

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2009

MILLENNIUM WALK: DECISION ITEM

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Forum about the outcome of the recent Millennium Walk missing link site visits, and to consult the Forum about the expected Planning Application at Whitebrook Park.

**2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

2.1 At the meeting of the Local Access Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, the Forum decided that the Millennium Walk would be a priority for 2009-2010.

2.2 Two site visits were arranged to look at the main missing links of the Millennium Walk:

Missing Link 1: Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path at Whitebrook Park

The Forum made a site visit on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009, whilst the path was opened for the annual Maidenhead Boundary Walk.

Guy Badman, Cllr Beer, Margaret Bowdery, Margaret Cubley and Harry Hancock, along with Anthony Hurst - Principal Public Rights of Way Officer and Andrew Fletcher – LAF Secretary and Public Rights of Way Officer, attended the meeting. Ann Darracott from the Maidenhead Civic Society and Margaret Bowdery led the walk after explaining the history and objectives of the link. The members then walked the proposed link and discuss various issues along the way.

Missing Link 2: Hurley Footpath 18 to Henley Road

The Forum made a site visit to this link on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009, led by Peter Thorn. Unfortunately due to light levels the entire proposed link could not be walked, but the particular issue of the road crossing at Temple Golf Club was examined and discussed.

Cllr. Beer, Margaret Bowdery, Bill Cathcart, Curly Carver, Hilary Essen, Harry Hancock and Peter Thorn, along with Stephen Brown, Head of Highways and Engineering, Anthony Hurst and Andrew Fletcher attended the meeting.

Various options were discussed at the meeting that have led to a potential solution being developed for a crossing point, subject to a bid for capital funding.

There remains one issue to resolve before this can be taken further: As part of the investigation the highway records and land ownership records were consulted and the highway boundary does not abut the Berkshire College of Agriculture boundary. The land is owned in part by two separate landowners, and part is unregistered. Permission will be needed from each landowner in order for the project to go ahead.

The Council will be writing to each landowner to gauge whether they will be amenable to allowing public access for this crossing.

2.3 Whitebrook Park Planning Application

A revised planning application is expected to be submitted for Whitebrook Park and Margaret Bowdery has suggested that this is examined by the Local Access Forum Fast Response Team, as there may be potential gains to be made by agreement with the developer.

**The views of the Forum are requested as to the following:**

- **Does the Forum wish to authorise the Fast Response Team to respond to this planning application on the Forum's behalf?**
- **If yes, what guidance does the Forum wish to convey to help the Fast Response Team's deliberations?**
- **Does the Forum wish to become involved in Planning Applications, and if yes, which applications and how does it wish to handle them?**

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