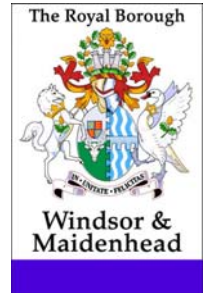


ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2011 – 2012



Introduction from the Chair

[tbc]

Peter Thorn

Chairman of the Local Access Forum.

Activities of the forum

Multi-use paths

Following a report brought to the forum by one of its members, the forum discussed a proposal to create 'multi-use routes' within the borough by allowing horse riders to use existing cycle tracks. The forum decided to put together a working party to take the proposal forward for a trial along the Jubilee River paths. Representatives were invited from horse riding, cycling and walking interests and put together a proposed route that the trial would take, which is currently awaiting approval from the landowners.

Maidenhead Boundary Walk

The forum recommended to the council that funds should be made available from developer contributions to finance the Maidenhead Boundary Walk waymarking and signage project being undertaken by the East Berks Ramblers (EBR). The council agreed to this request and £2,500 was made available for the project. The Public Rights of Way team worked in conjunction with EBR to develop a Maidenhead Boundary Walk fingersign and waymark disc design and agree the position of the signs and any preparatory work. The signage and waymarking improvements were subsequently completed at the end of May 2012.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

The forum was consulted regarding the council's bid for funds from the Local Sustainable Transport fund. It resolved to support the council's bid for this scheme and offered to help where it can to drive the proposals forward if the bid is approved.

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 2012-2013 and recommended, in the current economic climate, that the council retain its current targets for the coming year. This recommendation was subsequently accepted by the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel in March 2012.

Easy Going Routes

The forum has continued to monitor and steer the development of the Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route and the existing Cookham Easy Going Route. Following approval of the text of the Windsor Great Park leaflet by the forum, the advice of the council's Access Advisory Forum was also sought and a leaflet was published in July 2013. The forum has also monitored the progress of the web versions of both leaflets. A first version of the 'Easy Going Route' web pages was released in May 2012, and the forum will continue to advise the council as to improvements and enhancements to this initial offering.

Developer contributions

The forum discussed issues relating to developer contribution funds and wrote to the council recommending that greater priority should be given to public rights of way projects when funds from developer contributions are distributed. The forum was invited to submit any suggestions for schemes and will be consulted when the annual list of schemes is developed.

LAF website

Working closely with the LAF Secretary a member of the forum reviewed and developed new content for the forum's website to make it more engaging, current and user friendly. This was a complete revamp of the existing website and contains much more content than what has been previously available on this or other local access forum websites that had been examined. The pages now includes: frequently asked questions pages; links and information tailored for walking, cycling and horse riding interests; information about maps, signs and leaflets; detailed of current projects; information about how to get involved with the forum; copies of the reports and advice given by the forum and the Fast Response Team; information about the forum's strategy and plans and many other useful links. This was approved and adopted by the forum in December 2012.

The Millennium Walk

The forum continued to champion and monitor the progress of the 'Millennium Walk' project and was invited recently to the opening of a new permitted footpath that completes one of the 3 missing links on the route. This is the first of the links to be completed since the Maidenhead Civic Society and East Berks Ramblers first proposed the route in 1999.

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:

- Maidenhead Waterways base line plan planning application - September 2011
- Town Moor revised planning application – October 2011
- Proposed 'Green Way' link planning application – October 2011
- Motorcycle barrier consultation along Maidenhead Footpath 48 – April 2012

Full copies of the advice submitted by the Local Access Forum Fast Response Team can be found at http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/laf_FRT.htm

Other issues that the forum has discussed during 2011-2012:

- External funding
- Volunteer works
- Alley gating orders
- Monitoring neighbouring local access forum activities
- Claim for public rights along Pundles Lane, Shottesbrooke

Looking forward

- [tbc]

Meetings of the Forum

The Local Access Forum meetings for 2011-2012 were as follows:

Formal meetings

- 5th July 2011 – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Maidenhead
- 13th December 2011 – Council Chamber, Town Hall, Maidenhead

Other meetings

- 13th September 2011 – Local Access Forum Fast Response Team meeting – planning application for Maidenhead Waterways baseline plan
- 13th March 2012 – Meeting of a working party to discuss Multi-use routes in Eton Wick.

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
Sara Church	Horse riding	
Lynn Cassells	Land and estate management	National Trust
James Copas	Land and estate management	

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Margaret Cubley	Walking and open spaces	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Bisham Parish Councillor
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	
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
Peter Thorn	Land and estate management	Estate Management; Management of the Countryside; Management of Education and Training
Chris Westacott	Land and estate management	Public Rights of Way, Hurley Parish Council

Finances

	Total Cost (£)
Room Booking:	
5 th July 2012	24.00
13 th December 2012	24.00
13 th March 2012	15.20
	<hr/>
Other Expenses:	
Subscription to "Waymark" 2012-13	54.00
Members' Expenses:	
Dependent Care	-
Travel / Mileage	-
Other Expenses	-
	<hr/> 0.00
Grand Total	<hr/> £117.20

How to get involved

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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, or contact Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer on (01628) 796122 or email andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk or prow@rbwm.gov.uk