

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

Councillor Maureen Hunt
Councillor Malcolm Beer
Alan Keene
Fiona Hewer
Lisa Hughes
Christine Gadd
Steve Gillions
Gordon Marrs
Ian Wilson
Geoff Priest

Andrew Fletcher
Ambika Chouhan
Andy Carswell

OBSERVERS

Annie Keene

APOLOGIES

Name

Katie Sarsfield
Sara Church
Peter Thorn

Interest area

RBWM Councillor
RBWM Councillor
Bisham Parish Council
Cookham Parish Council
Disabled users
Cycling and walking
Walking, East Berkshire Ramblers
Walking, East Berkshire Ramblers
The National Trust
Vice Chair in the Chair, Hurley Parish Council

Local Access Forum Secretary
Incoming LAF Secretary
Clerk

**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.

10
11