

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 13 DECEMBER 2011

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MONITORING REPORT

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the forum about the status of projects on the LAF regular monitoring list, to seek approval of the updated LAF web pages and changes to the LAF Members' Online Discussion Forum.

2. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

(a) Millennium Walk

One of the priorities set out in the "Milestones Statement 2011/12, is to "Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk."

Missing link between Lower Cookham Road and Thames Path National Trail

Discussions are currently taking place with the landowners on a proposal to create a new public footpath from Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path. As well as filling a "missing link" in the Millennium Walk (which runs across the north of the borough from the Thames at Hurley to the Thames north of Maidenhead), this footpath will provide a useful new link to the Thames Path and a link in various circular routes based around the Thames Path and the Green Way.

A funding contribution of £50,000 towards the cost of creating the new footpath has been secured through a S.106 Planning Agreement relating to re-development of the former 'Stiefel Laboratories' site off Lower Cookham Road. However, it should be noted that this funding will not become available until commencement of the development, and implementation of the footpath project is therefore dependent upon the timing of the development.

As in previous years, a route across this land was made available by the landowners for the annual Maidenhead Boundary Walk, which took place on 8th October.

Any further update on the discussions currently taking place with the landowners will be provided orally at the meeting.

Missing link between Footpath 18 Hurley and Footpath 20 Bisham (Speen Hill)

A permitted path agreement had previously been negotiated between the Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) and East Berks Ramblers for a new permitted footpath across land owned by the College, emerging onto Henley Road opposite an existing footpath across Temple golf course (FP 20 Bisham). Due to poor sightlines at the Golf course entrance, it is also proposed to construct a short roadside footpath and retaining wall to enable walkers to cross at a safer point along the road, and funding is available for this work in the Councils capital programme for 2011/12. In addition, partnership funding contributions for the project have been offered by the East Berks Ramblers (£1,750) and Maidenhead Civic Society (£750), and preparatory works for the permitted footpath across the BCA land have been completed on site.

The works to construct the roadside footpath, and associated traffic signage and road markings, had been scheduled to start in November 2011. However, this work has been put on hold pending current discussions with the BCA concerning the permitted footpath across the College land.

Any further update on the discussions currently taking place with the College will be provided orally at the meeting.

(b) Volunteer works

Following on from recommendations made by the forum the Council has been seeking to engage and work with local volunteer groups to undertake path works. To this end the Council has worked closely with the BTCV and the Windsor and Maidenhead Conservation Volunteers.

A report detailing the works undertaken is attached as Appendix A.

In addition to this, the Council has continued to work closely with the East Berks Ramblers with respect to path surveys and occasionally maintenance and signage works.

(c) LAF website & online forum

Julie Mason has worked closely with the Public Rights of Way team to provide an updated and enhanced website for the Local Access Forum, and has developed a template and content which is currently being put in place.

A new version of the Local Access Forum website will be tabled at the meeting for the approval of the forum prior to publication.

The Council set up a LAF Members' Online Discussion Forum to encourage greater communication and discussion of issues in between formal meetings. Unfortunately this has not been as successful as hoped. The Council is considering changing the system to use a 'blog' based system instead of a 'web forum' based system. It is hoped that this will enable information to be rapidly distributed amongst members where needed, and will enable members to be able to submit and respond to comments. Email updates whenever anything changes can be distributed automatically, the system would allow the area to be restricted to Members only and would not need to be supported by advertisements. The forums comments and recommendations are invited regarding this proposal.

PROW Volunteer Group work - Tracking sheet

| Works | | | | Works admin | | | | | Invoicing | | Monitoring | | PROW Admin | | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|--|-------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Parish | Path No. | Work type | Works description | Assigned | Comments | Date sent | Spec produced | L/O permission? | Materials ordered | Date completed | Invoice | Invoice paid? | No. of Volunteers | Hours worked | Officer W/E hours |
| Bray | 9 | VC | Vegetation works, Windsor BR 9 (around Legoland). A hard cut back of encroaching vegetation, approx 1500m. | BTCV | | 11/05/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | 13/10/2011 | Grant funded | n/a | 4 | 5.5 | 0 |
| Bray | 64 | DC | Ditching works, Bray BR 64 Cruch Lane, mainly on the western side of the path. Approx 1km. | BTCV | | 11/05/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | 11/08/2011 | Grant funded | n/a | 8 | 5.5 | 0 |
| Old Windsor | 8 | VC | Cut back bushes etc from verges to create a wider path | BTCV | Ran out of days | 11/05/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | n/a | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sunninghill | 27 | DC | Ditching works, Sunninghill RB 27 Buckhurst Lane, mainly on the eastern side of the path at the northern end. Approx 200m. | BTCV | | 11/05/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | 25/06/2011 | Grant funded | n/a | 9 | 5.5 | 0 |
| Waltham St Lawrence | 35 | DC | Ditching works, Waltham St Lawrence BR 35 Uncles Lane, both sides. Approx 1km total. | WMCV | | 11/03/2011 | Yes | Yes | n/a | 01/05/2011 | £16.00 | Yes | 4 | 4 | 2.25 |
| Hurley | 21 | VC | Clearance of Hilalayan Balsam | EBR | | 03/10/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | 07/10/2011 | £0.00 | n/a | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Old Windsor | 2 | VC | Clear vegetation to give a 1.5m clear verge each side of walked path | BTCV | To be done: 15/12/11 & 22/12/11 | 16/11/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | | Grant funded | | | | |

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|---------|----|----|---|------|---|------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Datchet | 8 | VC | Clear vegetation to give a min. 1.5m width, cut back hedge on west-east section of path by 10-15cm | BTCV | To be done: 26/1/12 | 16/11/2011 | Yes | tbc | n/a | Grant funded |
| Hurley | 13 | VC | Cut back and clear vegetation on each side of path by 1.5m where possible. | BTCV | To be done: 11/2/12 | 16/11/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | Grant funded |
| Datchet | 9 | VC | Cut back and clear vegetation to 1.5 metres on each side of the path as appropriate. | BTCV | To be done: 23/2/12 & 8/3/12 | 16/11/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | Grant funded |
| Cookham | 55 | VC | Cut back and clear any vegetation encroaching onto the 1 metre surfaced path, and cut back and clear any overgrowth along the west-east section. Mattock out bramble roots along the path, particularly at the middle section of the north-south path. | BTCV | inc. Maid 10 & Cook 54. To be done: 8/3/12 & 29/3/12 | 16/11/2011 | Yes | n/a | n/a | Grant funded |