

Update of PROW Improvement Plan & the Millennium Walk

Dear Anthony

These are my further comments on the draft ROWIP for 2016-2026. Numbers refer to the paragraph in the draft.

1.4 I'd be interested to know who the Ecological Advisor is.

1.6 Improving transport facilities to allow people access to the countryside is a good idea.

1.8 Quiet Lanes: The Millennium Walk has several sections that constitute quiet lanes i.e. Dungrove Hill Lane, and the combination of Malders Lane/Hindhay Lane and Nightingale Lane. This extra dimension to the Millennium Walk should be mentioned in this section.

1.12 Developing the use of volunteers to achieve path improvements and engaging with community focussed projects and initiatives is an admirable objective.

Without Royal Borough involvement, volunteers cleared the path from the Lower Cookham Road to the Thames for six years to allow this missing link in the Millennium Walk to be used for the annual Boundary Walk. The *Make Space for Life* group of volunteers has done many years of conservation work in North Town Moor supervised by the National Trust and the Landscape section of the Royal Borough.

However to achieve path improvements more decisive negotiations with landowners will be needed.

2.2 Improving sight lines of paths and ensuring new landscaping is not too close and avoiding the use of hostile plant species is a good idea. Possibly a list of said hostile species should be compiled. This would have prevented the planting *Mahonia* at the base of Crown Lane steps on the Green Way.

2.12 We support the provision of the bridge from the Taplow Paper Mill site to link paths on both sides of the Thames. This bridge will link the Jubilee River network with the Thames Path and hopefully the Millennium Walk and Green Way.

2.13 We support the provision of new links between paths, particularly recreational routes (including the Millennium Walk and Green Way). We hope that 2.13 a) developing links and networks to fill gaps in access and create circular routes, means more effort will be made in this regard.

We also support e) the use of permitted paths to fill links in the existing network.

3.1 g) We support the aim of both assisting user groups to develop new leaflets and helping promote/distribute existing leaflets.

Most leaflets including the *Green Way* leaflet, now in its fourth edition, published by the Royal Borough, are given away. The *Millennium Walk* leaflet, published by the Civic Society and East Berks Ramblers in 2012, is sold for 50p. The only place in Maidenhead where this leaflet is available is Maidenhead Library where the leaflet is sold on commission. If LAF knows of any other organisation willing to sell this leaflet please let me know.

3.1 j) We support the aim of working with local newspapers to promote public rights of way by publishing local walks. We would like to know who is going to be responsible for doing this.

3.2 We support the creation of circular walks especially those involving the Thames Path.

We wish to point out that the Millennium Walk connects with the Thames Path at both ends, creating a huge circular walk. In addition a path across from Marlow to Malders Lane creates two smaller circular walks.

Other specific comments regarding the Millennium Walk have already been forwarded.

Perhaps an additional objective could be to ensure that S106 (or whatever replaces it) funding should be sought to complete missing links in the path network especially those involving recreational routes thus improving access.

Regards

Ann
Maidenhead Civic Society