

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

**Chair:** Peter Thorn, 3 Stonehouse, Reading Road, Lower Basildon, RG8 9NL

**Secretariat:** Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer  
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

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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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David Oram

Strategic Director of the Environment and Deputy Chief Executive  
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead  
Town Hall  
Maidenhead  
SL6 1RF

30<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Dear Mr Oram,

### **Millennium Walk missing link at former Steifel Laboratories site**

I am writing you as the Chair of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum.

The Forum is a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community. It was set up as a result of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, and its purpose is to advise the Council and other bodies as to the improvement of public access to land in the Royal Borough.

At its last meeting on 13th December 2011, the forum discussed the 'missing links' of the Millennium Walk project being developed by the Maidenhead Civic Society and the East Berks Ramblers, in particular the link between Lower Cookham Road and the Thames Path National Trail.

This project has already secured a funding contribution of £50,000 from developer contributions previously, however this funding will not become available until the commencement of the 'Stiefel Laboratories' development.

Unfortunately subsequent events and economic conditions have cast some doubt amongst members of the forum about the viability of this development and after discussion the forum seeks to recommend to the Council that alternative options for funding the route be investigated.

As a result I write to respectfully request, as the Council's Strategic Director for the Environment, that you take this recommendation forward.

I would be grateful if you could reply to this letter in order that I may pass your response to the forum members for their information.

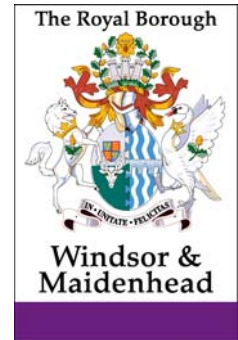
Yours Sincerely,

Peter Thorn  
Chair of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

**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.**

Please reply to: David Oram  
Direct Line: 01628 796016  
Email: David.oram@rbwm.gov.uk  
My ref:  
Your ref:

Town Hall  
St Ives Road  
Maidenhead  
Berkshire SL6 1RF



Mr. Peter Thorn  
Chairman, RBWM Local Access Forum  
3 Stonehouse  
Reading Road  
Lower Basildon  
Berks RG8 9NL

9<sup>th</sup> March 2012

Dear Peter

### **Missing link in the Millennium Walk: land at rear of former Steifel Laboratories site, Lower Cookham Road**

Thank you for your letter of 30<sup>th</sup> January. I apologise for the delay in replying but before responding I have had to discuss your letter with colleagues and obtain background information on this project.

As you know, the Council has for a number of years been working with the Local Access Forum and other partners, in particular the Maidenhead Civic Society and the East Berks Ramblers, on the Millennium Walk project.

You are of course also aware that one of the missing links in the route (which crosses land owned by the Berkshire College of Agriculture) has recently been completed through an agreement with the College, together with associated road safety improvements at Henley Road carried out by the Council. A formal opening ceremony for this new link in the Walk is to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, and all members of the Forum will be invited to this event.

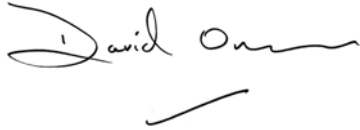
A further missing link in the proposed route of the Millennium Walk is the section from Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path, across land to the rear of the former Steifel Laboratories site. Currently there are no public rights of way in this area, and in order to complete this link a new footpath would need to be created across private land.

As you point out in your letter, a sum of £50,000 has already been earmarked for this project from a S.106 Planning Agreement relating to the redevelopment of the former Steifel Laboratories site on Lower Cookham Road. Under the terms of this Agreement (dated February 2010), the funding for the footpath project would only become available once the development has commenced. Additionally, part of the route of the footpath crosses land owned by the owners of the former Steifel site, and the agreement to route the new footpath across this land will only come into effect upon commencement of the development.

The feasibility of the project will also be dependent upon the outcome of discussions with the owners of the land crossed by the remaining length of the proposed footpath (White Place Farm). Discussions have been held with these landowners over recent years, with a view to agreeing a new footpath across their land. These discussions are continuing, although a recent death in the family has inevitably led to some uncertainties that may affect the viability and timing of the project.

As you will gather from the above, there are outstanding landownership and funding issues that will need to be resolved before this project can be taken forward. I will however ensure that the Forum is kept advised of further progress with the project.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Oram". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

David Oram  
**Strategic Director of Environment &  
Deputy Chief Executive**