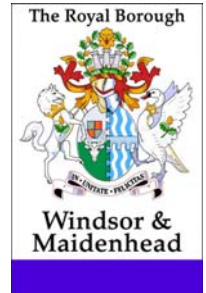


## ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

### LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 2011



#### Introduction from the Chair

[tbc]

**Peter Thorn**

Chairman of the Local Access Forum.

#### Activities of the forum

##### Funding and resources for Public Rights of Way

The forum discussed the issue of funding and resources for public rights of way projects, in particular with regard to developer contributions and grant funding opportunities. The forum resolved to investigate further any opportunities for external funding, and recommended to the Council that the procedures for developer contributions be reviewed to take more account of public rights of way projects.

##### Milestones Statement, and targets for the coming year

The forum was consulted on the Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Report 2011-2012, and recommended that the Council retain its current targets for the coming year, and wrote directly to the Chief Executive of the Council to urge that the existing staff and resources for public rights of way be retained.

##### Windsor Great Park Easy Going Routes

The forum has been closely involved with the development of the Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route, holding a joint site visit in October 2010 with delegates from the Bracknell Forest Local Countryside Access Forum and disabled users to examine the proposed route and offer suggestions and improvements, which fed into the revision and redesign of the proposed route.

##### Chiltern Society 'donate-a-gate' scheme and volunteer works

The forum welcomed a presentation from the Chiltern Society regarding the 'donate-a-gate' scheme run in conjunction with Buckinghamshire County Council. This led to a detailed discussion about how this kind of scheme could be operated within the Royal Borough, and also how the Council could partner with volunteer organisations to deliver path

improvements. The forum continued to monitor the progress of working with volunteer groups and suggested various additional avenues of opportunity for volunteer works.

#### LAF website

Taking advantage of expertise offered by new members, the forum approved a detailed and extensive review of its website, which had remained largely unchanged since 2003. The changes suggested are currently being implemented.

#### Public Rights of Way and planning applications

The forum delegated a sub-group of members to meet with the officers of the Council to discuss concerns regarding public rights of way and planning applications, leading to the agreement of a number of actions to address the concerns raised.

#### The Millennium Walk

The forum continued to monitor the progress of the 'Millennium Walk' project, and placed it on the list of items to be reviewed at every formal meeting of the forum.

#### Local Access Forum Fast Response Team

The Fast Response Team, set up by the forum to respond to consultations that fall outside of the forum's formal meeting dates, responded to the following requests for advice on behalf of the forum:

- Farmers Close / Culley Way alley gating order consultation – March 2011
- Planning application at Town Moor, Maidenhead – April and June 2011

#### Other issues that the forum has discussed during 2010-2011:

- Horse grazing issues
- Non-standard barriers on cycle tracks
- Activities of neighbouring Local Access Forums.

### **Looking forward**

- [tbc]

### **Meetings of the Forum**

The Local Access Forum meetings for 2010-2011 were as follows:

#### Formal meetings

- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Maidenhead
- 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – Ascot/Bray Rooms, Town Hall, Maidenhead

#### Other meetings

- 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – Joint site visit with Bracknell Forest LCAF at Cruch Lane, Bray
- 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – Local Access Forum sub-group meeting – Public Rights of Way and planning applications
- 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010 – Joint site visit with Bracknell Forest LCAF at Windsor Great Park
- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – Local Access Forum Fast Response Team meeting – planning application for Town Moor, Maidenhead
- The forum secretary and two forum members also attended the South East LAF Symposium held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

## Membership of the Forum

The forum is expected to achieve a reasonable balance of members' interests. The current membership of the Local Access Forum is listed below.

Name	Representing	Other interests
Dorothy Allard	Land and estate management	
Teja Bains	Running	Public Rights of Way, Countryside access
Cllr. Malcolm Beer	RBWM Councillor	Walking; Cycling; Caravanning; Member of Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve Management Committee; Rights of Way; Old Windsor Parish Councillor
Margaret Bowdery	Walking	East Berks Ramblers'; Disabled access; Cycling; Conservation; Marketing
Mike Bruton	Disabled users	Disabled rambling; Access for the disabled.
Sara Church*	Horse riding	
Lynn Cassells	Land and estate management	National Trust
James Copas	Land and estate management	
Margaret Cubley	Walking and open spaces	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Bisham Parish Councillor
Loren Eldred	Land management	Woodland Trust
Hilary Essen	Walking and health issues	
John Foulger	Walking	Open Spaces; Rights of Way; Bray Parish Councillor
Christine Gadd	Rights of Way; Walking; Cycling	Sunningdale Parish Councillor
Harry Hancock	Walking and open spaces	Mid Thames Ramblers
Gordon Harris	Footpaths and open spaces	Cookham Parish Councillor
Helen Howard	Horse riding	Bray Parish Councillor; The British Horse Society and British Dressage
Tom Jarvis*	Land and estate management	Crown Estate
Cllr. Asghar Majeed	RBWM Councillor	

\* Joined 2011

Julie Mason	Walking	Strategy, Planning & Marketing
Andrew Randall	Land and estate management	Chairman of Royal Berks. Agricultural Association
Cllr. John Stretton	RBWM Councillor	Cookham Parish Councillor
Chris Westacott	Land and estate management	Public Rights of Way, Hurley Parish Council

## Finances

		<b>Total Cost (£)</b>
<b>Room Booking:</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup> June 2010	52.50	
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2010	52.50	
		<b>105.00</b>
<b>Other Expenses:</b>		
Subscription to "Waymark" 2011-12		<b>60.00</b>
<b>Members' Expenses:</b>		
Dependent Care	-	-
Travel / Mileage		<b>39.50</b>
Other Expenses	-	-
		<b>0.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>£204.50</b>

## How to get involved

For more information about the Local Access Forum and how you can get involved, visit the Local Access Forum web pages at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/local\\_access\\_forum.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/local_access_forum.htm), or contact Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer on (01628) 796122 or email [andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk) or [prow@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:prow@rbwm.gov.uk)