

NOTICE
OF
MEETING

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RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

will meet on

MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2018

At 6.30 pm

in the

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD,

TO: MEMBERS OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

COUNCILLORS MAUREEN HUNT (CHAIRMAN), LYNDA YONG (VICE-CHAIRMAN),
CLIVE BULLOCK, JUDITH DIMENT, MOHAMMED ILYAS, GARY MUIR,
SAMANTHA RAYNER AND SIMON WERNER

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS MARIUS GILMORE, JESSE GREY, DAVID HILTON, JOHN STORY,
NICOLA PRYER, JULIAN SHARPE AND CHARLES HOLLINGSWORTH

Karen Shepherd – Service Lead for Democratic Services - Issued: 23rd February 2018

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting. The agenda is available on the Council's web site at www.rbwm.gov.uk or contact the Panel Administrator **Nabihah Hassan-Farooq** 01628 796345

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AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive any apologies for absence.	-
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive declarations of interests in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting.	5 - 6
3.	<u>MINUTES</u> To confirm the Part I minutes of the Panel held on the 17 th July 2017.	7 - 10
4.	<u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: MILESTONES STATEMENT 2018/19</u> That the Panel approve the recommendations as set out in the report relating to the Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review (2018/2019).	11 - 48
5.	<u>PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6 MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT</u> That the Panel note the 6 Monthly Progress Report.	49 - 64
6.	<u>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">To be confirmed.	-

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MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a DPI or Prejudicial Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

A member with a DPI or Prejudicial Interest **may make representations at the start of the item but must not take part in the discussion or vote at a meeting.** The speaking time allocated for Members to make representations is at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the discussion or vote, after speaking, Members should move away from the panel table to a public area or, if they wish, leave the room. If the interest declared has not been entered on to a Members' Register of Interests, they must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any licence to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where the landlord is the relevant authority, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:
 - a) that body has a piece of business or land in the area of the relevant authority, and
 - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

A Member with a DPI should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations on the item: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Prejudicial Interests

Any interest which a reasonable, fair minded and informed member of the public would reasonably believe is so significant that it harms or impairs the Member's ability to judge the public interest in the item, i.e. a Member's decision making is influenced by their interest so that they are not able to impartially consider relevant issues.

A Member with a Prejudicial interest should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations in the item: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Personal interests

Any other connection or association which a member of the public may reasonably think may influence a Member when making a decision on council matters.

Members with a Personal Interest should state at the meeting: ***'I wish to declare a Personal Interest in item x because xxx'. As this is a Personal Interest only, I will take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.***

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Agenda Item 3

RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

MONDAY, 17 JULY 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Maureen Hunt (Chairman), Clive Bullock, Mohammed Ilyas, Gary Muir, John Story (sub for Judith Diment) and Simon Werner.

Officers: Tanya Leftwich and Anthony Hurst.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Judith Diment (Councillor John Story agreed to sub) & Lynda Yong (no sub was available).

It was announced by the Chairman that the meeting was being recorded.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

MINUTES

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Part I minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 7 March 2017 be approved.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: PROPOSED DIVERSION ORDERS, MAIDENHEAD FOOTPATHS 12, 16 (PART) AND 19 (PART)

The Parks and Countryside Team Leader, Anthony Hurst, informed Members that the report sought the Panel's authorisation to publish Diversion Orders for Maidenhead Footpaths 12/16 (part) and Maidenhead 19 (part), in response to an application received from the owner of the land crossed by the footpaths. Members were informed that there would be no cost to the Council as all costs associated with the footpath diversions, (including legal and administration costs, the cost of newspaper advertisements, and the costs of works carried out on the ground) would be met by the applicant. It was noted that indicative plans showing the proposal could be found in Appendix 1.

The Parks and Countryside Team Leader showed Members some photos of the footpaths:

- Footpath 12/16 from point A looking south – existing route and proposed route.
- Footpath 12 – existing entrance (point B) and existing route (looking north).
- Footpath 12 – proposed entrance (point C) and proposed route (looking north).
- Footpath 19 – point A (looking south) and point B (looking north).
- Existing barriers to be replaced with “K” barrier – footpath 13 barrier and footpath 13 gate.
- Existing barrier to be removed – permitted cycleway link to Footpath 19.
- Existing barriers to be replaced with “K” barriers – West Mead & Strande Lane.
- Examples of “K” barriers at the Green Way (Braywick Park) and at Moores Lane (Eton Wick).

Members were referred to pages 16 & 17 of the agenda which explained who had been consulted:

- **The Local Access Forum** had confirmed that in principle it had no objection to the proposed diversions, subject to a number of detailed comments (see Appendix 2).

- **Maidenhead Civic Society** had confirmed that in principle it had no objection to the proposed diversions, and had submitted a number of detailed comments (see Appendix 2).
- **The East Berks Ramblers** had confirmed that they supported the proposed diversions, subject to a comment about the width of the proposed new barriers (see Appendix 2).
- **Ward councillors (Maidenhead Riverside)** had been consulted, and had raised no objections to the proposed diversions.

The Chairman made reference to the Local Access Forums response which could be found on page 24 of the agenda and their request that the new K barriers be set to 600mm width between the squeeze plates. The Parks and Countryside Team Leader explained that the Local Access Forum were concerned that the new K barriers were more accessible and confirmed that they would be set at 600mm in order to keep out motorbikes but still allow access to cyclists and disability buggies. The Panel was informed that the barriers were adjustable which meant that the steel plates could be adjusted, if needed, after the barrier had been installed.

The Parks and Countryside Team Leader confirmed that complaints regarding the existing barriers had been received to say that some cyclists and people with pushchairs were unable to get through.

Councillor Mohammed Ilyas stated that whilst the Footpath 19 proposed diversion was 'not on his patch' he had visited the site and had been informed by a number of users who used the field to play football that they felt it would be an improvement to divert the path. The Parks and Countryside Team Leader explained that it would cost approximately £1,000 per K barrier plus up to the same cost again for installation and that the new surface for Footpath 12 would likely cost in the low thousands. The Panel was informed that in total the proposed works would cost in the region of £10,000, which would be met by the applicants.

Councillor John Story suggested that a new dog waste bin could be installed on the new path and the Parks and Countryside Team Leader agreed to look into this suggestion and if it went ahead the new bin would need to be added to the collection route. Councillor Gary Muir added that Datchet suffered a similar problem but were able to use the general waste bins to dispose of dog waste. The Parks and Countryside Team Leader agreed that dual use bins could be used for that purpose and were possibly more effective.

The Parks and Countryside Team Leader confirmed that most of the proposed new route of Footpath 12/16 (point A looking south) was already being used by walkers and cyclists. The Panel was informed that the path was originally 2.5 metres wide but had grassed over on the edges and would be widened to between the recommended 2.2metre minimum and 2.5metre general width if the proposed diversion was approved. The Panel was informed that the new section of the proposed Footpath 12 diversion would have a similar surface and would also be 2.5metres wide.

The Chairman raised the issue of flooding to which the Parks and Countryside Team Leader responded by saying that it was not something that could be addressed by these proposals.

(Councillor Simon Werner arrived)

RESOLVED Unanimously (proposed by Councillor John Story and seconded by Councillor Gary Muir); That the Head of Communities and Highways be authorised to publish a Diversion Order for Maidenhead Footpath 12/16 (part), and Maidenhead Footpath 19 (part) as detailed in the report. If no objections were received following publication of the Orders, or any such objections were subsequently withdrawn, to confirm the Orders without further recourse to the

Panel. If objections were received and not subsequently withdrawn, the proposal was to be brought back to the Panel for further consideration.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to note that whilst Councillor Simon Werner had voted in favour of the recommendation he had not been present for the majority of the discussion around the item.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meeting dates were noted to be as follows:

- 14 September 2017
- 4 December 2017
- 5 March 2018

Councillor Mohammed Ilyas congratulated the Clerk on her forthcoming wedding, which the Panel echoed.

The Chairman explained that this was the Clerk's last meeting of the Right's of Way & Highway Licensing Panel before she left the Council at the end of August. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for everything she had done for the Council over the years, which the Panel echoed.

The meeting, which began at 6.30 pm, finished at 7.00 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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Report Title:	PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: “MILESTONES STATEMENT 2018/19”
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	NO
Officer reporting:	Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Team Leader
Meeting and Date:	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel 5 th March 2018
Responsible Officer(s):	Ben Smith, Head of Commissioning-Communities
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks the Panel’s approval for the *“Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2018/19”* attached at Appendix 1, which sets out the Council’s objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year, and the resources available for delivering this service.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel approves the *“Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2018/19”* attached at Appendix 1.

2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The approved Milestones Statement will ensure that the Council’s Public Rights of Way team will have a clear set of objectives, priorities, and targets for the coming year.

Option	Comments
Approve the Milestones Statement 2018/19	This is the recommended option
Do not approve the Milestones Statement 2018/19	This option is not recommended.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Approval of Milestones Statement 2018-19	n/a	March 2018	n/a	n/a	2018/19

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

Financial impact on the budget

Resources available for public rights of way work in 2018/19 are set out on page 4 of the draft Milestones Statement attached. Setting clear targets for the Council's rights of way team and their partners ensures good value for money is achieved in delivering agreed objectives.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Milestones Statement approach is an efficient and effective way of planning, prioritising and monitoring public rights of way work. Without an approved set of objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for the coming year there is a risk that the quality of service delivery would decline.

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

Effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car, where feasible.

7.2 EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

The Milestones Statement includes a number of initiatives aimed at improving access for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs.

7.3 STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.4 PROPERTY AND ASSETS

None.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 The **Local Access Forum** has made the following recommendations:

1. Targets for 2018/19:

Well Maintained

WM 1: *To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is the former Best Value Performance Indicator for public rights of way). Target: 95%.*

LAF recommendation: keep this target at 95%.

WM 2: *To carry out major surface improvements/ vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way.*

LAF recommendation: keep this target at 10 paths.

WM3: *To repair or replace 5 bridges.*

LAF recommendation: **increase this target to 7 bridges.**

Well Publicised

WP1: *To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet.*

LAF recommendation: keep this target at 1 new Parish leaflet

WP2: *To assist others to produce effective promotional material: a minimum of 1 new or updated publication.*

LAF recommendation: keep this target at 1 new or updated publication.

Improving Access and Connectivity

AC1: *Create 1 new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network.*

LAF recommendation: keep this target at 1 new path.

AC2: *To make 15 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.*

LAF recommendation: **reduce this target to 10 physical access improvements.**

2. Priorities for 2018/19

LAF recommendation: **add reference to Borough Local Plan “Planning Position Statements”**

LAF recommendation: **add “explore opportunities to extend, create or promote Multi Use Routes.**

8.2 **Bray Parish Council** submitted the following comment:

'Footpaths are well looked after in Bray, we have no specific suggestions for the consultation but we welcome being asked and where new paths are developed in or around Bray, Parish Councillors would welcome being involved in the development discussions.'

8.3 **Wraysbury Parish Council** submitted the following comment:

'We endorse the targets and goals set out in the Statement'

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

2018/19

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Milestones Statement 2018/19.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

12. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Commented & returned
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Chairman	14/02/18 (Briefing 19/02/18)	
Ben Smith	Head of Commissioning- Communities	14/02/18	

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type: Non-key decision	Urgency item? No
Report Author: Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Team Leader 01628-796180	

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Milestones Statement

*and Public Rights of Way
Management and Improvement
Plan review*

2018-19

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the 20th annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 20 years since this Council, as Highway Authority, became responsible for the management and maintenance of the borough's public rights of way in 1998.

I hope that residents and visitors to the borough will continue to enjoy these public rights of way as a means of accessing the borough's beautiful countryside, and as a healthy and stress-free way of getting about.

We will continue to work with all our partners, including the Local Access Forum, Parish and Town Councils, landowners, and path user groups (including the East Berks Ramblers, the Disabled Ramblers, the British Horse Society and Sustrans) to achieve these goals, and I wish to thank all our partners for their continued co-operation, support and enthusiasm.

Councillor Maureen Hunt

Chair of Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

April 2018

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

The Royal Borough as the surveying and highway authority is responsible for the management and maintenance of the public rights of way network in the borough. There are over 300 km (approx. 190 miles) of public rights of way, about a third of the borough's total highway network (see Table 1 for lengths of rights of way by parish).

This Milestones Statement sets out the Council's priorities and targets for ensuring that the network is legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised. The Statement also incorporates an annual update on the Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026.

1.2 The Milestones approach

The 'milestones approach' is an effective means of prioritising public rights of way work and measuring performance against an agreed set of targets. This is achieved by:

- setting individual, realistic targets, taking into account the available resources – these are the Milestones Targets (see page 6).
- monitoring progress towards achieving the Milestones Targets (see page 19).

1.3 Partnership working

The Council works closely with public rights of way user groups, landowners, parish and town councils, local conservation volunteers, and the borough's Local Access Forum. Two Parish Councils (Cookham and Old Windsor) undertake routine clearance of vegetation from public rights of way in their area on behalf of the borough, as part of the Parish Paths Initiative.

1.4 Volunteers

During 2017/18, a number of volunteer groups worked on public rights of way around the Borough:

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) carried out **6 work days** with a total of **56** participant days.

Ways in Work (WiW) carried out **30 work days** with a total of **176** participant days.

Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) carried out **40 work days** with a total of **243** participant days.

St Mary's School, Ascot carried out **1** work day with a total of **5** participants

Volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers undertook 326 **hours** of work, including path surveys and practical works.

Based upon our current commercial rates for path works the value of the volunteer works listed above is **£7,936.14**

Youth Offenders Team

The Youth Offenders Team carried out two projects on public rights of way during the year: graffiti removal works at a bridleway that passes through an underpass beneath the Royal Windsor Way in Eton, and vegetation clearance works at Primrose Lane, a bridleway in Bray.

1.5 Resources

The Council employs a public rights of way team of 2 full time and 1 part time Public Rights of Way Officers (total 2.7 fte). In addition, the Council's Legal team provides legal support, and the Democratic Services team provides secretarial support for administering the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel and the Local Access Forum.

Revenue Budget

2017/18	2018/19
£60,000	£60,000

This includes an annual vegetation clearance contract of programmed works, and additional reactive works such as clearance of fallen trees and branches from public rights of way.

Capital Budget (Rights of Way general)

2017/18	2018/19
£20,000	£20,000

This includes surface improvements or repairs to public rights of way that have become eroded, rutted or poached, and access improvements such as replacement of step-stiles with more accessible gates.

Capital Budget (Rights of Way Bridges)

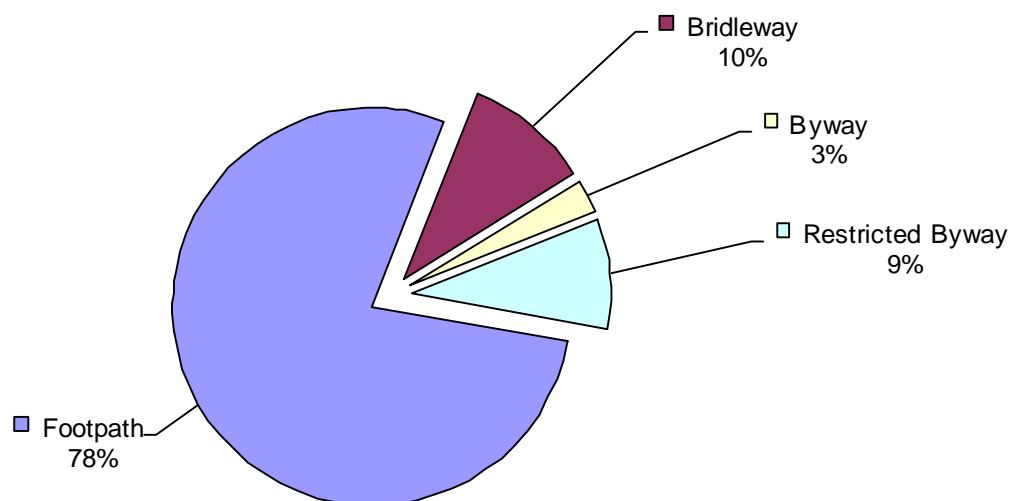
2017/18	2018/19
£40,000	£20,000

The Council has maintenance responsibility for 183 bridges and 5 boardwalks on footpaths and bridleways on public rights of way in the borough. These bridges are inspected on a rolling programme, and remedial safety works identified. In some cases this work is reactive, in response to bridge damage caused by flooding or general wear and tear.

Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, March 2018

Parish	Length (km)				Total km	% of network	
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway			
Bisham	13.146	2.524	-	2.228	17.898	5.81	%
Bray	36.803	9.999	2.184	0.564	49.550	16.09	%
Cookham	34.138	1.980	0.469	0.405	36.992	12.01	%
Cox Green	8.395	1.399	-	-	9.794	3.18	%
Datchet	4.761	-	-	-	4.761	1.55	%
Eton	18.396	3.561	-	-	21.957	7.13	%
Horton	1.200	1.254	-	-	2.454	0.80	%
Hurley	31.608	6.115	-	6.909	44.632	14.49	%
Maidenhead	29.717	0.439	-	2.596	32.752	10.63	%
Old Windsor	4.574	-	-	-	4.574	1.49	%
Shottesbrooke	3.240	-	-	1.612	4.852	1.58	%
Sunningdale	3.554	1.666	0.337	-	5.557	1.80	%
Sunninghill	11.244	-	3.592	1.299	16.135	5.24	%
Waltham St Lawrence	17.728	-	-	7.209	24.937	8.10	%
White Waltham	11.011	0.530	0.342	4.165	16.048	5.21	%
Windsor	4.339	1.994	1.644	0.259	8.236	2.67	%
Wraysbury	6.876	-	-	-	6.876	2.23	%
Total (km)	240.730	31.461	8.568	27.246	308.005	100.00	%

Path status across the network



Footpath: for walkers, and mobility vehicles, only.

Bridleway: for walkers, mobility vehicles, horse riders and cyclists

Restricted Byway: for walkers, mobility vehicles, horse riders, cyclists and non- motorized vehicles

Byway: same as Restricted Byway, but can also be used legally by motor vehicles

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 Priorities for 2018/19

- Maintenance and enforcement: bring all public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- Encourage and support the involvement of volunteers in the maintenance and improvement of public rights of way.
- Equality of service: ensuring that the needs of all users, regardless of race, disability, sexuality, age and religion, are taken into account.
- Ensure that the Thames Path National Trail is consistently safe and easy to use by all members of the public.
- Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk.
- Partnership working: working with all interested parties in the management of public rights of way, (e.g. Local Access Forum, Parish Councils, Civic Societies, residents associations, user groups and landowners)
- Claims: reduce the backlog of applications to add to or amend the Definitive Map.
- Changes to the network: seek improvements in association with development and other proposals. *[e.g with reference to the Borough Local Plan Position Statements submitted by the Local Access Forum; see Appendix 8]*
- Improvements: seek improvements and additions to the network to enhance connectivity for horse riders, cyclists and people with restricted mobility.
- *Explore opportunities to extend, create or promote Multi User Routes*
- Ensure effective early consultation with interested parties on proposed changes to the network, in accordance with government regulations, circulars and codes of practice.
- Liaise with landowners and occupiers on all public rights of way matters, including updating and advising landowners on changes in legislation and encouraging the establishment of permitted routes.

- Maximise the use of recycled and reused materials in rights of way maintenance where practicable.
- Develop and enhance the information available online for public rights of way, including the use of social media where appropriate.

2.2 Milestones Targets for 2018/19

Well Maintained

WM 1: To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is the former Best Value Performance Indicator for public rights of way). Target for 2017/18 is **95%**.

WM 2: To carry out major surface improvements/vegetation clearance on **10** public rights of way.

WM 3: To repair or replace **5** bridges. *[LAF recommend increase to 7]*

Well Publicised

WP 1: To produce **1** new Parish rights of way leaflet.

WP 2: To assist others to produce effective promotional material: a minimum of **1** new or updated publication.

Improving Access and Connectivity

AC 1: Create **1** new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network, as/when opportunities arise.

AC2: To make **15** physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc. *[LAF recommend reduce to 10]*

***Note:** the targets set out above are interchangeable and subject to change should the need arise, to ensure flexibility in light of changing circumstances or to take advantage of opportunities that may arise during the course of the year.*

2.3 Equal opportunities

The Council continues to seek improvements to public rights of way to enable use by a wide range of people with sensory or physical disabilities or learning difficulties.

The Council supports the establishment of routes suitable for use by disabled people, in consultation with the Council's Access Officer, the Access Advisory Forum, the Windsor and Maidenhead User Network (WAMU) and the Disabled Ramblers.

The Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan and annual Milestones Targets include a number of policies and proposals relating to access for people with special needs.

2.4 Parish Paths Initiative

The Parish Paths Initiative (PPI) works with Parish and Town Council's to identify or carry out maintenance, improvement or promotional works on local path networks. All Parish Council's in the Borough and Eton Town Council participate in the PPI scheme.

Additionally, two Parish Councils (Cookham and Old Windsor) undertake routine vegetation clearance on the public rights of way networks in their area.

The British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust are also members of the Parish Paths Initiative. The scheme operates a rolling condition survey of all public rights of way in the borough, carried out in partnership with the East Berks Ramblers.

2.5 Local Access Forum

The Local Access Forum is "*a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community*". Established in 2003, the Forum is statutory advisory group which advises the Council on the management and improvement of public access to land in the Royal Borough for open-air recreation.

The Forum has discussed and given advice to the Council on the following topics during 2017/18:

- Volunteering in RBWM
- The Milestones Targets for 2017/18
- Planning and consultations / Planning position statements

- Access and Brexit
- Development of Multi-User Routes
- Improvement to access at Ashley Hill, Hurley
- National Trust Rights of Way Plan

The Forum publishes an annual report detailing its activities.

The Forum membership details, agendas, minutes, and annual reports are available on the Local Access Forum website:

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way/452/local_access_forum

2.6 Thames Path National Trail

Natural England promotes the Thames Path as one of 13 National Trails in England.

The Thames Path passes through Hurley, Cookham, Maidenhead, Eton, Windsor, Datchet and Old Windsor, where possible following the course of the river. In places the Trail crosses the Thames to follow the Buckinghamshire side of the river.

The Royal Borough recognises both the national and local importance of the Thames Path and is represented on the Thames Path Partnership, which also includes representatives from all Highway Authorities along the route of the Trail, as well as the River Thames Society, the Environment Agency, the Ramblers, Sustrans, Cycling UK, Transport for London, and Natural England.

Volunteers organised by the Thames Path Partnership regularly monitor the condition of the Trail, and also undertake practical maintenance works. Information about the Trail can be found on the following website:

<http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thames-path>

2.7 Equestrians

- Investigating possible upgrading of existing footpaths to bridleways, by negotiating with landowners and user groups, to improve road safety for horses and riders while taking into

account the needs of other users. All negotiations must have clear resolutions, and ensure that all users are satisfied with any changes to the status of the footpath(s) before modifications take place, including adequate width and, where appropriate, segregation of users.

- Continuing with an initiative to designate highway verges as horse margins by identifying suitable areas adjacent to the carriageways, and adapting the maintenance of highway verges to enable safe use by horse riders. As an example, a new horse margin has been created adjacent to the Henley Road, to create a safe riding link between Rose Lane and Hodgedale Lane.
- Continuing with an initiative to identify and establish multi-use paths to allow horse riders to use existing cycleways and other tracks where appropriate, and where suitable surfaces can be provided, in conjunction with land owners and Parish Councils.
- Development and promotion of circular riding routes where appropriate, in particular to avoid main roads.
- Improvements to gates to make them more 'horserider friendly'.

3 WELL MAINTAINED

3.1 *Maintenance and Enforcement*

Table 2 (over page) includes a summary of reported maintenance and enforcement problems.

The number of reported problems outstanding has been reduced from **13 to 9** during the course of the year.

Path condition surveys are carried out on a 3-year rolling programme, with approximately 1/3 of the network being surveyed each year. Volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carry out these surveys on the Council's behalf.

During these surveys the volunteers also check whether problems that had previously been reported and entered onto the Council's rights of way database have since been resolved, and this helps to keep the records up-to-date.

Priority criteria for dealing with maintenance and enforcement problems are listed on page 15 of this Milestones Statement.

3.2 *Noteworthy current issues*

- Improvements to the Thames Path National Trail
- Replacement of step-stiles with easy access gates

3.3 *Access for people with special needs*

When dealing with the provision of stiles and gates, an assessment is made to ensure that the appropriate type of barrier is used, and that wherever possible gaps are used rather than stiles or gates.

The Council places high priority on the use of effective designs of barrier to facilitate use by those with restricted mobility, the elderly, people with young children in pushchairs etc.

Service standards, including British Standards for path furniture, are set out on page 16 of this Milestones Statement.

Table 2: Reported problems on Public Rights of Way

	Outstanding at 31st Mar 2017	Reported 1st April 2017 to 31 st Jan 18	Closed 1st April 2017 to 31 st Jan 18	Total Outstanding at 1 st Feb 18	Issues outstanding over 5 years
ENFORCEMENT					
Ploughing and lack of marking	0	5	5	0	0
Obstruction by crops	0	1	1	0	0
Fence encroachment	2	0	2	0	0
Fence obstruction	0	0	0	0	0
Building obstruction	0	0	0	0	0
Other obstructions	1	3	4	0	0
Stiles	0	0	0	0	0
Gates	1	0	1	0	0
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised vehicular use	1	3	4	0	0
Electric fencing	0	2	2	0	0
Misleading notices	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	0	2	2	0	0
Other Enforcement Problems	2	4	6	0	0
TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:	7	20	27	0	0
MAINTENANCE					
Vegetation	0	6	6	0	0
Rutting	0	0	0	0	0
Drainage	2	0	0	2	0
Fallen trees	0	9	9	0	0
Erosion	2	13	10	5	1
Tree problems	0	4	4	0	0
Bridges	1	17	17	1	0
Safety barriers	0	1	1	0	0
Steps	0	1	1	0	0
Roadside signposting	0	9	9	0	0
Signposting at path junctions	0	1	1	0	0
Waymarking	1	1	1	1	0
Rubbish/ waste	0	2	2	0	0
Other Maintenance Problems	0	9	9	0	0
TOTAL MAINTENANCE:	6	73	70	9	1
TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	13	93	97	9	1

* most problems of waste/ rubbish are dealt with by the waste management section and are not recorded here

4 LEGALLY DEFINED

4.1 *Definitive Map and Statement*

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way are legal documents that provide conclusive evidence of the existence and status of public rights of way. It is therefore important that these documents are kept up to date and accurate.

The Map and Statement was last updated in 2015 (effective date 1st November 2015) including all legal changes made since the previous consolidated Map was published in 2008.

Copies of the Map and Statement are available for inspection in Maidenhead and Windsor central libraries, Borough Council offices, and can also be viewed on the borough website.

Copies are also held by user groups and relevant extracts are held by Parish Councils.

4.2 *Modification Orders*

Definitive Map Modification Orders are made to update the definitive map, to show the effect of legal changes to public rights of way. Copies of the Orders are sent to all those who hold copies of the Definitive Map and Statement, so that up to date information is available

4.3 *Rights of way database*

The Council maintains a comprehensive database of public rights of way information, (Countryside Access Management System CAMS).

Information is held on path maintenance records, path condition surveys, reported problems, landownership details, path furniture such as stiles, gates, bridges and signposts, as well as a photographic records covering many of the public rights of way in the borough.

These electronic records, which are for internal use only, enable the rights of way officers to record, analyse and prioritise problems, and respond to public requests for information quickly and effectively.

4.4 *Applications to modify the Definitive Map (claims)*

There is one outstanding 'multiple' path claim currently being investigated (Thamesfield in Wraysbury) see Appendix 5. A statement of

priorities for dealing with claims is shown in Appendix 2.

4.5 *Changes to the network*

Applications for changes to the network are occasionally received from landowners or developers, and can also be initiated by the Council where they are considered to be in the public interest.

Planning applications are checked by planning officers who consult the Public Rights of Way team and the East Berks Ramblers on applications that may affect public rights of way. The Local Access Forum is also consulted on planning applications affecting public rights of way, and is sent weekly lists of all new planning applications received.

Where appropriate, conditions and informatives are then included in planning consents.

Policy R14 in the borough's current Local Plan states that: ***"The Borough Council will safeguard and enhance the public rights of way network and recreational cycle routes"***

Following a recommendation from the Local Access Forum, "Planning Position Statements" have been passed to the Council's Planning team, as set out in **Appendix 8**.

5 WELL PUBLICISED

5.1 *Leaflets produced by the Council*

- Public Rights of Way information booklet (*for landowners and path users*)
- Public Rights of Way and your Gardens, Hedges and Trees (*information leaflet for householders adjacent to rights of way*)
- Ploughing, crops and paths: a practical guide (*information leaflet for farmers and landowners*)
- The Green Way
- Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit
- Cookham Bridleway Circuit
- Cycling in Windsor and Maidenhead
- Cookham Easy Going Route
- Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route

All the above leaflets are available from the Borough Council free of charge.

5.2 *Other books and publications*

Sunningdale, Bray, Datchet, Waltham St Lawrence, White Waltham and Hurley Parish Councils have all produced their own walks leaflets, with help from the Borough Council through the Parish Paths Initiative:

- “Walk, discover, enjoy - your Sunningdale” (Sunningdale Parish Council)
- “Parish Millennium Rights of Way Map” (Bray Parish Council)
- Holyport health walk (Bray Parish Council)
- “Foot and Cycle Paths in and around Datchet” (Datchet Parish Council)
- Waltham St Lawrence Parish Paths and Circular Walks (Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council)
- White Waltham Parish and Paths (White Waltham Parish Council)
- Hurley Circular Walks (Hurley Parish Council).

The above leaflets are available from the Parish Councils free of charge.

The Environment Agency has published a leaflet showing the paths along the Jubilee River (*available from the EA 08708 506506*)

The East Berks Ramblers, the British Horse Society, Sustrans and commercial publishers have produced a number of leaflets, booklets and books promoting routes along public rights of way locally, including the Thames Path National Trail.

5.3 *Guided walks and rides*

Guided walks and rides encourage the public to enjoy the countryside. The Ramblers organize a programme of walks for its members and the general public, and the British Horse Society organize various rides and events using the boroughs public rights of way and minor roads network.

5.4 *Borough Website*

The Borough’s Public Rights of Way web pages on can be accessed directly at https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way

The web pages contain detailed information including publications, report forms, and maps of all public rights of way in the borough.

The Council’s MapsOnline service allows users to view maps showing the locations of all stiles, gates, bollards and signs on public rights of way.

The web pages also include Registers of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO’s), and landowner’s statutory declarations, together with application forms and guidance notes for path diversion orders.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

6.1 *Monitoring*

The Council publishes a performance indicator which provides a useful benchmark for assessing the condition of the network:

“The percentage of the total length of footpaths and other rights of way which were easy to use by members of the public”

The indicator is calculated using a methodology originally devised by the County Surveyors Society, and is widely adopted by Highway Authorities to enable benchmarking between individual authorities’ performance.

The borough’s indicator is based on information obtained from condition surveys undertaken by volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers, and the indicator result for the borough in 2017/18 was **96.5%** (against a target of **95%**).

6.2 *Review*

The Council is committed to working with all interested parties in carrying out public rights of way work in the borough.

This Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan will continue be reviewed and published annually and the Milestones Targets will be discussed with the Local Access Forum and other interested parties so that co-ordinated priorities can be adopted.

Monthly updates on progress towards the Milestones Statement targets are also published on the borough website.

The Public Rights of Way team also produce a 6-monthly Path Progress Report, which provides updates on specific path improvements. These reports are submitted to the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel in March and September each year, circulated to the Local Access Forum and published on the borough website.

6.3 *Ramblers Big Path Watch*

Between July 2015 and January 2016 the *Ramblers* national office coordinated the largest survey of public rights of way in England and Wales ever undertaken. The survey were undertaken by over 3,000 members of the public (known as ‘citizen surveyors’) who volunteered to

walk all public rights of way within a specific 1km grid square on Ordnance Survey maps.

The report singled out the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for special praise:

“We found the highest proportion of positive features anywhere in England within this authority”

“Our citizen surveyors surveyed 175 grid squares within the authority, and judged the rights of way to be *well-kept* in 79% of them. None were reported as *poorly kept*.”

“This marks out Windsor and Maidenhead as being in considerably better condition than the South East as a whole”

“Walkers certainly liked walking there: in over 75% of grid squares, they enjoyed their walk ‘quite a lot’ or ‘very much’”

Some of the Volunteers who took part in the original survey for the Big Path Watch Project continue to undertake surveys of paths in the borough on an ongoing basis, reporting any problems encountered. This provides valuable feedback and enables the Rights of Way Officers to act upon problems swiftly.

APPENDIX 1

Consultation on the Milestones Statement

The following organisations were consulted on the 2017/18 Milestones Statement

- Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
- All Parish and Town Councils in the borough
- The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum, which includes members of the following organisations:

East Berks Ramblers

British Horse Society

The Crown Estate

Royal East Berks Agricultural Association

National Trust

National Farmers Union

APPENDIX 2

Statement of priorities for dealing with applications to amend the Definitive Map

The Council aims to process uncontested applications for Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders (claims) within 1 year of receipt.

Applications for Orders to amend the Definitive Map and Statement (claims) will be prioritised on the basis of the following factors:

Highest Priority: Closure very likely (e.g. area subject to planning application).

Path currently blocked by planting, fencing etc. which could be removed.

Path currently blocked by permanent structure e.g. building.

Possible threat to path, and/or partial blocking likely.

Lowest Priority: No recognised threat, and route useable by the public.

APPENDIX 3

Statement of priorities for dealing with maintenance and enforcement problems

Maintenance and enforcement problems will be prioritised on the basis of the following factors:

Safety of users

Level of usage

Extent of obstruction of definitive line (i.e. completely obstructed or partially obstructed)

Benefit to public once resolved

Cost/time effectiveness in resolving problem

Number/level of complaints

Potential for deterioration of the problem

Age of the problem

Note: for efficient working practice, lower priority problems will be dealt with alongside higher priority problems where appropriate, for example if they are in the same locality or involve the same landowner. Lower priority problems will also be tackled as required in order to meet specific targets.

APPENDIX 4

Service standards

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has the following key aims in relation to public rights of way:

- To ensure that the borough's public rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised
- To ensure that public rights of way are safeguarded and enhanced
- To help landowners and users to understand their responsibilities and rights
- To consult and work with interested parties to achieve the provision of a well-maintained and signed network of public rights of way

We will liaise with and involve:

- Local Access Forum
- Parish and Town Councils
- Natural England
- East Berks Ramblers
- Disabled Ramblers
- British Horse Society
- British Driving Society
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Sustrans
- Vehicle User Groups
- National Farmers' Union
- Country Land & Business Association
- Thames Path Management Group
- Any other interested parties

We will comply with British Standards on all new structures and furniture, and where possible, upon replacement of existing structures or furniture. BS 5709-2006 gaps, gates and stiles; order of preference; a) gap, b) gate, c) kissing gate, d) stile. Barbed wire, razor wire, farm type electrical fences and suchlike should not normally be used in the vicinity of structures covered by this standard, but where these wires are necessary then assessment should be made of the effect they have on the safety and convenience of people in the vicinity. A condensed version of BS 5709-2006 produced by the Pittcroft Trust is available on request from the public rights of way team.

We will carry out:

- A condition survey of each path every three years, based on a rolling programme of six-monthly surveys (in partnership with East Berks Ramblers Association).
- An inspection of rights of way in a dangerous condition within one working day of notification, make safe within one working day of inspection, and inform correspondents of the results within three working days.

We will use our powers:

- To enforce removal of any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) in accordance with the

Council's Ploughing and Cropping procedure below, and give consideration to all available statutory powers including prosecutions where appropriate.

Ploughing and cropping procedure:

1. Make first contact with farmer via telephone and email (with a read-receipt) to explain the report or issue. This telephone call and email should agree the date with the farmer for the resolution of the issue based upon the statutory 14 day deadline. Explain that if the works are not done by this deadline the issue will be reported to the Rural Payments Agency.
2. Take the 14 day deadline from the date that the farmer is first contacted by the Council. Where necessary, agree an extension of this deadline for up to 28 days, for example where ground conditions do not allow proper reinstatement within the normal 14 day period.
3. Request the farmer to contact RBWM when the reinstatement works have been done, if possible providing photographic evidence. If the agreed deadline has not been met, the breach of regulations should then be reported to the Rural Payments Agency.
4. If the path has not been cleared and the path reinstated by the stated deadline the Council to arrange for a contractor to clear the path and reinstate the surface (as required) and the cost of these works is re-charged to the farmer. This issue is then closed.

We will publish:

The 'Definitive Map and Statement' every five years.

Information leaflets and updates regularly.

APPENDIX 5

Definitive map modification order applications (claims) currently being investigated

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Current status
			From	To	
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various access points at/around Thamesfield	Various access points at/around Thamesfield	Fourteen 'Definitive Map Modification Orders' were made in July 2016: objections have been received to all fourteen Orders and the Orders will be subject to a Public Inquiry scheduled to start on 1 st May 2018

APPENDIX 6

Achievement of Milestones Targets 2017/18 (as at 1st Feb 2018)

WELL MAINTAINED	
WM1 <i>To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public (former Best Value Performance Indicator 178). Target for 2017-18: 95%</i>	<i>[note: surveys to be undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers]</i> 96.5%
WM2 <i>To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)</i>	
Bray FP 39 (off Stompitts Road)	Major vegetation clearance
Bray FP 66 (Ashmore Lane)	Major vegetation clearance
Bray Byway 67 (Hog Oak Lane)	Surfacing works and anti-vehicle barrier
Cookham FP 7 (off Dean Lane)	Major vegetation clearance
Cookham RB 12 (off Popes Lane)	Major vegetation clearance
Cox Green RB 14 (Snowball Hill)	Surfacing works
Eton FP 1 (Thames Path)	Surfacing works
Hurley FP 8 (Link to Thames Path)	Major vegetation clearance
Hurley FP 28 (off Honey Lane)	Surfacing works
Hurley RB 54 (off Knowl Hill Common)	Anti-vehicle barrier installed
Maidenhead FP 2b (off Forlease Road)	Surfacing works
	Total : 11
WM3 <i>To repair or replace 5 bridges.</i>	
Bray FP 26 (off Gays Lane)	Bridge repaired
Bray FP 54 (off A308 Windsor Road)	Bridge repaired
Bray FP 72 (The Causeway)	Handrail replaced
Cox Green FP 6 (Lillebrooke Manor)	Handrail repair
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Bridge replaced
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Bridge repaired
Cookham FP 72 (under Cookham Bridge)	Decking repairs
Maidenhead FP 13 (off Blackamoor Lane)	Deckboard replacements
Sunninghill FP 13 (off Victoria Road)	Bridge refurbished
Waltham St Lawrence FP 34 (off Hungerford Lane)	1 bridge replaced, 1 bridge repaired
Waltham St Lawrence FP 38 (off Downfield Lane)	2 bridges replaced
	Total : 13
WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 <i>To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet</i>	Total: 0

WP2 <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.</i>	Total: 0
IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	
AC1 <i>Create 1 new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network as/when opportunities arise.</i>	Total: 0
AC2 <i>To make 15 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.</i>	
Bray FP 72 (off Hibbert Road)	Surface works to ease access for disability buggy
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Stile replaced with kissing gate
Maidenhead FP 1 (off Church Road)	Surface works to ease access for disability buggy
Maidenhead FP 13 (off Summerleaze Road)	Gate replaced with gap
Maidenhead FP 45 (off Newlands Drive)	Surface improvement at staggered barrier for mobility scooter access
Maidenhead FP 45 (off Newlands Drive)	Surface improvement between the Thicket and Newlands Drive
Sunningdale FP 9 (off Halfpenny Lane)	Surface improvement for mobility scooter access
Waltham St Lawrence FP 23 (off Shurlock Road)	2 stiles replaced with kissing gates
Waltham St Lawrence FP 26 (off The Street)	Surfacing through kissing gate enclosure to improve access
	Total: 10

APPENDIX 7

Updates on site specific projects in “Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026 (new updates in bold)”

Hurley, Shottesbrooke & the Walthams

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
1	Work with Wokingham Borough Council to secure a new off-road horse riding link between Star Lane (Hurley) and Canhurst Lane by upgrading Wargrave Footpath 42
2	A crossing over the Thames across Hurley Lock and weirs
3	Upgrade White Waltham Footpath 9/National Cycle Route 4 to permitted bridleway. <i>(April 2015 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
4	(a) New route along the Cut from Bray Wick upstream to Westleymill on the Bracknell Forest boundary <i>(March 2017 update: new section of streamside footpath to be included within layout of Ockwells Park extension, Cox Green)</i> (b) Establish a new path from Windmills (White Waltham Footpath 20) to Howe Lane near Howe Lane Bridge
5	Work with Wokingham Borough Council to upgrade Waltham St. Lawrence Footpath 9 / Ruscombe Footpath 4 for horse riding use
6	Creation of a path from Great Wood, White Waltham, south of the B3024 road to the track at Pond Wood Farm
7	Create a route for carriage drivers from Beenhams Road in White Waltham to Mare Lane in Binfield.
8	Improve bridleway links between RBWM and identified horse riding networks in Wokingham and Bracknell Forest
9	Direct crossings over/under the M4 avoiding the use of road bridges

Cookham & Bisham

10	Create a new bridleway connecting the end of Hurley Lane with the eastern end of Bradenham Lane using existing highway land alongside the A404 northbound carriageway: <i>(March 2007 update: Initial feasibility studies and consultations have indicated that the potential benefits of this project would not justify the cost)</i> <i>(February 2016 update: reopened consultation with neighbouring landowner. Quotation received for clearance. Discussions ongoing regarding funding from cycleway budget)</i> <i>(March 2018 update: feasibility studying being prepared in conjunction with Highways England)</i>
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11	Create a new right of way for non-motorised users linking Burchetts Green Roundabout to Permitted Bridleway 20, following the route of the A404 on its western side <i>(June 2015 update: proposal not supported by Temple Golf Club)</i>
12	Create a link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dungrove Hill Lane <i>(March 2013 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i> <i>(March 2014 update: ongoing discussions with horse riders)</i>
13	Upgrade Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael's Path) to a bridleway and divert the path to adjoin the disused Henley Road. <i>(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
14	Improve links between Bisham and Bisham Woods for non-motorised traffic, particularly with regard to crossing the A404 Bisham Roundabout. <i>(February 2016 update: Highways England have decided not to proceed with the proposed alterations to this roundabout, however they are keeping the junction performance under review to identify whether small scale improvements can be made.)</i>
15	Extend the southern end of Bisham Bridleway 22 to connect with Dungrove Hill Lane
16	Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 17 to a Bridleway
17	Upgrade Bisham Footpath 23 to a bridleway, to link Burchetts Green to Stubbings and Maidenhead Thicket <i>(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
18	Create a cycling route between Hurley and Temple (a) Create a route adjacent to Bisham Footpath 21 to allow cycle use (b) Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 21 and Hurley Footpath 9 to allow cycle use and link with Mill Lane
19	Improve the surface of Bisham Restricted Byway 11 and Bisham Bridleway 12 <i>(December 2015 update: consulting with Natural England over works specification)</i> <i>(March 2017 update: surface improvements completed)</i>
20	Route from Mill Lane to Odney Road, Cookham – perhaps across Odney Common <i>(March 2009 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
21	Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.
22	Upgrade Kennel Lane (Cookham Footpath 22) to a bridleway <i>(March 2009 update: one of the affected landowners has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath to bridleway: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
23	Crossings over the Thames: (a) from Hythe End to south bank avoiding M25

	<p>(b) from Magna Carta Island to north bank</p> <p>(c) from Wraysbury riverside to Old Windsor</p> <p>(d) from Ham Island to Sunnymeads</p> <p>(e) from Datchet centre to Home Park</p> <p>(f) from north side of Eton to south bank</p> <p>(g) from Windsor near Slough railway bridge to north bank</p> <p>(h) from west side of Windsor (A308) to north bank</p> <p>(i) from Bray village to east bank</p> <p>(j) from west bank to southern tip of National Trust Cliveden Park</p> <p>(k) upstream of Maidenhead where towpath crosses to Bucks bank</p> <p>(l) near Cookham Lock where towpath crosses back again</p> <p>(m) from south side of Cookham bridge to towpath on Lock Cut</p> <p>(n) from Spade Oak Farm to south bank</p> <p>(o) downstream of A404 bridge</p> <p>(p) at Bisham Church</p> <p>(q) from south bank to Medmenham</p>
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Maidenhead & Cox Green

24	<p>Fill in missing links on the “Millennium Walk” from Hurley to Maidenhead Riverside / Cliveden Reach connecting to the Thames Path by securing a path from:</p> <p>(a) Nightingale Lane to the Green Way, subject to rail crossing provision</p> <p>(b) Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path. <i>(March 2014 update): Discussions are being held with the landowners about the proposed new footpath.</i> <i>(March 2015 update): the landowners have declined to agree the creation of a new footpath across this land; however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened).</i></p>
25	<p>Create the following paths from the 1999 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan:</p> <p>(a) a path from Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path</p> <p>(b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge</p>

	<p>(c) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: upgrades to footbridges on Cookham FP 48 to enable disabled access: works ordered)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: improvements to gates at National Trust land, and stepped footbridge replaced with step-free accessible bridge)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: steps south of Chapel Arches being replaced with a ramp, in association with redevelopment at former cinema site)</i></p>
26	<p>To establish a continuous riverside route of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the river bank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens</p> <p><i>(March 2010 update: the footpath opposite the Thames Hotel was extended in 2007, however a gap of approximately 30m remains in order to complete the link to Bridge Gardens)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: funding options for completing the remaining section of missing link are being explored in discussion with the Ramblers)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: Path Creation Agreement secured and new roadside footpath opened north of Bridge Gardens)</i></p>
27	<p>A footbridge from Boulter's Island to east bank of the Thames, which would link the Thames Path and Jubilee River, and the walks in Taplow</p> <p><i>(March 2013 update: a new footbridge across the Thames at Boulter's Lock is included in a Draft Development Brief for the Mill Lane, Taplow site produced by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: new footbridge design agreed, subject to redevelopment proposal on east side of the river being approved by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2018 update: new footbridge is being constructed in association with Mill Lane development, expected to open in early 2019 when development on Taplow side of the river is completed)</i></p>
28	<p>Create a new foot/cycle bridge across the Cut and new footpath-cycleway linking Braywick Park to Bray Road adjacent to Oldfield Primary School</p> <p><i>(March 2018 update: funding secured, bridge and footpath-cycle way being designed, estimated opening early summer 2018)</i></p>
29	<p>(a) Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route</p> <p>(b) <i>March 2009 addition:</i> Reinstate the definitive width of Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead FP 30) to provide segregated route for cyclists</p>
30	Create a continuous streamside footpath around "The Maidenhead Ring", including the Moor Cut and The Green Way, in association with the Maidenhead Waterways project
31	Upgrading Thames Path to allow cyclists to share route

Bray, Windsor and Eton

32	An extension of the Green Way from Hibbert Road in Braywick to the River Thames at Summerleaze Bridge to provide a traffic free route for walkers, cyclists and disabled users.
33	Promote a circular route around Bray village, and also around the old Biffa pits
34	Improve bridleway links between Eton, Dorney and Bray working with Bucks County Council and other neighbouring authorities.

35	A riverside path should be created in parallel to the Thames Path on the opposite side of the river
36	A route from Bray to Windsor, past Bray Film Studios
37	Create a circular route around Eton and the Boveney area for mobility restricted users <i>(March 2012 update): surface improvements carried out to paths in this area in conjunction with access to Eton-Dorney Lake for the 2012 Olympics, facilitating use by mobility restricted users.</i>
38	Expand the multi-user routes in Eton to surrounding areas and link with other bridleway routes. <i>(March 2017 update: Discussions with landowners to allow horse riding use of the Jubilee River cycleway. At present permission has not been granted due to concerns about path width and potential issues at M4 underpass)</i>
39	Create of a path between Sutherland Grange public open space, via the rear of the Centrica complex, and the access road to the Racecourse Marina
40	Secure a Public Right of Way or permitted link at end of Bridleway 11a Windsor, and a new footway along Winkfield Road to create a circular walk
41	Crossings over the Thames to link villages /settlements on either bank with paths on the other, and to link isolated bits of the old towpath

Datchet, Horton, Old Windsor & Wraysbury

42	Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet <i>(March 2011 update): The landowner has declined to agree the creation of a new footpath across this land; however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened</i>
43	Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) Datchet Footpath 8 <i>(March 2009 update: handrails installed by landowner in 2008)</i> <i>(March 2015 update: discussion with landowner about potential for widening the footpath)</i> <i>(March 2016 update: landowner has declined to widen the path, bank repair improvements completed to secure the river bank)</i>
44	Thames side paths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) along the banks of Ham Island (b) south bank of Thames from Home Park (c) along the shores of the big islands downstream of Cookham (d) south bank between Bisham and Temple
45	Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan, depending on the working arrangements with the landowner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) footpath from Datchet Footpath 7 southwest around the Queen Mother

	<p>Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line</p> <p>(b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of the railway line to Wraysbury Footpath 6</p> <p>(e) footpath from Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Kingswood Creek</p> <p>(f) footpath from northern end of Douglas Lane (at termination of Wraysbury Footpath 6) to The Green</p> <p>(g) footpath running from High Street car park in Wraysbury, around southern part of lakes parallel to Staines Road to Staines Road near termination of Wraysbury Footpath 4</p> <p>(h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road</p> <p>(i) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the western bank of the Colne Brook.</p> <p>(j) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3)</p> <p>(k) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury</p> <p>(l) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370)</p> <p>(m) Footpath from Kingswood Creek to Old Ferry Drive</p> <p>(n) Footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook.</p>
46	New route along the Colne Brook

Ascot, Sunninghill & Sunningdale

47	<p>Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock</p> <p><i>(December 2015 update: replacement of stepped footbridge west of Hurley Lock completed)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: surface improvements at St Georges Lane and Wells Lane)</i></p>
48	<p>Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: feasibility studies have indicated that this project is not viable, however if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>
49	Create a path from Ascot Station westwards parallel to the railway line to Kings Ride

	<i>(March 2007 update: Network Rail are unwilling to consider this proposed footpath creation)</i>
50	New footpath between Ascot High Street and Ascot Rail Station. <i>(March 2017 update: Path Creation Order confirmed and path opened 1st February 2017)</i>
51	New footpath or cycle route from Ascot Centre to Ascot Rail Station
52	New footpath from St Georges Lane to Ascot Rail Station
53	New footpath or cycle route from Heatherwood Hospital to Prince Albert Drive
54	New footpath or cycle route between Prince Albert Drive and Ascot High Street around Heatherwood Hospital
55	New footpath or cycle route linking Bridge Road to Kings Road
56	New footpath or cycle route from Cavendish Meads to railway line
57	New footpath from Farm Close to Upper Village Road
58	New footpath linking Allens Field to Swinley Forest
59	New footpath from Coombe Lane to Victory Fields Recreation Ground
60	New cycle route from Ascot High Street east of Station Hill to South Ascot via the A330 viaduct
61	New cycle route alongside Winkfield Road from the entrance to Ascot Racecourse and Royal Ascot Golf Course to the junction of A330 and A329 London Road/Ascot High Street
62	New cycle route from A330 Winkfield Road alongside New Mile Road, Cheapside Road and Watersplash Lane to B383 Sunninghill Road
63	Upgrade Sunninghill Footpath 5 to a bridleway usable by cyclists
64	Upgrade Sunninghill Footpath 1 to a bridleway usable by cyclists
65	New footpath from Liddell Way to Whiteladies Park
66	New footpath or cycle route from Heatherwood Hospital to Ascot Rail Station
67	New footpath from North Ascot to Ascot High Street across Ascot racecourse and through tunnel
68	New footpath east of Ascot Racecourse alongside Winkfield Road
69	New footpath through Silwood Park from Sunninghill Footpath 2 to Buckhurst Road
70	New footpath along Mill Lane linking into Windsor Great Park
71	New footpath alongside Whitmore Lane linking Sunningdale Byway 4, Sunningdale Footpath 2 and A329 London Road
72	New footpath alongside railway between Beech Hill Road to Kings Road

73	New footpath or cycle route from Sunninghill to Charters School on the edge of the railway and around school sites
74	New footpath from Sunningdale Park parallel to Larch Avenue
75	New footpath from Sunningdale Park / Larch Avenue to Park Drive
76	New footpath within Sunningdale Park linking Silwood Road to Station Road
77	New footpath around Southern border of Sunninghill Park parallel to Park Drive
78	New footpath from Sunningdale Park to Station Road
79	New footpath from Sunningdale Footpath 1 to Windsor Great Park adjacent to London Road
80	New footpath or cycle route linking Beech Hill Road over railway line to Charters School
81	New footpath from Bagshot Road to Charters School along Broadlands Drive
82	New footpath from Sunning Avenue into Charters School
83	Record the existing path round Beaufort Gardens loop to Burleigh Lane
84	Record the existing path from Kings Ride west of Heatherwood Hospital to the railway line
85	Record the existing path between Vernon Drive and Ruston Way
86	Record the existing path around Allen's Field
87	Record the existing path around the woods off Allen's Field
88	Record the existing path from Woodlands Ride to Allen's Field
89	Record the existing path along pine tree ridge near Liddell Way
90	Record the existing path to the west of Allen's Field
91	Record the existing path From Carroll Crescent via Beaumont Court to adopted path onto Bouldish Farm Road
92	Record the existing path between Elizabeth Gardens and Brockenhurst Road
93	Record the existing path from Armitage Court through open land / woods off St Mary's Hill
94	Record the existing path through woodland north west of Coombe Lane
95	Record the existing footpath round woodland off Coombe Lane
96	Record the existing path from St George's Lane to Coombe Lane
97	Record the existing path from Coombe Lane to Victory Field through Tom Green's Field
98	Record the existing path around the woods off Allen's Field

99	Record the existing path between New Road and Kennel Ride
100	Record the existing path between Winkfield Road and Oaklands Drive
101	Record the existing path across Ascot Racecourse
102	Record the existing path behind Hilltop Close
103	Record the existing path south of Hilltop Close to Sunninghill Footpath 2
104	Record the existing path from Hilltop Close to Playground
105	Record the existing path from Park Drive to Sunningdale Park
106	Record the existing path from Queen's Road Car Park to High Street by Chapmans
107	Record the existing path through woodland adjacent to Blythewood recreation area
108	Record the existing path through protected woodland by Blythewood recreation area
109	Record the existing path to/from green on Hanover Estate
110	Record the existing path under Ascot station and to Lyndhurst Rd
111	Record the existing path between Sutherland Chase and Blythewood Lane
112	Record the existing path from Cross Rd into Sunningdale Golf Course
113	Record the existing path between the A30 and the RBWM Car Park
114	Record the existing path around RBWM car park at Sunningdale
115	Record the existing path between Priory Road and Richmond Road
116	Record the existing path between Ridgemount Road and Priory Road to the level crossing
117	Record the existing path between Cedar Drive and Sunningdale Footpath 13
118	Record the existing path through Broomhall Recreation Ground <i>(March 2016 update: Sunningdale Parish Council to arrange surfacing works and footpath to be dedicated as a public right of way)</i>
119	Record the existing paths linking from Hamilton and Greenways Drives to London Road A30
120	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Old Sunningdale via Silwood Rd to Sunninghill via Larch Avenue
121	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Silwood Rd to Sunninghill or Sunningdale
122	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (west) to Coworth Rd
123	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (east) to Coworth Rd

APPENDIX 8

Planning Position Statements submitted by Local Access Forum to RBWM Planning Dept.

Guiding Principles for Planning to improve local access

1. All new proposed development should refer and comply with the *Policy IF5 of Rights of Way and Access to the countryside* while designing new access routes and paths.
2. All access should be consistent with the Borough's *Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*.
3. All access improvements, routes, locks and POS should be dedicated as highway or protected legally in some way.
4. Access new developments should aim to provide accessibility to all and improve accessibility for disabled or elderly people and families with pushchairs.
5. All new access structures should comply with BS5709:2006 for gaps, gates & stiles, and all new routes comply with *Environment Agency Access for All design guide* and RWBM ROWMIP.
6. On sites prone to flooding, paths need to be constructed with suitable permeable surface to ensure it can withstand and recover from a flood event.
7. If the path is a designated escape route it needs to be usable in the event of flooding and remain open at all times with suitable lighting for night time use.
8. When considering fencing a path /route it should allow visual permeability and open views to create safe access route .The fencing should suitably blend into the character of the space without being detrimental to the aesthetics.
9. Boundaries should not be designed to deliberately curtail any views.
10. Paths should be wide enough with green verges so that they do not become narrow alleys. Footpaths should be wide enough to allow the use as cycle paths.
11. Enhancements should be sought through CIL contributions

Specific Advice – Allocated Sites Policies Maps

1. Map Reference HA6

- a. Access to Braywick Leisure Centre and town centre used by walkers, cyclists and should be min 3m wide.
- b. Improve ways across Braywick road not just through the site and provide a dedicated pedestrian route to cross the road safely for school and residents on the other side of Braywick Leisure Centre.

2. Map Reference HA7 & HA 8

- a. Improve/ enhance existing PROW to offer residents at HA7 &, HA6 HA8 Cox Green etc access to Ockwells Park.
- b. Create a network of 'green ways' within these sites; this green network can be an activity network connecting Ockwells Park and Greenway.

3. Map Reference HA11

- a. Potential for permitted path to be dedicated ROW

4. Map Reference HA19

- a. Missing link added from lower Cookham Road to the Thames path.

5. Map Reference HA20

- a. Area is bounded by PROW. Development should aim to increased use as well as connectivity to Ockwells Park.
- b. PROW should be enhanced by the development.

6. Map Reference HA21

- a. Potential missing link – millennium walks and link across Railway Bridge.
- b. Improve access to Furze Platt School

7. Map Reference HA22

- a. This is open access land and development here would lead to loss to accessible countryside and compensatory land would be required. However this is not being accessed and used at the moment.

8. Map Reference HA23

- a. Protect and enhance bridleway.
- b. Access to river PROW over Summerleaze bridge
- c. Access to river at The Cut.

9. Map Reference HA25

- a. Access through the site to library, post office & park to help create better access to public amenities.

10. Map Reference HA26

- a. Crossing point across Vale Road to School & Deadworth Manor Open Space

11. Map Reference HA28

- a. Improve /Enhance safe access to New Thames Path
- b. Footbridge to Lock Island to create a unique circular walk for the residents of the development and public.
- c.

12. Map Reference HA29

- a. Access pedestrian/ cycle path to Ballet School.

13. Map Reference HA30

- a. Improvement to pedestrian path along Station Hill will create significant improvement to pedestrian access site.

- b. Full access from Sunninghill footpath 36 creating a gateway into Ascot Link, Station Hill & Sunninghill.
- c.

14. Map Reference HA31/32

- a. Improve access to school & cycle access to and into Ascot

15. Map Reference HA33

- a. Upgrading /Improving existing paths , new bridleway from Buckhurst Road to Sunninghill 5, potentially upgrading Sunninghill 5, thereby taking horses off London Road A329
- b. Scheme would link the great park from Ascot to Sunningdale.

16. Map Reference HA35

- a. Improve access to public amenity.
- b. Pedestrian and Cycle access through the site.

17. Map Reference HA38

- a. Pedestrian and cycle access from the site in to Windmill Road to improve access into the town centre and local facilities thereby easing pedestrian /cycle influx on Whyteladyes Lane.

18. Map Reference HA42

- a. Long term objective should be to provide access to reservoirs

19. Map Reference HA46

- a. Pedestrian /Cycle route through the site.

20. Map Reference HA48

- a. Retain & enhance entrance footpath.

Further information on public rights of way in the Royal Borough, including maps of all the paths and ways, and an electronic version of this document, can be found on the Borough website:

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Communities Directorate
Communities and Highways
Parks and Countryside Team
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berks SL6 1RF**

If you require information in an alternative format please contact the Parks and Countryside Team on 01628-683800

Report Title:	PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	NO
Officer reporting:	Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Team Leader
Meeting and Date:	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel 5 th March 2018
Responsible Officer(s):	Ben Smith, Head of Commissioning-Communities
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

This report updates the Panel on progress made with Public Rights of Way issues during the period from August 2017 to February 2018. The Progress Report is attached as Appendix 1. Progress Reports are submitted to the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel in March and September each year, and are also circulated to all members of the borough's Local Access Forum.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Panel notes the report.

2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To update the Panel on current public rights of way matters.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Panel updated	<i>n/a</i>	March 2018	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	March 2018

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

Financial impact on the budget: none.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

None.

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

Effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car, where feasible.

7.2 EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

The Progress Report refers to a number of initiatives aimed at improving access to the countryside for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs

7.3 STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.4 PROPERTY AND ASSETS

None.

8. CONSULTATION

The Progress Report includes the minutes of the most recent meeting of the RBWM Local Access Forum, a statutory consultative Forum established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

n/a

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Public Rights of Way: 6-monthly Progress Report August 2017 to February 2018.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

12. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Commented & returned
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Chairman	14/02/18 (Briefing 19/02/18)	
Ben Smith	Head of Commissioning- Communities	14/02/18	

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type: Non-key decision	Urgency item? No
Report Author: Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Team Leader 01628-796180	

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6- MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

1st AUGUST 2017- 1st FEBRUARY 2018

The total number of outstanding reported problems on Public Rights of Way has fallen from **13** to **9** during the reporting period, (see table at Annex A for list of outstanding issues).

1. ENFORCEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 31st Aug 2017</i>	<i>Reported 1st Sept '17 - 31st Jan '18</i>	<i>Closed 1st Sept '17 - 31st Jan '18</i>	<i>Outstanding on 1st Feb 2018</i>
Enforcement problems	1	10	11	0

Examples of enforcement cases that have been resolved:

Path	Problem
Bray Footpath 58 (off Forest Green Road)	Path ploughed and not reinstated. <i>Path reinstated by landowner</i>
Cox Green Bridleway 13 (Thrift Lane)	Field gate locked and gap too narrow at side. <i>Gap widened by landowner</i>
Eton Footpath 1 (Thames Path)	Unlawful vehicle entry onto fields from footpaths. <i>Bollards installed to prevent vehicle access.</i>
Sunninghill Footpath 8 (off Kiln Lane)	Electric fencing erected across path. <i>Fencing removed by landowner.</i>
Sunninghill Footpath 36 (Ascot Station)	Water flowing across path from car wash. <i>Barriers installed by landowner to prevent water flowing down steps</i>

2. MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 31st Aug 2017</i>	<i>Reported 1st Sept '17 - 31st Jan '18</i>	<i>Closed 1st Sept '17 - 31st Jan '18</i>	<i>Outstanding on 1st Feb 2018</i>
Maintenance problems	12	46	49	9

Examples of maintenance and improvement projects completed:

Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 34 (off Hungerford Lane)	Bridge replacement and bridge repairs
Datchet Footpath 9 (Church Path)	Surface improvements
Maidenhead Footpath 45 (off Newlands Drive)	Surface improvements on link to Pinkneys Green
Cookham Footpath 12 (off Popes Lane)	Major tree and vegetation works

3. DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER (DMMO) applications (path claims)

3.1 Wraysbury claimed footpaths 501 to 505 (Thamesfield)

On 15th July 2016 Orders were made to add fourteen footpaths at Thamesfield to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. A number of objections were received to all the Orders, and therefore the Orders and objections have been referred to the Secretary of State: the decision on whether or not the Orders are confirmed will be made by an Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate, following a Local Public Inquiry scheduled to run from 1st to 4th May 2018.

4. CHANGES TO THE NETWORK

4.2 Footpaths 12, 16 and 19 Maidenhead (land at North Maidenhead)

A proposal to divert parts of Footpaths 12, 16 and 19 Maidenhead was approved by the Rights of Way and Highway Licencing Panel on 17th July 2017. No objections were received, and the diversions were implemented in November 2017, together with access improvements on the North Maidenhead section of National Cycle Route 4 which passes through this area.

5. VOLUNTEERS

5.1 Working with Parish Councils, path user groups and the National Trust

All Parish/Town Councils in the borough, as well as the British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust, are members of the Parish Paths Initiative (PPI). Through this scheme the rights of way officers work directly with the Parish/Town Councils and the voluntary groups on maintaining and improving the rights of way network in the borough. As part of the PPI project, annual grants are paid to Cookham and Old Windsor Parish Councils who organise routine path clearance works in their parishes. A number of successful projects have been completed this year including step improvements in Bisham, surface improvements in Eton and accessibility improvements in Sunninghill: the partnership continues to deliver benefits to all involved.

5.2 Volunteering

The Public Rights of Way team have worked with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), two groups from Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA1 and BCA2), Ways into Work (WiW) and St Mary's School, Ascot (StM) to carry out practical work on public rights of way in the borough over the past 6 months. The PROW team is actively looking to expand works with other volunteer groups including local Scouts and Girl Guide groups, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme participants and other conservation groups.

The following projects were completed between September 2017 and February 2018

Date	Group	Path	Task	No. of participants
6 September 2017	WiW	Maidenhead Bridleway 46 (Muddy Lane)	Cut back and litter pick	6
7 September 2017	BCA 1 BCA 2	Hurley Restricted Byway 2 (Thames Path)	Pull up Himalayan Balsam	12
13 September 2017	WiW	Maidenhead Bridleway 46 (Muddy Lane)	Cut back	6
14 September 2017	BCA 1 BCA 2	Hurley Restricted Byway 2 (Thames Path)	Pull up Himalayan Balsam	12

20 September 2017	WiW	Maidenhead Bridleway 46 (Muddy Lane)	Cut back	6
21 September 2017	BCA 1 BCA 2	Hurley Footpath 13 (Thames Path)	Cut back of overgrowth and verges	12
27 September 2017	WiW	Maidenhead Footpath 48 (off Bath Road)	Cut back hedges	6
28 September 2017	BCA1 BCA2	Hurley Footpath 59 (off Thames Path)	Cut back of overgrowth and verges	12
4 October 2017	WiW	Hurley Bridleway 22 (Pudding Hill)	Cut back	6
5 October 2017	BCA1 BCA2	Bray Bridleway 23 (Blackbird Lane)	Cut back of overgrowth and verges	12
11 October 2017	WiW	Hurley Bridleway 22 (Pudding Hill)	Cut back	6
12 October 2017	BCA1 BCA2	Bray Bridleway 23 (Blackbird Lane)	Cut back of overgrowth and verges	12
14 October 2017	StM	Sunninghill Footpath 11/12 (off Brockenhurst Road)	Cut back of vegetation	5
18 October 2017	WiW	Maidenhead Footpath 61 (off Shoppenhangers Road)	Cut back & Tree removal	6
19 October 2017	BCA1 BCA2	Maidenhead Footpath 45 (off Farm Road)	Cut back of overgrowth and verges	12
25 October 2017	WiW	Maidenhead Footpath 61 (off Shoppenhangers Road)	Winter cut back	6
26 October 2017	BCA1 BCA2	Maidenhead Footpath 45 (off Farm road)	Cut back of overgrowth and verges	12
1 November 2017	WiW	Bray Footpath 72 (The Causeway	Cut back	6
2 November 2017	TCV	Hurley Footpath 28 (off Honey Lane)	Surfacing works and clearance	10
8 November 2017	WiW	Maidenhead Footpath 22 (Garretts Lane) and surrounding paths	Cut back	6
16 November 2017	WiW	Bray Footpath 57 (off Oakley Green Road)	Winter cut back	6
16 November 2017	TCV	Hurley Footpath 25 (off Pudding Hill)	Clearance works	8
25 January 2018	TCV	Bray Footpath 66 (Ashmore Lane)	Heavy cut back	10
Total work tasks		31		
Total volunteer days		195		
*Please note: BCA figures above are provisional				

Based upon our current commercial rates for path works the value of the volunteer works listed above is:

Berkshire College of Agriculture: £453.60

Ways into Work: £445.60

The Countryside Volunteers: £648.00

St. Mary's School, Ascot: £31.20

Additionally, volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carried out 180 hours of condition survey work during the six-month period Sept 17-Mar 18. This equates to £1,485.00 added value (based on the National Living Wage of £8.25 which is used as a notional figure for the hourly rate of volunteers).

Grand Total: £3,063.40

5.3 Partnership working with the East Berks Ramblers

Local volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carry out inspections of the public rights of way network in spring and autumn each year, based on a three year rolling programme (i.e. approx. 1/3rd of the network is surveyed each year). The information obtained from these surveys is used to identify and prioritise works, and to calculate the annual performance indicator that measures the percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use. The 'easy to use' figure for 2017/18 was 96%.

6. PUBLICATIONS

Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2018-19

The Milestones Statement for 2018-19, which sets out targets and priorities for the coming year, has been submitted for approval by the Rights of Way & Highways Licensing Panel at its meeting on 5th March 2018.

Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026

The “Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026” came into effect on 1st January 2016. Annual updates are published as part of the Milestones Statement.

Public Rights of Way information booklet

This booklet has produced by the Rights of Way team in partnership with the Local Access Forum.

Public Rights of Way section of Borough website

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way

White Waltham Parish Walks leaflet

This leaflet was updated, rewritten and republished in partnership with White Waltham Parish Council.

The Public Rights of Way section of the borough website contains comprehensive information about public rights of way in the borough, including contact details, problem report forms, downloadable leaflets, registers of path claims and Highways Act landowner declarations. The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way is also available online, allowing users to view the paths around their home address, and view the location of all stiles, gates, bollards and signs on public rights of way.

7. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Local Access Forum (LAF) is *“a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community”* established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum membership is listed at Annexe C. The Forum meets twice a year, with additional informal meetings or site visits as required. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 1st November 2017 are included in Annex D. The Local Access Forum web pages can be found at:

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way/452/local_access_forum

The LAF web content was developed by the Forum and contains the following:

- Information about the Forum, and how to get involved
- Minutes and agendas for the Forum meetings
- Links and information tailored for walkers, horse riders and cyclists
- Information about the Forum members and projects
- Copies of advice supplied by the Forum’s Fast Response Team
- Links to neighbouring Local Access Forums and other useful links.

Anyone interested in applying to join the Forum should contact the Forum Secretary, Ambika Chouhan (01628 796185)

ANNEXE A

Public Rights of Way: issues outstanding, February 2018

Parish/path number	Issue	Date reported
Bray Bridleway 29 (Primrose Lane)	Surface improvements needed	8 th June 2016
Bray Footpath 77 (off Trenchard Road)	Surface repair required	2 nd Jan 2018
Cookham FP 46 (off Shergold Way)	Surface repair required	1 st Dec 2017
Hurley FP 1 (Thames Path)	Slippery bridge deck	29 th Jan 2018
Maidenhead FP 72 (Nightingale Lane)	Surface repairs required	8 th Jan 2018
Maidenhead FP 85 (Maidenhead Thicket)	Waymark post required	28 th Nov 2017
Old Windsor FP 3 (Thames Path)	Roots and exposed concrete causing potential trip hazard	11 th Sept 2012
Sunninghill FP 5 (off Church Lane)	Drainage issue being investigated	19 Jan 2017
Sunninghill FP 8 (off Winkfield Road)	Surface improvements needed	13 th Oct 2014

ANNEXE B

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 CLAIMED PATHS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION

FEBRUARY 2018

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Current status
			From	To	
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various roads and paths in and around Thamesfield	Various roads and paths in and around Thamesfield	Orders are to be determined following Public Inquiry scheduled for 1 st -4 th May 2018

ANNEXE C

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

February 2018

Name	Main Interests
Peter Thorn (Chairman) (Basildon, Berks)	Land management
Malcolm Beer (Old Windsor)	Old Windsor Parish Council, walking, cycling
Sara Church (Eton)	Horse riding, British Horse Society
James Copas (Maidenhead)	Land management / farming
Margaret Cubley (Bisham)	Walking, open spaces, CPRE, Bisham Parish Council
Christine Gadd (Sunningdale)	Walking and cycling
Steve Gillions (Old Windsor)	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Lisa Hughes (Maidenhead)	Disabled access
Councillor Maureen Hunt (Hurley)	RBWM nominated councillor
Tom Jarvis (Windsor)	Land management, Crown Estate
Alan Keene (Bisham)	Bisham Parish Council, Countryside, public rights of way, farming and land management
Councillor Asghar Majeed (Maidenhead)	RBWM nominated councillor
Gordon Marrs (Maidenhead)	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Geoff Priest (Hurley)	Hurley Parish Council, open countryside, access for younger users
Katie Sarsfield (Waltham St Lawrence)	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council, public rights of way
Ian Wilson (Bucks)	National Trust, Access and Rights of Way

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

1 November 2017

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Interest area
Councillor Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor
Councillor Malcolm Beer	RBWM Councillor
Alan Keene	Bisham Parish Council
Fiona Hewer	Cookham Parish Council
Lisa Hughes	Disabled users
Christine Gadd	Cycling and walking
Steve Gillions	Walking, East Berkshire Ramblers
Gordon Marrs	Walking, East Berkshire Ramblers
Ian Wilson	The National Trust
Geoff Priest	Vice Chair in the Chair, Hurley Parish Council
Andrew Fletcher	Local Access Forum Secretary
Ambika Chouhan	Incoming LAF Secretary
Andy Carswell	Clerk

OBSERVERS

Annie Keene

APOLOGIES

Name

Katie Sarsfield
Sara Church
Peter Thorn

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
1 November 2017
MINUTES**

ACTION

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

The Vice Chairman, Geoff Priest, welcomed everyone to the thirty-seventh meeting of the Local Access Forum. He explained that Peter Thorn was not well enough to attend and that he would be chairing the meeting instead. Geoff Priest asked everyone present to introduce themselves. He explained that the meeting was being recorded and would be uploaded to the RBWM website.

Apologies for absence were received from Sara Church, Katie Sarsfield and Peter Thorn.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Forum approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017.

Matters arising from last meeting

A draft letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, asking for the success of Countryside Stewardship schemes and other financial incentives to be taken into consideration when considering policies following the withdrawal from the

EU, was circulated amongst members by Andrew Fletcher. The Forum approved the letter, subject to a few typos being corrected.

2 Members' Update

Members had nothing to update.

3 Membership and Staff Update

Andrew Fletcher introduced Ambika Chouhan, who would be taking over secretarial responsibilities for the Forum following the meeting, and would become the main point of contact. Andrew Fletcher explained that he would be taking on a new role at RBWM that included greater responsibility for highways enforcement, although he would continue to assist Ambika Chouhan. The Forum was also informed that the regular Panel clerk, Tanya Leftwich, had recently left RBWM to take up a new role at Wycombe District Council.

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that John Foulger had resigned. Andrew Fletcher stated that he would send him a letter of thanks for his years of service, explaining that he had been a member of the Forum since its inception in 2003.

National Trust Public Rights of Way Plan

- 4** Ian Wilson introduced the item and explained that the an Access and Public Access Rights of Way Management Plan was being developed by the National Trust for the Maidenhead and Cookham Commons. Ian Wilson explained that the Management Plan would tie in with the National Trust's values and behaviours and allow the National Trust to be more proactive regarding the maintenance of rights of way if a Management Plan was clearly defined. Ian Wilson informed the Forum that creating a Management Plan was usually the job of a Local Authority; however the Management Plan he was referring to had

been created in partnership between the National Trust and the Royal Borough to enable upgrading of pathways and bridleways.

During his presentation to the Forum, Ian Wilson explained the issues that were relevant to each section of the Maidenhead and Cookham Commons; for example poor conditions of pathways, lack of waymarkers, and conflict between, for example, dog walkers and horse riders. Ian Wilson gave the example of there only being one waymarker at the Big Thicket. He stated that the largest number of complaints received related to conflict between dog walkers and horse riders at Pinkneys Green, and he requested help from Forum members for ideas on improvements that could be made in this area. The best solution that had been put forward was better engagement and improved signage in the area.

Ian Wilson explained that one of the car parks at Winter Hill had had to be closed due to a large amount of antisocial behaviour. He stated that the National Trust had been reluctant to do this, but since the closure the incidents of antisocial behaviour had decreased.

Ian Wilson told the Forum that plans had been put forward to link Widbrook Common to the Thames Path, which had the full support of the National Trust.

Fiona Hewer congratulated the National Trust for their work on making improvements to include a butterfly park at the Maidenhead Thicket, which had seen more than 20 different species of butterfly being sighted. Andrew Fletcher said that National Trust had done a lot of excellent work to improve the permissive bridleways. He said he would arrange for Sharon Wootten to contact Ian Wilson regarding making bridleways more suitable for horse riders, as she had previously been involved in a project of this nature.

The Forum was told that a target had been set to produce a series of promotional leaflets for the pathways and bridleways around the Maidenhead and Cookham Commons.

Regarding the Winter Hill car park, Cllr Beer asked if it would be possible to install a barrier across it with entry for key card holders. Andrew Fletcher said an extension to the lower car park was being considered, which would negate the need for a barrier. However the proposal put forward by Cllr Beer would also be taken into consideration.

Planning Position Statements

- 5 Andrew Fletcher introduced the item and explained that the idea for the Planning Position Statements was not to review the rationale for specific development sites being chosen, but to make recommendations of what access requirements would be needed. A Working Group had been set up on behalf of the Forum and had met three times.

Andrew Fletcher explained that the PPS would be given to developers at the pre-application stage, in order to make it easier for a developer to incorporate the recommended access requirements into their application. It was explained that it was harder for a developer to make fundamental changes to an application once it had passed the pre-application stage. Andrew Fletcher explained that, subject to approval, the PPS would be sent to the Planning and Highways Team as guidance to be formally adopted.

Regarding the HA22 site on page 70 of the agenda, Cllr Hunt stated that the Neighbourhood Plan group in The Walthams had requested that the land be

classified as Open Space; however it had been designated as Open Countryside in the draft Borough Local Plan. **Andrew Fletcher** stated that the Forum Working Group raised the point that any development on the site would lead to a loss of accessible countryside and that compensatory land would need to be sought by any developer looking to use the site. Regarding why the site had been included in the draft Borough Local Plan, **Andrew Fletcher** said he was unsure why it was included and that he would seek clarification and more details from Victoria Gibson.

It was noted that the supporting information included within the agenda was a draft, as this was what was available when the agenda was published. Members agreed in principle to approving the PPS document. It was agreed that **Andy Carswell** would circulate the revised document to members via email for them to approve.

+ Action (AC): To circulate the revised document for approval.

6

Progress Towards Existing Public Rights of Way Targets

Andrew Fletcher stated that the targets for 2018 would be set in January or February following a consultation with the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel. He provided the Forum with an update on the key progress towards meeting 2017's targets, and outlined them as follows:

- 29 issues had been closed since April 2017.
- There were nine outstanding issues to be resolved, compared to 18 at this stage last year. One of these issues would be settled within the next 14 days.
- One new pathway, leading from Ascot High Street to the station, had been created and proved popular with users. Extra funding had been obtained to install LED lighting along the path.
- The number of stiles had been reduced; however the process of removing them was not simple and required the permission of the landowner. Often the landowner would not want them removed as they, for example, prevented motorcycle access to a particular site.
- 99 per cent of paths were easy to use, ahead of the target of 95 per cent.
- Three out of the ten targeted surface or clearance jobs had been completed.
- Four out of the five targeted bridge repair or replacement jobs had been completed.
- Three access improvements had been carried out, with the target being 15.
- A target for creating one new pathway had been set. Plans were in place for two to be created by the end of the year.
- There was a target to create one new piece of promotional material and one Parish leaflet; currently none had been created.

Andrew Fletcher stated that in terms of meeting targets the Royal Borough was exceptional, explaining that some councils have a backlog of cases going back some years.

+ Action (AF): To send a copy of the presentation with the statistics to Forum members.

+ Action (AF): To update the statistics when the consultation on targets for 2018 takes place

Cllr Beer asked how many of the Parishes had already had leaflets created.

Andrew Fletcher said he thought most of them had but would clarify.

+ Action (AF): To confirm which Parishes have a Footpath Leaflet.

Ian Wilson asked for confirmation of the locations of the two new footpaths.

Andrew Fletcher said he would seek confirmation.

+ Action (AF): To confirm the locations of the two new footpaths.

7

LAF Monitoring Items

Andrew Fletcher circulated a document to members outlining the status of projects that were being monitored by the Forum.

Eton-Dorney Multi User Route

Andrew Fletcher explained that this project was focusing on improvements to make it possible for horse riders to ride from between Eton and Taplow and had been developed in conjunction with Slough Borough Council and Buckinghamshire County Council. However it could not be taken any further as the Environment Agency, as landowner on a particular section, had raised questions about who would take responsibility for liability in the event of a user being injured. The land in question fell under Buckinghamshire County Council's control but they were not willing to accept the liability, meaning that the project could no longer progress.

Cllr Beer asked if there was sufficient headroom for horse riders along the entirety of the route. **Andrew Fletcher** explained that where there were problems, blocks were put in place instructing riders to dismount and walk with their horses.

Forlease Road to Green Lane

Andrew Fletcher explained that this was intended to run underneath the Stafferton Link as part of new landscaping works being carried out. It was explained that RBWM owns the land in question so there were no legal obstacles to overcome. It was anticipated that the project would be completed next year.

Deregulation Bill

There were no updates to inform the Forum about.

Volunteer works

Andrew Fletcher explained that 21 volunteer task days had been carried out since June as part of the Ways Into Work programme; 11 had been arranged with the Berkshire College of Agriculture and one with the Conservation Volunteers. A further task day with the Conservation Volunteers was scheduled for the day after the meeting.

M4 smart motorway

Andrew Fletcher explained that RBWM had requested changes to the height of the parapet fence at Marsh Lane bridge in order to improve safety for horse riders, even though it was outside of the Borough boundary. The maximum height allowed under the development restrictions in place was 1.5m, shorter than the 1.8m recommended for equestrian usage. However it had been

agreed that the bridge's foundations would be constructed in such a way that the fence height could be raised to 1.8m and not impact on the development restrictions.

8 Feedback from Meetings and Conferences

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as **Peter Thorn** was not present and therefore not able to provide members with feedback from LAF Chairs' meetings.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Members were informed that the calendar of meetings for the forthcoming year had not yet been agreed, and that the dates of the next Forum meetings would be circulated as soon as possible.

The meeting, which started at 6.30 pm, ended at 8.02 pm.

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