

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)