

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 3rd DECEMBER 2013

AGENDA ITEM 5 - APPENDIX A

2.1 *Priorities for 2013/14*

The Royal Borough, in consultation with the interested parties listed in Appendix 1, considers that its priorities in public rights of way management in 2013/14 are as follows:

- Maintenance and enforcement: bring all public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- Encourage and support the involvement of volunteers in the maintenance and improvement of public rights of way.
- 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.
- Partnership working: working with all interested parties in the management of public rights of way, (e.g. Local Access Forum, Parish Councils, Civic Societies, residents associations, user groups and landowners)
- Claims: reduce the backlog of applications to add to or amend the Definitive Map.
- Changes to the network: seek improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- Improvements: seek improvements to the network for horse riders and people with restricted mobility.
- Ensure 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.

2.2 *Milestones Targets for 2013/14*

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 2013/14 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: Create **1** new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network

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 Pittecroft 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