

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 1st DECEMBER 2009

FEEDBACK FROM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ADVICE: INFORMATION ITEM

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To feedback to the Forum outcomes of recent advice given by the LAF.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 Forestry Commission Consultation: The long term role of the Public Forest Estate in England

The Local Access Forum Fast Response Team met on 8th September 2009 and responded to the above Forestry Commission Consultation on behalf of the Forum, and the advice was sent to the Forestry Commission and a copy distributed to all members on 16th September 2009.

No feedback has been received from the Forestry Commission as yet.

2.2 Hedgerow Leaflet

The Forum recommended to the Council that a leaflet be developed to remind landowners about their responsibility to look after hedges/trees adjacent to public rights of way. Hilary Essen worked closely with Andrew Fletcher to develop the content and the draft text of the leaflet which was tabled at the 20th January 09 meeting of the forum.

The leaflet is now in use and includes advice on garden waste as well as trees & hedges, and has proven to have effect in several cases where it has been used. Path Wardens from the East Berks. Ramblers' Association have also been given copies of the leaflet for their use, and have been asked to provide feedback to the Council when they have been used.

2.3 Public Rights of Way Website Maps

At the Local Access Forum meeting on 30th June 2009 the Forum discussed the Public Rights of Way Maps that are accessible online. The Forum made the following recommendations:

- Stiles, gates etc.
- The ability for footpath wardens to annotate to warn of a recent obstruction etc.
- Different colours for disabled routes, bridleways, cycle routes.
- Links to other websites to enable you to plan your route, for example parking and transport and weather forecasts.

These requirements have been sent to the Council's GeoInformation Service (GIS) team for consideration for the next phase of updates to the Maps Online service.

In terms of the Definitive Map online, a solution has been found which will allow the full definitive map to be available online. The Public Rights of Way team and the Council's web development team are working to get this available very soon.
