

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT MILESTONES STATEMENT & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2012/13

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consult the Forum on the priorities, targets and service standards to be included in the Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2012/13.

**2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

2.1 The Council produces a **Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review**, which sets out priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year, and reviews progress made in the previous year. The Statement also includes an update on progress with implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005/2015. The Milestones Statement helps guide the work of the Council's Public Rights of Way Team, ensures that available resources are directed towards agreed objectives and priorities, and enables effective monitoring of progress.

2.2 The Milestones Statement is scheduled to be submitted to the Council's Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel on **12<sup>th</sup> March 2012**, prior to publication in April 2012. The published Milestones Statement will then be circulated to all members of the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel, Parish Councils, Local Access Forum members and others with an interest in the public rights of way network, and will also be available in public libraries and Council offices, and will be published on the Borough website.

2.3 The views of the Local Access Forum are requested on the following:

- Priorities for 2012/13: Are there any recommended changes to the priorities listed in the current 2011/12 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?
- Milestones Targets for 2012/13: Are there any recommended changes to the Milestones Targets listed in the current 2011/12 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?
- Service Standards for 2012/13: Are there any recommended changes to the Service Standards listed in the 2011/12 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?

Progress towards the Milestones Targets in the current year (up to 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2011) is set out in Appendix B and could be used as a guide to setting the targets for 2012/13.

2.4 **Volunteer work**: the Forum may wish to consider establishing a new Milestones target based upon the amount of practical volunteer work carried out on public rights of way in the Borough. This would both recognise the valuable work already being undertaken by volunteers, and help to monitor and encourage volunteering on the public rights of way network

**MAKING YOUR COMMENTS**: Any comments or recommendations agreed by the Forum at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December will be incorporated into a report to the March 2012 Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel as "Local Access Forum comments or recommendations". If individual Forum members wish to submit their own comments, these should be made in writing by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2012**, for inclusion in the Panel report as individual comments.

# LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 13th DECEMBER 2011

## AGENDA ITEM 6 APPENDIX A

### *Priorities for 2011/12*

The Royal Borough, in consultation with the interested parties listed in Appendix 1, considers that its priorities in public rights of way management in 2011/12 are as follows:

- Maintenance and enforcement: bringing public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- Equality of service: ensuring that the needs of all users, regardless of race, disability, sexuality, age and religion, are taken into account.
- Ensure that the Thames Path National Trail is consistently safe and easy to use by all members of the public.
- Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk.
- Parish Paths Initiative (PPI) scheme: continuing to work with parish and town councils and volunteers.
- Partnership working: working with all interested parties in the management of public rights of way, (e.g. Local Access Forum, Parish Councils, Civic Societies, user groups and landowners)
- Claims: reduce the backlog of applications to add to or amend the Definitive Map.
- Changes to the network: seeking improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- Improvements to the network: seeking improvements for horse riders and people with restricted mobility.
- Consultation: ensuring effective early consultation with interested parties on proposed changes to the network, in accordance with government regulations, circulars and codes of practice.
- Liaise with landowners and occupiers on all public rights of way matters, including updating and advising landowners on changes in legislation.
- Maximise the use of recycled and reused materials in rights of way maintenance where practicable.

### *Milestones Targets for 2011/12*

#### **Well Maintained**

**WM 1:** To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is the former Best Value Performance Indicator for public rights of way). Target for 2011/12 is **95%**.

**WM 2:** To carry out major surface improvements/vegetation clearance on **10** public rights of way.

**WM 3:** To repair or replace **5** bridges.

#### **Legally Defined**

**LD 1:** To actively progress a minimum of **4** applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map.

**LD 2:** To resolve a minimum of **1** significant error in the definitive map.

#### **Well Publicised**

**WP 1:** To produce **1** leaflet publicising access opportunities for people with special needs.

**WP 2:** To assist others to produce effective promotional material. Target: a minimum of **1** new publication.

#### **Improving Access and Connectivity**

**AC 1:** To achieve **2** new routes from the Rights of Way Improvement Plan projects.

**AC 2:** To make physical improvements including replacement of **20** stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.

#### **Enforcement**

**EN 1:** To resolve **30** enforcement issues.

## Service standards

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has the following key aims in relation to public rights of way:

- To ensure that the borough's public rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised
- To ensure that public rights of way are safeguarded and enhanced
- To help landowners and users to understand their responsibilities and rights
- To consult and work with interested parties to achieve the provision of a well-maintained and signed network of public rights of way

We will liaise with and involve:

- Local Access Forum
- Parish and Town Councils
- Natural England
- East Berks Ramblers
- Disabled Ramblers
- British Horse Society
- British Driving Society
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Sustrans
- Vehicle User Groups
- National Farmers' Union
- Country Land & Business Association
- Thames Path Management Group
- Any other interested parties

Comply with **British Standards** on all new structures and furniture, and where possible, upon replacement of existing structures or furniture. BS 5709-2006 gaps, gates and stiles; order of preference; a) gap, b) gate, c) kissing gate, d) stile.

Barbed wire, razor wire, farm type electrical fences and suchlike should not normally be used in the vicinity of structures covered by this standard, but where these wires are necessary then assessment should be made of the effect they have on the safety and convenience of people in the vicinity.

A condensed version of BS 5709-2006 produced by the Pitcroft Trust is available on request from the public rights of way team.

Carry out:

- A condition survey of each path every three years, based on a rolling programme of six-monthly surveys (in partnership with East Berks Ramblers Association).
- An inspection of rights of way in a dangerous condition within one working day of notification, make safe within one working day of inspection, and inform correspondents of the results within three working days.

Use our powers:

- To enforce and remove any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, and enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) within 6 weeks of inspection, and give consideration to all available statutory powers including prosecutions where appropriate.
- To process uncontested applications for Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders (claims) within 1 year of receipt.
- To inform the correspondents of the reasons for any delay beyond the periods stated above.

Publish:

- The definitive map and statement every five years
- Information leaflets and updates regularly

Public Rights of Way Milestone Targets 2011/12: monthly update December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011	
<b>WELL MAINTAINED</b>	
<p><b>WM1</b> <i>To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public (former Best Value Performance Indicator 178). Target for 2011/12: 95%</i></p>	97.4 % (Spring survey only)
<p><b>WM2</b> <i>To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)</i></p> <p><b>Sunningdale FP 10</b> (Tinker's Lane)</p> <p><b>Bray BR 9/Windsor BR 11</b> (Legoland)</p> <p><b>Bray FP 59</b> (off Oakley Green Road)</p> <p><b>Maidenhead RB 70/Cookham RB 20</b> (Malders Lane)</p> <p><b>Sunninghill RB 27</b> (Buckhurst Lane)</p> <p><b>Hurley RB 41</b> (Star Lane)</p> <p><b>White Waltham RB 4</b> (School Lane)</p> <p><b>White Waltham RB 10</b> (Breadcroft Lane)</p>	<p>Major clearance work</p> <p>Major clearance work</p> <p>Major clearance work</p> <p>Surface improvements</p> <p>Surface improvements</p> <p>Surface improvements</p> <p>Surface improvements</p> <p>Major clearance work</p> <p><b>Total 8</b></p>
<p><b>WM3</b> <i>To repair or replace 5 bridges.</i></p> <p><b>Hurley FP 1</b> (Thames Path)</p> <p><b>Bray FP 24 (x2)</b> (north of Drift Road)</p> <p><b>Old Windsor FP 3</b> (Thames Path)</p> <p><b>White Waltham FP 15</b> (Waltham Place)</p> <p><b>Walt St Lawrence FP 38</b> (off Smewins Road)</p>	<p>Bridge repaired</p> <p>Two bridges replaced</p> <p>Bridge hand rails installed</p> <p>Bridge repaired</p> <p>Bridge repaired</p> <p><b>Total 6</b></p>
<b>LEGALLY DEFINED</b>	

<p><b>LD1</b> <i>To actively progress a minimum of 4 applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map (DMMO claims).</i></p> <p><b>White Waltham claimed path 501</b> (Littlewick Green)</p> <p><b>Shottesbrooke claimed path 501</b> (Pundles Lane)</p>	<p>DMMO made 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011, referred to Sec. of State with objections</p> <p>DMMO made 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011, objection deadline 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2012</p> <p><b>Total 2</b></p>
<p><b>LD2</b> <i>To resolve a minimum of 1 significant error in definitive map.</i></p>	<p>0</p>
<p><b>WELL PUBLICISED</b></p>	
<p><b>WP1</b> <i>To produce 1 leaflet publicising access opportunities for people with special needs.</i></p>	<p>0</p>
<p><b>WP2</b> <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material. Target for 2009/10: a minimum of 1 new publication.</i></p>	<p>Chiltern Way Berkshire loop (with Chiltern Society)</p> <p><b>Total 1</b></p>
<p><b>IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY</b></p>	
<p><b>AC1</b> <i>To achieve 2 new routes from the Rights of Way Improvement Plan projects</i></p>	<p>Hurley Road horse margin</p> <p><b>Total 1</b></p>
<p><b>AC2</b> <i>To make physical improvements, including replacement of 20 stiles with gates, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.</i></p> <p><b>Eton FP 3</b> (off Common Lane)</p> <p><b>Bray FP 49</b> (off Fifield Road)</p> <p><b>Bray FP 57</b> (off Forest Green Road)</p> <p><b>Bray FP 53</b> (south of Windsor Road)</p> <p><b>Cookham FP 48</b> (Green Way at Widbrook Common)</p> <p><b>Waltham St Lawrence FP 25</b> (Billingbear Park)</p>	<p>5 stiles replaced with Kissing Gates</p> <p>Stile replaced with Kissing Gate</p> <p>Stile replaced with Swing Gate</p> <p>4 x squeeze stiles replaced with 3 swing gates and 1 kissing gate</p> <p>Ramps added to footbridge</p> <p>Stile replaced with motorcycle barrier</p> <p><b>Total 13</b></p>
<p><b>ENFORCEMENT</b></p>	
<p><b>EN 1</b> <i>To resolve 30 enforcement issues</i></p> <p><b>Bisham RB 10</b> (off A404); Locked gate obstructing carriage use</p> <p><b>Bisham FP 18</b> (off Lee Lane): electric fence across footpath</p>	<p>Gate unlocked by landowner</p> <p>Fence removed by landowner</p>

<b>Bisham FP 21</b> (off Temple Lane); Unauthorised gates	Gates removed by landowner
<b>Bisham FP 32</b> (off Marlow Road): path cropped not reinstated	Path reinstated by landowner
<b>Permitted Bridleway under A404</b> (off Dungrove Hill Lane): access for horse riders obstructed by tree trunks that were installed to prevent illegal use by motor vehicles	Tree trunks repositioned to enable horse rider access
<b>Bray BR 29</b> (Primrose Lane): illegal use by motor vehicles	Bollards supplied by Council and installed by landowner
<b>Bray BR 44</b> (Gays Lane): access for horse riders obstructed by tree trunks	Tree trunks repositioned to enable horse rider access
<b>Bray FP 51a</b> (off Fifield Road): illegal use by motor vehicles	Bollards supplied by Council and installed by landowner
<b>Bray FP 52:</b> ( off Fifield Road) electric fence across footpath	Fence removed by landowner
<b>Eton FP 40</b> (off Victoria Road) : overgrown hedges	Hedges cut back by landowner
<b>Eton BR 18</b> (South Field): path cropped and not reinstated	Path reinstated by landowner
<b>Eton BR 13</b> (South Field): illegal use of bridleway in 4X4 vehicle	Police action, vehicle confiscated
<b>Eton BR 13</b> (Haywards Mead): builders materials on path	Materials removed by resident
<b>Horton FP 3</b> (off Park Lane): illegal vehicular use	Bollards installed
<b>Maid FP 13</b> (off Summerleaze Road): Japanese knotweed adjacent to footpath	Landowner notified of responsibility to remove plants
<b>Maid FP 24</b> (rear of Wurley Way): private tree works incomplete	Works completed by resident
<b>Maid FP 41</b> (off Halifax Road): overgrown hedge	Hedge cut back by landowner
<b>Cook FP 57</b> (Cock Marsh): "intimidating" cattle in field	Cattle moved to different fields
<b>Hurley FP 11</b> (off Shepherds Close): encroaching fence	Fence repositioned by landowner
<b>Sunningdale BW 4</b> (Kiln Lane): garden rubbish dumping	Rubbish removed by householder
<b>Waltham St Lawrence FP 31</b> (off Broadmoor Lane): motorbikes using footpath	Gates and fencing repaired
<b>Waltham St Lawrence FP 38</b> (off Smewins Lane): obstruction by fencing	Obstructions removed by occupier.
<b>Windsor BR 2 (Roses Lane):</b> lack of reinstatement by utility company	Track reinstated by utility company
<b>Bisham Footpath 21</b> (Temple Lane): unauthorised gates	Gates removed by owner
	<b>Total 24</b>