

## **The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum**

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[http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow\\_local\\_access\\_forum.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm)

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## **RBWM Local Access Forum Fast Response Team**

### ***Consultation Response: Planning Application No. 11/02401 - Installation of a raised walkway across Town Moor, Maidenhead***

*The Local Access Forum (LAF) Fast Response Team have examined the above planning application and make the following comments on behalf of the Local Access Forum:*

The Local Access Forum considers that the proposed development, albeit an improvement to that submitted under application number 11/00226, would still have a significant adverse effect on Town Moor and recommends that the application should not be approved in its current guise.

#### **Severance of existing public rights of way and access**

The forum is pleased to note that the position of the path and bridge has changed to run from the corner of Blackamoor Lane directly to the car park next to the Fire Station, which was one of the recommendations submitted by the forum in its response to application 11/00226.

There is an existing bridge at this point which serves to connect Maidenhead Footpaths 3A, 5A and 82 which are popular footpaths and provide access to Town Moor and the 'Green Way' promoted route from the south. The current proposal is to remove this bridge at this point and replace it with a new bridge without any provision to for the existing paths to join the new walkway, effectively severing them.

In addition to this the raised walkway would sever Maidenhead Footpath 4 running from the south-east, and prevents access currently enjoyed to the south-east of Town Moor from the junction of Footpaths 3A and 5A.

It is recommended that the design of the walkway should be modified to include a ramped access at the north of the bridge at Town Moor to link to footpath 5A and 3A, and also a ramped access at this point to allow access to the south-east of Town Moor. In addition to this the design of the walkway should be modified to allow ramped access from Maidenhead Footpath 4 on both sides.

Without these modifications the forum considers that the walkway would be too disruptive to the existing network.

#### **Safety of users**

The forum considers that the walkway as proposed would not create a safe environment for the public to use because the only way on and off the walkway is at the terminating ends. This creates a potential danger because there are no escape points should a member of the public be confronted or attacked. The

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walkway should have regular access and exit points to allow members of the public to escape the leave if they choose.

### **Visual Impact**

As with the previous application, the forum considers that this development will create a significant detrimental visual impact on Town Moor and the proposal does not go far enough to limit and minimise this impact.

### **Other proposals**

The forum is mindful that there is a potential conflict between the proposals in this application and those submitted for the area in regard to the Maidenhead Waterways scheme, under planning application no. 11/02183.

Date of response: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**This letter constitutes formal advice from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.**