my vice-chair, David Briggs covering the 1st March 2023 meeting.

May I also thank members for their continued support to ensure we reach consensus and compromise during discussions.

I am grateful to Buckinghamshire council providing a meeting venue, secretariate, funding and cabinet member appointments to the Forum.

I would also like to thank our rights of way officers for their commitment to improving access and maintaining high standards, against a background of significant growth and national infrastructure pressures.

Neil Harris