



Report for Officer Executive Decision

Date: 05/02/21

Title: Proposed Footpath Enhancements, Iver village, High Street to Farlows Lake.

Relevant councillor(s): Cllr J Chilver

Author and/or contact officer: Simon Gray, Landscape Officer

Ward(s) affected: Iver Village and Richings Park.

Paul Griffin – Iver Village and Richings Park

Jilly Jordan – Iver Village and Richings Park

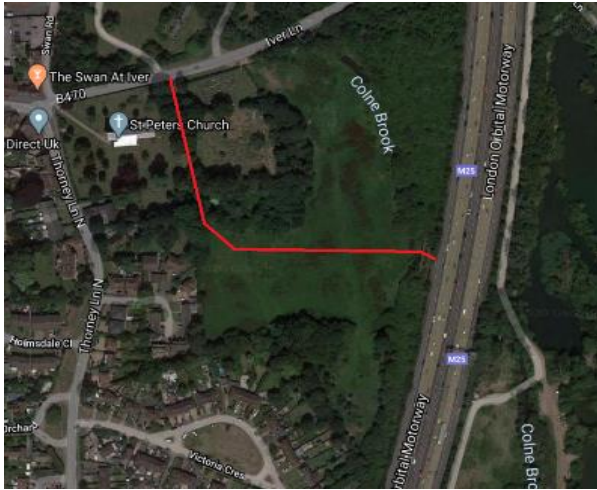
Wendy Matthews – Iver Village and Richings Park

Recommendations: That approval is given for the footpath proposals on Council land and for the proposed permissive right of way.

Reason for decision: This project is part of a Colne Valley Regional Park Heritage Lottery project. A footpath link would enhance the footpath network in the area, creating improvements for residents and landowners. The project aims to improve a commonly used but currently unofficial footpath between Iver village centre and Farlows Lake. This footpath would create a rural shortcut through countryside instead of along busy and dangerous roads. The path starts at St Peters Church and heads over open fields, crossing under the M25 and along the Colnebrook before reaching Farlows fishing lake. This project aims to provide the legal framework for a permissive right of way through agreements with all relevant landowners.

Part of the route is on land owned by Buckinghamshire Council.

Area of Proposals:



Work proposed, to be undertaken by the Colne Valley Park.

A: Surfacing of the area near the church before you enter the field. This area often gets wet and muddy. To work with the church on this.

B: New post and rail fencing and a kissing gate as you enter the field, to replace an old worn out fence at this location.

C: Replacement fencing along the Colnebrook adjacent to the field, with a stile or small gate.

Authority to take this decision: This is a delegated decision to the Head of Property and Assets.

Other options available, and their pros and cons: To leave the pedestrian route as existing which runs along busy roads, which are dangerous to pedestrians.

Conflicts of interest: None known.

Key Risks: Possible conflict with animals in the field, although this is common in rural areas, and is considered a minimal risk and can be managed with suitable signage.

The site is within the Green Belt so is unlikely to be developed. In the unlikely event of the site being developed, the footpath could be re-routed around the edge of the site.

Legal and financial implications: This project aims to provide the legal framework for a permissive right of way through agreements with all relevant landowners. This agreement will follow the approval of the use of the land. An agreement will include the ability to vary the route of the footpath over the Council's land should the Council require.

Funding for the works will be provided through the Heritage Lottery project and from Highways England. There are no financial implications for the Council apart from officer time facilitating the works. Any future maintenance works are covered in existing budgets.

Next steps and review: The Colne Valley Park will contact other landowners to confirm their approval. Initial contact has shown support for the scheme. Work will commence to formalise the route of the path and undertake detailed designs of the fencing etc.

It is proposed to have all land owner agreements in place imminently and complete the project by the of summer 2021.

Exemption from publication: n/a

Background papers

None

Lead Officer: Robert Daniels

Signed:

Date: 5/2/21

Director Property & Assets: John Reed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Reed', written over a horizontal line.

Signed:

Date: 16-02-2021