

NOTICE
OF
MEETING



RIGHT'S OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

will meet on

THURSDAY, 10TH MARCH, 2016

At 6.30 pm

in the

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD

TO: MEMBERS OF THE RIGHT'S OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

COUNCILLORS MAUREEN HUNT (CHAIRMAN), CLIVE BULLOCK (VICE-CHAIRMAN), JOHN COLLINS, MOHAMMED ILYAS, GARY MUIR, SAMANTHA RAYNER, LYNDA YONG AND SIMON WERNER

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS PAUL BRIMACOMBE, MARIUS GILMORE, JESSE GREY, DAVID HILTON, JOHN STORY, NICOLA PRYER, VACANCY, MALCOLM BEER OR LYNNE JONES

Karen Shepherd - Democratic Services Manager - Issued: 02.03.16

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AGENDA

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4.	<u>MILESTONES STATEMENT 2016/17</u> To seek the Panel's approval for the "Milestones Statement 2016/17", which sets out the Council's objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year. Appendix 1 – 'Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2016/17'.	9 - 48
5.	<u>PATH PROGRESS REPORT</u> To update the Panel on progress made with Public Rights of Way issues during the period from August 2015 to February 2016. Appendix 1 - The Progress Report.	49 - 68
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MEMBERS' GUIDANCE NOTE

DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

DPIs include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any license to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where the landlord is the relevant authority, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where
 - a) that body has a piece of business or land in the area of the relevant authority, and
 - b) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body **or** (ii) the total nominal value of the shares of any one class belonging to the relevant person exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

This is an interest which a reasonable fair minded and informed member of the public would reasonably believe is so significant that it harms or impairs your ability to judge the public interest. That is, your decision making is influenced by your interest that you are not able to impartially consider only relevant issues.

DECLARING INTERESTS

If you have not disclosed your interest in the register, you **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as you are aware that you have a DPI or Prejudicial Interest. If you have already disclosed the interest in your Register of Interests you are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed. A member with a DPI or Prejudicial Interest **may make representations at the start of the item but must not take part in discussion or vote at a meeting.** The term 'discussion' has been taken to mean a discussion by the members of the committee or other body determining the issue. You should notify Democratic Services before the meeting of your intention to speak. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the discussion or vote, you must move to the public area, having made your representations.

If you have any queries then you should obtain advice from the Legal or Democratic Services Officer before participating in the meeting.

If the interest declared has not been entered on to your Register of Interests, you must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

RIGHT'S OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

MONDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Maureen Hunt (Chairman), Clive Bullock (Vice-Chairman), John Collins, Mohammed Ilyas, Gary Muir and Samantha Rayner.

Also in attendance: Gordon Marrs (East Berkshire Ramblers).

Officers: Tanya Leftwich and Anthony Hurst.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lynda Yong, Colin Rayner (Lead Member for Highways and Transport) and Carwyn Cox (Lead Member for Environmental Services).

It was announced by the Chairman that the meeting was being recorded.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES

That the Part I minutes of the Panel held on the 20 July 2015 were agreed to be correct.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016-2026

The Principal Rights of Way Officer, Anthony Hurst, informed Members that the report sought the Panel's approval to publish the "*Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*", in Appendix 1. It was noted that all local highway authorities had a statutory duty to publish and review their Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans every ten years. The Principal Rights of Way Officer explained that the Royal Borough's current Plan ran from 2005-2015 and the replacement Plan would cover the period 2016-2026. The Plan before the Panel set out the Council's strategy for managing and improving the public rights of way network and other accessible routes in the Royal Borough over the next ten years. Members were informed that following a statutory consultation on the Draft Plan during August/October a number of comments had been received as set out in Appendix 2, and consequently some amendments had been made to the Plan.

The Principal Rights of Way Officer showed Members before and after photos of improvement works that had taken place throughout the year. Members were informed that there was a total of 307km of public rights of way in the Royal Borough which equated to 32% of the total highway network (967km). The Principal Rights of Way Officer explained the differences to Members between the types of public rights of way (footpath, bridleway, restricted byway and byway open to all traffic).

Members were referred to pages 20 – 21 of the agenda which showed the twelve new or upgraded routes that had been created in the 2005-2015 Plan. The Chairman thanked the East Berkshire Ramblers for all they had done (physical help, funds, etc) for the Royal Borough which was echoed by the Panel. It was suggested that a letter be drafted from the Mayor to thank the volunteer groups involved in the improvement work.

Members were referred to page 22 of the agenda which showed the results of the public satisfaction survey 2015: National Highways and Transport Network. Members were informed that the Royal Borough had scored high in all seven categories and the highest in the South East in the 'provision of information on public rights of way' category. The Chairman praised the Principal Rights of Way Officer and his team for achieving such high scores. It was noted that this success would be promoted in the Around the Royal Borough newsletter.

Members were referred to the Plan on pages 23 – 49 of the agenda which showed the consultation responses. It was noted that the Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group had put forward a lot of suggestions which could be found on pages 44 – 46. Members noted the proposal that the paths listed on pages 47 – 49 should be recorded as either adopted highway, public rights of way or as permitted paths, although the process for achieving this would require further investigation on a case-by-case basis in discussion with the relevant landowners.

The Principal Rights of Way Officer explained to Members that item 26 referred to establishing a continuous riverside route of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the river bank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens. It was noted that this was still an aspiration if the opportunity ever arose.

It was requested by the Panel that in order to make it clearer in the report / appendix that the suggestions received were aspirational targets an additional bullet point be added to page 35 to explain that the list of suggestions was a 'wish list' rather than a guaranteed list and that some of the requests may turn out not to be feasible or achievable for reasons out of the RBWM's control. It was also suggested that a sub-group heading be added to page 44 before item 51, to say the proposals had been put forward by the Ascot, Sunninghill & Sunningdale Neighbourhood Delivery Group, and had the support of the RBWM, and to wish them luck with completing the suggestions.

The Principal Rights of Way Officer referred Members to the existing public rights of way and permitted path network maps which were being shown on the big screen. Members were informed that each map included a disclaimer to state they were proposed routes. The Chairman stated that she felt the maps were excellent. It was suggested that ward boundaries be added to the maps.

The Chairman informed Members that the Lead Member for Environmental Services, Councillor Carwyn Cox, had informed her by email in advance of the meeting that there had been twelve events encouraging responsible dog ownership. It was noted that it was difficult to catch owners that did not clear up after their dogs, but wardens were on the look out when they were patrolling. The Chairman explained that the Community Wardens in her ward took this issue seriously as she was sure Community Wardens in other wards did too.

The Principal Rights of Way Officer informed Members that the work on the Thames Path was considered the most significant work planned for the future, along with work on the Hurley footbridge to be replaced by a ramped bridge and repairing damage to the riverbank in Datchet as a result of the floods.

The Chairman informed Members that they could ask the Principal Rights of Way Officer if they required new leaflets for their parish councils and his team would be happy to help design and fund them. It was suggested that joint ward leaflets were also an option.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday 10 March 2016.

The Chairman asked for the Panels thanks to be minuted to everyone who had helped with the improvement works over the past year in particular the East Berkshire Ramblers, the Local Access Forums, volunteer groups and the Rights of Way team and congratulated the Rights of

Way Team on being voted the best team in all councils in the South East for the provision of information about rights of way.

The Chairman wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

The meeting, which began at 6.30 pm, finished at 7.10 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

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Report for:
ACTION



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: "MILESTONES STATEMENT 2016/17"
Responsible Officer(s)	Ben Smith, Head of Highways and Transport
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer 01628-796180
For Consideration By	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
Date to be Considered	10 th March 2016
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A
Affected Wards	All

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks the Panel's approval for the "Milestones Statement 2016/17", attached at Appendix 1, which sets out the Council's objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
The approved Milestones Statement will ensure that the Council's Public Rights of Way team will have a clear set of objectives, priorities, and targets for the coming year, as set out on page 6 of the draft Statement. This will assist in the effective management of the borough's public rights of way network for the benefit of residents and visitors to the borough.	2016/17

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION

That the Panel approve the "Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2016/17"

2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The approved Milestones Statement will ensure that the Council's Public Rights of Way team will have a clear set of objectives, priorities, and targets for the coming year.

Option	Comments
Approve the Milestones Statement 2016-17	This is the recommended option
Do not approve the Milestones Statement 2016-17	This is not recommended.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered by
Approval of Milestones Statement 2016-17	<i>n/a</i>	March 2016	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	2016/17

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS

Financial impact on the budget

Resources available for public rights of way work in 2016/17 are set out on page 4 of the draft Milestones Statement attached.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. VALUE FOR MONEY

Setting clear targets for the Council's rights of way team and their partners ensures good value for money is achieved in delivering agreed objectives.

7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

Effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Milestones Statement approach is an efficient and effective way of planning, prioritising and monitoring public rights of way work. Without an approved set of objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for the coming year there is a risk that the quality of service delivery would decline.

9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Effective management of the rights of way network has a positive impact on healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling.

10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

The Milestones Statement includes a number of initiatives aimed at improving access for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs.

11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

None.

12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

None.

13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

14. CONSULTATION

The Local Access Forum considered the Milestones Statement targets, priorities and service standards at its meeting held on 11th November, and made some recommendations as set out in the draft Statement attached at Appendix 1.

15. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

2016-17

16. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Milestones Statement 2016/17.

17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None

18. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Chairman	12 Feb 2016	25 Feb 2016	Throughout report
Cllr Clive Bullock	Panel Vice-Chair	12 Feb 2016	25 Feb 2016	Throughout report
Ben Smith	Head of Highways and Transport	12 Feb 2016	-	-

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Non-key decision	No

Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:
Anthony Hurst	Principal Rights of Way Officer	01628-796180

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Milestones Statement

*and Public Rights of Way
Improvement Plan review*

2016-2017

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the 18th annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 18 years since this Council, as Highway Authority, became responsible for the management and maintenance of the borough's public rights of way in 1998.

This year also sees the publication of a new 10-year Plan: "*The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*" which has been prepared in partnership with the borough Local Access Forum.

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/downloads/download/229/public_rights_of_way_management_and_improvement_plan

I hope that residents and visitors to the borough will continue to enjoy these public rights of way as a means of accessing the borough's beautiful countryside, and as a healthy and stress-free way of getting about.

We will continue to work with all our partners, including the Local Access Forum, Parish and Town Councils, landowners, and path user groups (including the East Berks Ramblers, the Disabled Ramblers, the British Horse Society and Sustrans) to achieve these goals, and I wish to thank all our partners for their continued co-operation, support and enthusiasm.

Councillor Maureen Hunt

Chair of Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

April 2016

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

The Royal Borough as the surveying and highway authority is responsible for the management and maintenance of the public rights of way network in the borough. There are over 300 km (approx. 190 miles) of public rights of way, about a third of the borough's total highway network (see Table 1 for lengths of rights of way by parish).

This Milestones Statement sets out the Council's priorities and targets for ensuring that the network is legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised. The Statement also incorporates an annual update on the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-2015 (now replaced by a new Plan to cover the period 2016-2026).

1.2 The Milestones approach

The 'milestones approach' is an effective means of prioritising public rights of way work and measuring performance against an agreed set of targets. This is achieved by:

- setting individual, realistic targets, taking into account the available resources – these are the Milestones Targets (see page 6).
- monitoring progress towards achieving the Milestones Targets (see page 19).

1.3 Partnership working

The Council works closely with public rights of way user groups, landowners, parish and town councils, local conservation volunteers, and the borough's Local Access Forum. Two Parish Councils (Cookham and Old Windsor) undertake routine clearance of vegetation from public rights of way in their area on behalf of the borough, as part of the Parish Paths Initiative.

1.4 Volunteers

During 2015/16, a number of volunteer groups worked on public rights of way around the Borough:

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) carried out **8 work days** with a total of **75** participant days. Ways in Work (WiW) carried out **25 work days** with a total of **149** participant days. Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) carried out **19 work days** with a total of **107** participant days

Pinkneys Green Scouts carried out **1 day's work** clearing vegetation and installing waymarks on public rights of way with a total of **25** participants. Ascot and Sunninghill Girl Guides carried out approximately **2 day's work** clearing vegetation on public rights of way with an estimated **20** participants. Volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers undertook **338 hours** of work, including path surveys and practical works.

1.5 Resources

The Council employs a public rights of way team of 2 full time and 1 part time Public Rights of Way Officers (total 2.7 fte). In addition, the Council's Legal service (*Shared Legal Solutions*) provides legal support, and the Democratic Services team provides secretarial support for administering the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel and the Local Access Forum.

Revenue Budget

2015/16	2016/17
£60,000	£60,000

This includes an annual vegetation clearance contract of programmed works, and additional reactive works such as clearance of fallen trees and branches from public rights of way.

Capital Budget (Rights of Way general)

2015/16	2016/17
£40,000	£40,000

This includes surface improvements or repairs to public rights of way that have become eroded, rutted or poached, and access improvements such as replacement of step-stiles with more accessible gates.

Capital Budget (Rights of Way Bridges)

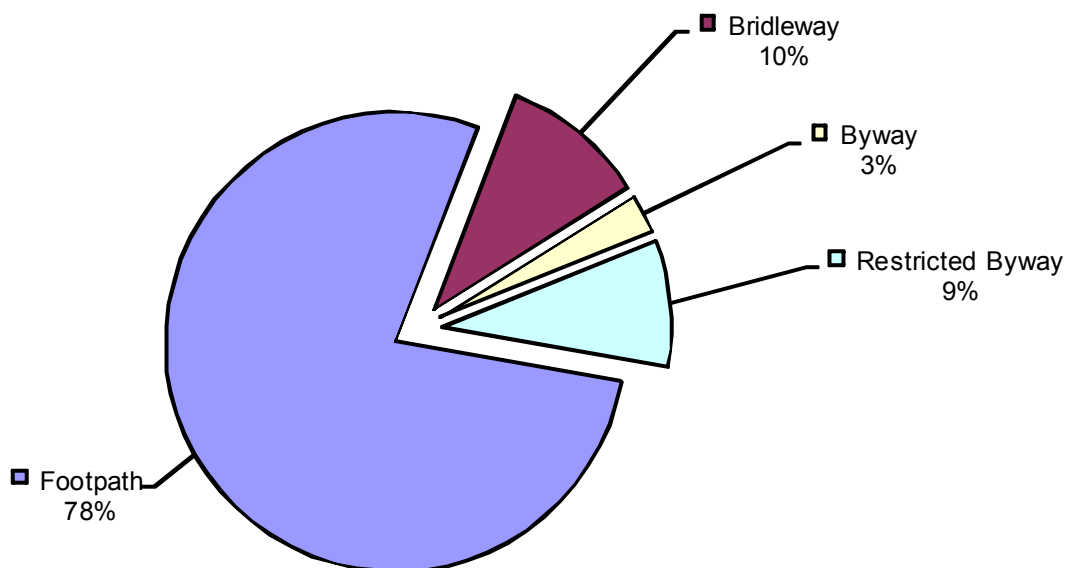
2015/16	2016/17
£20,000	£20,000

The Council has maintenance responsibility for approximately 175 bridges on footpaths and bridleways on public rights of way in the borough. These bridges are inspected on a rolling programme by the Council's consultants Jacobs, and remedial safety works identified. In some cases this work is reactive, in response to bridge damage caused by public use, flooding, or general wear and tear.

Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, Feb2016

Parish	Length (km)				Total km	% of network	
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway			
Bisham	13.397	2.524	-	2.228	18.149	5.91	%
Bray	36.663	9.999	2.184	0.564	49.410	16.09	%
Cookham	33.611	1.980	0.469	0.405	36.465	11.88	%
Cox Green	8.395	1.399	-	-	9.794	3.19	%
Datchet	4.761	-	-	-	4.761	1.55	%
Eton	18.396	3.561	-	-	21.957	7.15	%
Horton	1.200	1.254	-	-	2.454	0.80	%
Hurley	31.496	6.115	-	6.909	44.520	14.50	%
Maidenhead	29.883	0.439	-	2.596	32.918	10.72	%
Old Windsor	4.574	-	-	-	4.574	1.49	%
Shottesbrooke	3.240	-	-	1.612	4.852	1.58	%
Sunningdale	3.554	1.666	0.337	-	5.557	1.81	%
Sunninghill	10.771	-	3.592	1.299	15.662	5.10	%
Waltham St Lawrence	17.728	-	-	7.209	24.937	8.12	%
White Waltham	11.011	0.530	0.342	4.165	16.048	5.23	%
Windsor	4.230	1.994	1.644	0.259	8.127	2.65	%
Wraysbury	6.876	-	-	-	6.876	2.24	%
Total (km)	239.786	31.461	8.568	27.246	307.061	100.00	%

Path status across the network



2 OBJECTIVES (CHANGES SUGGESTED BY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SHOWN IN ***BOLD ITALIC***)

2.1 Priorities for 2016/17

- 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, ***cyclists*** and people with restricted mobility.
- ***Enhance and extend the network through the creation of Multi User Routes***
- 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.
- Develop and enhance the information available online for public rights of way, including the use of social media where appropriate.

2.2 Milestones Targets for 2016/17

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 2015/16 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, including resolving significant errors in the map.

Well Publicised

WP 1: To produce **3 leaflets** publicising access opportunities for ***targeted user groups***.

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

AC2: To make **15** physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.

Enforcement

EN 1: To resolve **10** enforcement issues.

2.3 Equal opportunities

The Council continues to seek improvements to public rights of way to enable use by a wide range

of people with sensory or physical disabilities or learning difficulties.

The Council supports the establishment of routes suitable for use by disabled people, in consultation with the Council's Access Officer, the Access Advisory Forum, the Windsor and Maidenhead User Network (WAMU) and the Disabled Ramblers.

The Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan and annual Milestones Targets include a number of policies and proposals relating to access for people with special needs.

2.4 Parish Paths Initiative/Big Society

The Parish Paths Initiative (PPI) works with Parish and Town Council's to identify or carry out maintenance, improvement or promotional works on local path networks. All Parish Council's in the Borough and Eton Town Council participate in the PPI scheme.

Additionally, two Parish Councils (Cookham and Old Windsor) undertake routine vegetation clearance on the public rights of way networks in their area. Discussions are being held with other Parishes on whether they would like to adopt similar arrangements in their parishes.

The British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust are also members of the Parish Paths Initiative. The scheme operates a rolling condition survey of all public rights of way in the borough, carried out in partnership with the East Berks Ramblers.

2.5 Local Access Forum

The Local Access Forum is "a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community". Established in 2003, the Forum is statutory advisory group which advises the Council on the management and improvement of public access to land in the Royal Borough for open-air recreation.

The Forum has discussed and given advice to the Council on the following topics during 2015/16:

- The Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026.
- The Milestones Targets for 2016/17
- Multi-user routes and bridleways.
- M4 Smart Motorway proposals.

- Ramblers Big Pathwatch.
- Improvements for cycling.
- Proposed diversion of Hurley Footpath 18 at Berkshire College of Agriculture.
- Proposed gating of Eton Footpath 51 at Thameside, Eton.
- Use of volunteers for works on public rights of way.
- Responding to the South Lincs and Rutland LAF consultation regarding a national access forum.

The Forum publishes an annual report detailing its activities.

The Forum membership details, agendas, minutes, and annual reports are available on the Local Access Forum website:

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way/452/local_access_forum

2.6 Thames Path National Trail

Natural England promotes the Thames Path as one of 13 National Trails in England.

The Thames Path passes through Hurley, Cookham, Maidenhead, Eton, Windsor, Datchet and Old Windsor, where possible following the course of the river. In places the Trail crosses the Thames to follow the Buckinghamshire side of the river.

The Royal Borough recognises both the national and local importance of the Thames Path and is represented on the Thames Path Partnership, which also includes representatives from the relevant Highway Authorities along the route of the Trail, the Environment Agency, the Ramblers, Sustrans, Cyclists Touring Club, and Natural England.

2.7 Equestrians

- Investigating possible upgrading of existing footpaths to bridleways, by negotiating with

landowners and user groups, to improve road safety for horses and riders while taking into account the needs of other users. All negotiations must have clear resolutions, and ensure that all users are satisfied with any changes to the status of the footpath(s) before modifications take place, including adequate width and, where appropriate, segregation of users.

- Continuing with an initiative to designate highway verges as horse margins by identifying suitable areas adjacent to the carriageways, and adapting the maintenance of highway verges to enable safe use by horse riders. As an example, a new horse margin has been created adjacent to the Henley Road, to create a safe riding link between Rose Lane and Hodgedale Lane.
- Continuing with an initiative to identify and establish multi-use paths to allow horse riders to use existing cycleways and other tracks where appropriate, and where suitable surfaces can be provided, in conjunction with land owners and Parish Councils.
- Development and promotion of circular riding routes where appropriate, in particular to avoid main roads.
- Improvements to gates to make them more 'horserider friendly'.

3 WELL MAINTAINED

3.1 Maintenance and Enforcement

Table 2 (over page) includes a summary of reported maintenance and enforcement problems.

The number of reported problems outstanding has reduced from **53 to 32** during the course of the year.

Path condition surveys are carried out on a 3-year rolling programme, with approximately 1/3 of the network being surveyed each year. Volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carry out these surveys on the Council's behalf.

During these surveys the volunteers also check whether problems that had previously been reported and entered onto the Council's rights of way database have since been resolved, and this helps to keep the records up-to-date.

Priority criteria for dealing with maintenance and enforcement problems are listed on page 15 of this Milestones Statement.

3.2 Noteworthy current issues

- Improvements to the Thames Path National Trail
- Replacement of step-stiles with easy access gates

3.3 Access for people with special needs

When dealing with the provision of stiles and gates, an assessment is made to ensure that the appropriate type of barrier is used, and that wherever possible gaps are used rather than stiles or gates.

The Council places high priority on the use of effective designs of barrier to facilitate use by those with restricted mobility, the elderly, people with young children in pushchairs etc.

Service standards, including British Standards for path furniture, are set out on page 16 of this Milestones Statement.

Table 2: Reported problems on Public Rights of Way [to be updated at end of March 2016]

	Outstanding at 31 st Mar 2015	Reported 1st April 2015 to 29 th Feb 16	Closed 1st April 2015 to 29 th Feb 16	Total Outstanding at 1 st Mar 16	Issues outstanding over 5 years
ENFORCEMENT					
Ploughing and lack of marking	0	5	5	0	0
Obstruction by crops	0	14	13	1	0
Fence encroachment	6	3	5	4	2
Fence obstruction	1	6	7	0	0
Building obstruction	0	0	0	0	0
Other obstructions	4	6	8	2	0
Stiles	4	7	9	2	1
Gates	0	3	3	0	0
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised vehicular use	0	0	0	0	0
Electric fencing	0	5	4	1	0
Misleading notices	0	3	3	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	1	5	5	1	0
Other Enforcement Problems	4	8	10	2	0
TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:	20	65	72	13	3
MAINTENANCE					
Vegetation	1	31	32	0	0
Rutting	3	0	3	0	0
Drainage	3	3	1	5	1
Fallen trees	0	17	17	0	0
Erosion	14	24	30	8	0
Tree problems	0	2	2	0	0
Bridges	2	10	11	1	0
Safety barriers	1	0	1	0	0
Steps	0	1	1	0	0
Roadside signposting	2	21	21	1	0
Signposting at path junctions	1	2	3	0	0
Waymarking	3	5	7	1	0
Rubbish/ waste	1	7	8	0	0
Other Maintenance Problems	2	15	15	2	0
TOTAL MAINTENANCE:	33	138	152	19	1
TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	53	203	224	32	4

* most problems of waste/ rubbish are dealt with by the waste management section and are not recorded here

4 LEGALLY DEFINED

4.1 *Definitive Map and Statement*

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way are legal documents that provide conclusive evidence of the existence and status of public rights of way. It is therefore important that these documents are kept up to date and accurate.

The Map and Statement was last updated in 2015 (effective date 1st November 2015) including all legal changes made since the previous consolidated Map was published in 2008.

Copies of the Map and Statement are available for inspection in Maidenhead and Windsor central libraries, Borough Council offices, and can also be viewed on the borough website.

Copies are also held by user groups and relevant extracts are held by Parish Councils.

4.2 *Modification Orders*

Definitive Map Modification Orders are made to update the definitive map, to show the effect of legal changes to public rights of way. Copies of the Orders are sent to all those who hold copies of the Definitive Map and Statement, so that up to date information is available

4.3 *Rights of way database*

The Definitive Map is shown on the Council's GIS system. The Council also maintains a comprehensive public rights of way database, the Countryside Access Management System (CAMS). Information is held on path maintenance records, condition surveys, reported problems, landownership details, and path furniture such as stiles, gates, bridges and signposts.

The Council also maintains a comprehensive electronic library of photographic records covering many of the public rights of way in the borough.

These electronic records enable the rights of way officers to record, analyse and prioritise problems, and respond to public requests for information quickly and effectively.

4.4 *Applications to modify the Definitive Map (claims)*

There are 7 claims currently being investigated, listed in Appendix 5. A statement of priorities for dealing with claims is shown in Appendix 2.

4.5 *Changes to the network*

Applications for changes to the network are occasionally received from landowners or developers, and can also be initiated by the Council where they are considered to be in the public interest.

Planning applications are checked by planning officers who consult the Public Rights of Way team and the East Berks Ramblers on applications that may affect public rights of way. The Local Access Forum is also consulted on planning applications affecting public rights of way, and is sent weekly lists of all new planning applications received.

Where appropriate, conditions and informatives are then included in planning consents.

Policy R14 in the borough's Local Plan states that: ***“The Borough Council will safeguard and enhance the public rights of way network and recreational cycle routes”***

5 WELL PUBLICISED

5.1 Leaflets produced by the Council

- Public Rights of Way information booklet (*for landowners and path users*)
- Public Rights of Way and your Gardens, Hedges and Trees (*information leaflet for householders adjacent to rights of way*)
- Ploughing, crops and paths: a practical guide (*information leaflet for farmers and landowners*)
- The Green Way
- Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit
- Cookham Bridleway Circuit
- Cycling in Windsor and Maidenhead
- Cookham Easy Going Route
- Windsor Great Park Easy Going Route

All the above leaflets are available from the Borough Council free of charge.

5.2 Other books and publications

Sunningdale, Bray, Datchet, Waltham St Lawrence, White Waltham and Hurley Parish Councils have all produced their own walks leaflets, with help from the Borough Council through the Parish Paths Initiative:

- “Walk, discover, enjoy - your Sunningdale” (Sunningdale Parish Council)
- “Parish Millennium Rights of Way Map” (Bray Parish Council)
- Holyport health walk (Bray Parish Council)
- “Foot and Cycle Paths in and around Datchet” (Datchet Parish Council)
- Waltham St Lawrence Parish Paths and Circular Walks (Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council)
- White Waltham Parish and Paths (White Waltham Parish Council)
- Hurley Circular Walks (Hurley Parish Council).

The above leaflets are available from the Parish Councils free of charge.

The Environment Agency has published a leaflet showing the paths along the Jubilee River (*available from the EA 08708 506506*)

The East Berks Ramblers, the British Horse Society, Sustrans and commercial publishers have produced a number of leaflets, booklets and books promoting routes along public rights of way locally, including the Thames Path National Trail.

5.3 Guided walks and rides

Guided walks and rides encourage the public to enjoy the countryside. The Ramblers organize a programme of walks for its members and the general public, and the British Horse Society organize various rides and events using the boroughs public rights of way and minor roads network.

5.4 Borough Website

The Borough’s Public Rights of Way web pages on can be accessed directly at

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_index.htm

The web pages contain detailed information including publications, report forms, and maps of all public rights of way in the borough.

The Council’s MapsOnline service now allows users to view maps showing the locations of all stiles, gates, bollards and signs on public rights of way.

The web pages also include Registers of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO’s), and landowner’s statutory declarations, together with application forms and guidance notes for path diversion orders.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

6.1 *Monitoring*

The Council publishes a performance indicator which provides a useful benchmark for assessing the condition of the network:

“The percentage of the total length of footpaths and other rights of way which were easy to use by members of the public”

The indicator is calculated using a methodology originally devised by the County Surveyors Society, and is widely adopted by Highway Authorities to enable benchmarking between individual authorities’ performance.

The borough’s indicator is based on information obtained from condition surveys undertaken by volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers, and the indicator result for the borough in 2015 was **93%** (against a target of **95%**).

6.2 *Review*

The Council is committed to working with all interested parties in carrying out public rights of way work in the borough.

This Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan will continue be reviewed and published annually and the Milestones Targets will be discussed with the Local Access Forum and other interested parties so that co-ordinated priorities can be adopted.

Monthly updates on progress towards the Milestones Statement targets are also published on the borough website.

The Public Rights of Way team also produce a 6-monthly Path Progress Report, which provides updates on specific path improvements. These reports are submitted to the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel in March and September each year, circulated to the Local Access Forum and published on the borough website.

APPENDIX 1

Consultation on the Milestones Statement

The following organisations were consulted on the 2016/17 Milestones Statement

- Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
- All Parish and Town Councils in the borough
- The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum, which includes members of the following organisations:

East Berks Ramblers

British Horse Society

Council for the Protection of Rural England

The Crown Estate

Royal East Berks Agricultural Association

National Trust

National Farmers Union

SUSTRANS

APPENDIX 2

Statement of priorities for dealing with applications to amend the Definitive Map

The Council aims to process uncontested applications for Public Path Orders and Definitive Map Modification Orders (claims) within 1 year of receipt.

Applications for Orders to amend the Definitive Map and Statement (claims) will be prioritised on the basis of the following factors:

Highest Priority: Closure very likely (e.g. area subject to planning application).

Path currently blocked by planting, fencing etc. which could be removed.

Path currently blocked by permanent structure e.g. building.

Possible threat to path, and/or partial blocking likely.

Lowest Priority: No recognised threat, and route useable by the public.

APPENDIX 3

Statement of priorities for dealing with maintenance and enforcement problems

Maintenance and enforcement problems will be prioritised on the basis of the following factors:

Safety of users

Level of usage

Extent of obstruction of definitive line (i.e. completely obstructed or partially obstructed)

Benefit to public once resolved

Cost/time effectiveness in resolving problem

Number/level of complaints

Potential for deterioration of the problem

Age of the problem

Note: for efficient working practice, lower priority problems will be dealt with alongside higher priority problems where appropriate, for example if they are in the same locality or involve the same landowner. Lower priority problems will also be tackled as required in order to meet specific targets.

APPENDIX 4

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

APPENDIX 5

Definitive map modification order applications (claims) currently being investigated

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Current status
			From	To	
Cookham	FP 501	2015	Strande Lane	Maidenhead Road	Under investigation by RBWM
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various access points at Thamesfield	Various access points at Thamesfield	Under investigation by RBWM
Windsor	FP 502	2014	Priors Road	Keepers Farm Close	Under investigation by the Planning Inspectorate.

APPENDIX 6

Achievement of Milestones Targets 2015/16 [to be updated at end of March 2016]

WELL MAINTAINED	
WM1 <i>To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public (former Best Value Performance Indicator 178). Target for 2015-16: 95%</i>	93%
WM2 <i>To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)</i>	
Hurley FP 1 (Thames Path)	Tree clearance works
Bray BR 64 (Cruch Lane)	Surface improvements
Bray FP 39 (off Farm Road)	Clearance works
Bray BR 23 (Blackbird Lane)	Clearance works
Cookham BR 19 (off Long Lane)	Surface improvements
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Surface improvements
Cookham BW 68 (Jobs Lane)	Drainage works
Datchet FP 9 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Datchet FP 8 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Eton FP 38 (off Pockocks Lane)	Surface improvements
Eton FP 41 (off Eton Wick Road)	Surface improvements
Horton BR 5 (off Horton Road)	Clearance works
Hurley FP 25 (Channers)	Surface improvements
Hurley BR 22 (Pudding Hill)	Surface improvements
Maidenhead RB 71 (Malders Lane)	Surface improvements
Old Windsor FP 2 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
	Total 16
WM3 <i>To repair or replace 5 bridges.</i>	
Bray Footpath 16 (off Blackbird Lane)	Footbridge repaired
Bray Footpath 54 (off A308 Windsor Road)	Footbridge repaired
Cookham FP 48/49 junction (off Strande Lane)	Handrail and kicking rail extensions
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Handrails and approach ramps
Cookham FP 72 (Ferry Inn/Cookham Bridge)	Boardwalk repairs/overhaul
Cox Green FP11 (off Ockwells Road) x 2	Footbridge and boardwalk repaired
	Total 7

LEGALLY DEFINED	
LD1 <i>To actively progress a minimum of 4 applications to add public rights of way to the definitive map (DMMO claims).</i>	Cookham 501: investigations underway Windsor 502: referred to Inquiry Wraysbury 501-505: Counsel opinion sought. Total 7
LD2 <i>To resolve a minimum of 1 significant error in definitive map.</i>	Bray FP 52 (incorrectly mapped at junction with Bray FP 51B) Total 1
WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 <i>To produce 1 leaflet publicising access opportunities for people with special needs.</i>	Total 0
WP2 <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material. Target for 2015-16: a minimum of 1 new publication.</i>	Sunningdale Parish leaflet/poster Hurley Parish leaflet Total 2
IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	
AC1 <i>Create 1 new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network</i>	Total 0
AC2 <i>To make 15 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.</i>	
Bray Footpath 41 (Stroud Farm Road to Coningsby Lane)	Replaced 5 stiles and 2 inaccessible kissing gates with 6 new kissing gates and 1 swing gate
Cookham Footpath 36 (entrance to Cockmarsh)	Replaced 1 gate with more accessible kissing gate
Cookham FP 48 (Widbrook Common)	Replaced 1 gate with more accessible kissing gate
Cookham FP 56 (Widbrook Common)	Replaced 1 gate with more accessible kissing gate
Eton Footpath 16 (Recreation ground south of Haywards Mead)	Removed redundant cycle barrier
Eton Footpath 12 (off Eton Wick Road)	'V' Stile replaced with more accessible kissing gate
Hurley FP 1 (Thames Path)	Bridge replaced with more accessible option
Sunninghill FP 5 (off Church Road)	Accessibility surfacing works
Waltham St Lawrence FP 32 (off The Straight Mile)	Replaced 2 stiles with gates

Waltham St Lawrence FP 37 (off Hungerford Lane)	Replaced 1 stile with gate
	Total 17
ENFORCEMENT	
EN 1 To resolve 30 enforcement issues	
Bisham Footpath 9 (Town Farm, Bisham): path has been cropped and not reinstated.	<i>Path cleared by landowner</i>
Bisham Footpath 18 (Lee Farm, Bisham): path has been blocked with dog leg structure and electric fence	<i>Structure removed by farmer</i>
Bisham Footpath 32 (Town Farm, Bisham): part of path has been cropped and not reinstated.	<i>Path cleared by landowner</i>
Bisham FP 24 (West of Maidenhead Thicket): electric fence installed across the path	<i>Electric fence removed by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 25 (off Forest Green Road): path has been cropped and not reinstated	<i>Path cleared by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 25 (off Forest Green Road): path has been ploughed and not reinstated	<i>Path sprayed and marked out correctly by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 27 (off Forest Green Road): stile step collapsed leaving the path unusable	<i>Fence removed with agreement of landowner.</i>
Bray Footpath 28 (off Forest Green Road): path has been cropped and not reinstated	<i>Path cleared by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 28 (off Forest Green Road): path has been ploughed and not reinstated	<i>Path sprayed and marked out correctly by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 31 (South of Moneyrow Green): path has been cropped and not reinstated	<i>Path cleared by landowner to a satisfactory line</i>
Bray Footpath 31 (South of Moneyrow Green): path has been ploughed and not reinstated	<i>Path sprayed and marked out correctly by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 48 (off Coningsby Lane): barbed wire on stile post	<i>Barbed wire removed by landowner.</i>
Bray Footpath 48 (off Coningsby Lane): stile out of repair	<i>Stile repaired by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 55 (off Oakley Green Road): gate in disrepair	<i>Gate repaired by landowner</i>
Bray Footpath 58 (off Forest Green Road): path ploughed and not marked out	<i>Path has been sprayed and marked out by farmer.</i>
Bray Footpath 77 (Trenchard Road to Langworthy Lane): overhanging vegetation from adjacent properties	<i>Vegetation cleared by adjacent residents</i>
Cookham FP 13 (off Spring Lane): path surface damaged during building works	<i>Path surfaced repaired by landowner</i>
Cookham FP 25 (off Dean Lane): granite sett hump installed along the path by adjacent landowner	<i>Surfacing works undertaken by landowner to remove potential trip hazard</i>
Cox Green FP 6 (near Lillibrooke Manor): unauthorised stile erected over the path	<i>Stile removed by landowner</i>
Cox Green FP 8 (off Thrift Lane): waste materials blocking path	<i>Obstructions removed and surface repaired by landowner</i>
Eton Footpath 4 (North field): path cleared through crops but is not to legal width	<i>Path cut to legal width by farmer.</i>
Eton Footpath 4 (North field): path obstructed by crops	<i>Path marked out by farmer</i>
Eton Bridleway 17 (South field): path obstructed by crops	<i>Path marked out by farmer</i>
Eton Bridleway 18 (South field): path obstructed by crops	<i>Path marked out by farmer</i>
Eton Footpath 41 (off Eton Wick Road): path obstructed by vehicles	<i>Vehicle removed from footpath by adjacent resident</i>

Eton Footpath 51 (Eton Thameside): unauthorised gate erected across the path	<i>Gate removed by residents</i>
Hurley Footpath 45 (off Warren Row Road): path surface laid with broken hard-core surface	<i>Path surface repaired by landowner.</i>
Maidenhead FP 9 (Thames Path): fence erected over the verge of the path	<i>Fence removed by landowner.</i>
Maidenhead FP 19 (North Town Moor): fence erected over the definitive line of the path	<i>Fence removed by landowner and pedestrian gate authorised.</i>
Maidenhead FP 23B (off Laggan Road): concrete surface installed in verge of footpath	<i>Concrete surfacing removed by adjacent resident</i>
Maidenhead RB 70 (Malders Lane): overgrown hedges	<i>Hedges cut back by landowners</i>
Old Windsor FP 3 (Thames Path): fallen fence and overgrown tree encroaching onto path	<i>Tree cleared and fence removed by house owners.</i>
Old Windsor FP 3 (Thames Path): path verge enclosed by post and rope fence	<i>Fence removed by landowner</i>
Slough BR 17 (off Moores Lane, Eton Wick) : motorbikes using bridleway)	<i>Motorbike barrier installed</i>
Waltham St Lawrence FP 34 (off West End Road): temporary fences erected across the footpath	<i>Fences removed by tenant</i>
	Total 35

APPENDIX 7

Updates on site specific projects for March 2016 Panel:

Hurley, Shottesbrooke & the Walthams

Ref	Proposal (not in priority order)
1	Work with Wokingham Borough Council to secure a new off-road horse riding link between Star Lane (Hurley) and Canhurst Lane by upgrading Wargrave Footpath 42
2	A crossing over the Thames across Hurley Lock and weirs
3	Upgrade White Waltham Footpath 9/National Cycle Route 4 to permitted bridleway. <i>(April 2015 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
4	(a) New route along the Cut from Bray Wick upstream to Westleymill on the Bracknell Forest boundary (b) Establish a new path from Windmills (White Waltham Footpath 20) to Howe Lane near Howe Lane Bridge
5	Work with Wokingham Borough Council to upgrade Waltham St. Lawrence Footpath 9 / Ruscombe Footpath 4 for horse riding use
6	Creation of a path from Great Wood, White Waltham, south of the B3024 road to the track at Pond Wood Farm
7	Create a route for carriage drivers from Beenhams Road in White Waltham to Mare Lane in Binfield.
8	Improve bridleway links between RBWM and identified horse riding networks in Wokingham and Bracknell Forest
9	Direct crossings over/under the M4 avoiding the use of road bridges

Cookham & Bisham

10	<p>Create a new bridleway connecting the end of Hurley Lane with the eastern end of Bradenham Lane using existing highway land alongside the A404 northbound carriageway: <i>(March 2007 update: Initial feasibility studies and consultations have indicated that the potential benefits of this project would not justify the cost)</i> <i>(February 2016 update: reopened consultation with neighbouring landowner. Quotation received for clearance. Discussions ongoing regarding funding from cycleway budget)</i></p>
11	<p>Create a new right of way for non-motorised users linking Burchetts Green Roundabout to Permitted Bridleway 20, following the route of the A404 on its western side <i>(June 2015 update: proposal not supported by Temple Golf Club)</i></p>
12	<p>Create a link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dungrove Hill Lane <i>(March 2013 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i> <i>(March 2014 update: ongoing discussions with horse riders)</i></p>
13	<p>Upgrade Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael's Path) to a bridleway and divert the path to adjoin the disused Henley Road.</p>
14	<p>Improve links between Bisham and Bisham Woods for non-motorised traffic, particularly with regard to crossing the A404 Bisham Roundabout. <i>(February 2016 update: Highways England have decided not to proceed with the proposed alterations to this roundabout for the time being, however they are keeping the junction performance under review to identify whether small scale improvements can be made.)</i></p>
15	<p>Extend the southern end of Bisham Bridleway 22 to connect with Dungrove Hill Lane</p>
16	<p>Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 17 to a Bridleway</p>
17	<p>Upgrade Bisham Footpath 23 to a bridleway, to link Burchetts Green to Stubbings and Maidenhead Thicket</p>
18	<p>Create a cycling route between Hurley and Temple</p>

	<p>(a) Create a route adjacent to Bisham Footpath 21 to allow cycle use</p> <p>(b) Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 21 and Hurley Footpath 9 to allow cycle use and link with Mill Lane</p>
19	<p>Improve the surface of Bisham Restricted Byway 11 and Bisham Bridleway 12</p> <p><i>(December 2015 update: consulting with Natural England over works specification)</i></p>
20	<p>Route from Mill Lane to Odney Road, Cookham – perhaps across Odney Common</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new pedestrian link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>
21	<p>Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.</p>
22	<p>Upgrade Kennel Lane (Cookham Footpath 22) to a bridleway</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: one of the affected landowners has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath to bridleway: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>
23	<p>Crossings over the Thames:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) from Hythe End to south bank avoiding M25 (b) from Magna Carta Island to north bank (c) from Wraysbury riverside to Old Windsor (d) from Ham Island to Sunnymeads (e) from Datchet centre to Home Park (f) from north side of Eton to south bank (g) from Windsor near Slough railway bridge to north bank (h) from west side of Windsor (A308) to north bank

	<p>(i) from Bray village to east bank</p> <p>(j) from west bank to southern tip of National Trust Cliveden Park</p> <p>(k) upstream of Maidenhead where towpath crosses to Bucks bank</p> <p>(l) near Cookham Lock where towpath crosses back again</p> <p>(m) from south side of Cookham bridge to towpath on Lock Cut</p> <p>(n) from Spade Oak Farm to south bank</p> <p>(o) downstream of A404 bridge</p> <p>(p) at Bisham Church</p> <p>(q) from south bank to Medmenham</p>
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Maidenhead & Cox Green

24	<p>Fill in missing links on the “Millennium Walk” from Hurley to Maidenhead Riverside / Cliveden Reach connecting to the Thames Path by securing a path from:</p> <p>(a) Nightingale Lane to the Green Way, subject to rail crossing provision</p> <p>(b) Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path. <i>(March 2014 update): Discussions are being held with the landowners about the proposed new footpath.</i> <i>(March 2015 update): the landowners have declined to agree the creation of a new footpath across this land; however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened).</i></p>
25	<p>Create the following paths from the 1999 Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Plan:</p> <p>(a) a path from Lower Cookham Road at Widbrook Common to the Thames Path</p> <p>(b) a route from the Causeway at Braywick Park to Old Mill Lane via Bray Bridge</p>

	<p>(c) make the Green Way accessible to mobility restricted users</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update: upgrades to footbridges on Cookham FP 48 to enable disabled access: works ordered)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: improvements to gates at National Trust land, and stepped footbridge replaced with step-free accessible bridge)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: steps south of Chapel Arches being replaced with a ramp, in association with redevelopment at former cinema site)</i></p>
26	<p>To establish a continuous riverside route of the Thames Path in Maidenhead beside the river bank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens</p> <p><i>(March 2010 update: the footpath opposite the Thames Hotel was extended in 2007, however a gap of approximately 30m remains in order to complete the link to Bridge Gardens)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: funding options for completing the remaining section of missing link are being explored in discussion with the Ramblers)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: Path Creation Agreement secured and new roadside footpath opened north of Bridge Gardens)</i></p>
27	<p>A footbridge from Boulter’s Island to east bank of the Thames, which would link the Thames Path and Jubilee River, and the walks in Taplow</p> <p><i>(March 2013 update: a new footbridge across the Thames at Boulter’s Lock is included in a Draft Development Brief for the Mill Lane, Taplow site produced by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: new footbridge design agreed, subject to redevelopment proposal on east side of the river being approved by South Bucks District Council)</i></p>
28	<p>Create a new foot/cycle bridge across the Cut and new footpath-cycleway linking Braywick Park to Bray Road adjacent to Oldfield Primary School</p>
29	<p>(a) Upgrade Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead Footpath 30) to a cycle route</p> <p>(b) <i>March 2009 addition:</i> Reinstate the definitive width of Kinghorn Lane (Maidenhead FP 30) to provide segregated route for cyclists</p>
30	<p>Create a continuous streamside footpath around “The Maidenhead Ring”, including the Moor Cut and The Green Way , in association with the Maidenhead Waterways project</p>

31	Upgrading Thames Path to allow cyclists to share route
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Bray, Windsor and Eton

32	An extension of the Green Way from Hibbert Road in Braywick to the River Thames at Summerleaze Bridge to provide a traffic free route for walkers, cyclists and disabled users.
33	Promote a circular route around Bray village, and also around the old Biffa pits
34	Improve bridleway links between Eton, Dorney and Bray working with Bucks County Council and other neighbouring authorities.
35	A riverside path should be created in parallel to the Thames Path on the opposite side of the river
36	A route from Bray to Windsor, past Bray Film Studios
37	Create a circular route around Eton and the Boveney area for mobility restricted users <i>(March 2012 update): surface improvements carried out to paths in this area in conjunction with access to Eton-Dorney Lake for the 2012 Olympics, facilitating use by mobility restricted users.</i>
38	Expand the multi-user routes in Eton to surrounding areas and link with other bridleway routes. <i>(February 2015 update: Discussions are underway with landowners to allow horse riding use of the Jubilee River cycle track between Dorney and Taplow, extending the existing provision available at Eton, Eton Wick and Slough)</i>
39	Create of a path between Sutherland Grange public open space, via the rear of the Centrica complex, and the access road to the Racecourse Marina
40	Secure a Public Right of Way or permitted link at end of Bridleway 11a Windsor, and a new footway along Winkfield Road to create a circular walk
41	Crossings over the Thames to link villages /settlements on either bank

	with paths on the other, and to link isolated bits of the old towpath
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Datchet, Horton, Old Windsor & Wraysbury

42	Access around the Queen Mother reservoir, Datchet <i>(March 2011 update): The landowner has declined to agree the creation of a new footpath across this land; however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened</i>
43	Improve and ensure long term accessibility (including possible bank repair / diversion) Datchet Footpath 8 <i>(March 2009 update: handrails installed by landowner in 2008)</i> <i>(March 2015 update: discussion with landowner about potential for widening the footpath)</i> <i>(March 2016 update: landowner has declined to widen the path, bank repair improvements completed to secure the river bank)</i>
44	Thames side paths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) along the banks of Ham Island (b) south bank of Thames from Home Park (c) along the shores of the big islands downstream of Cookham (d) south bank between Bisham and Temple
45	Create the following paths from the 1981 Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury Local Plan, depending on the working arrangements with the landowner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) footpath from Datchet Footpath 7 southwest around the Queen Mother Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line (b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6 (c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6 (d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of

	<p>the railway line to Wraysbury Footpath 6</p> <p>(e) footpath from Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Kingswood Creek</p> <p>(f) footpath from northern end of Douglas Lane (at termination of Wraysbury Footpath 6) to The Green</p> <p>(g) footpath running from High Street car park in Wraysbury, around southern part of lakes parallel to Staines Road to Staines Road near termination of Wraysbury Footpath 4</p> <p>(h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road</p> <p>(i) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the western bank of the Colne Brook.</p> <p>(j) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3)</p> <p>(k) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury</p> <p>(l) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370)</p> <p>(m) Footpath from Kingswood Creek to Old Ferry Drive</p> <p>(n) Footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook.</p>
46	New route along the Colne Brook

Ascot, Sunninghill & Sunningdale

47	<p>Disabled friendly routes should be investigated at Eton, Sunninghill and Ascot, Sunningdale, Knowl Hill, White Waltham and Hurley Lock <i>(December 2015 update: replacement of stepped footbridge west of Hurley Lock completed)</i> <i>(March 2015 update: surface improvements at St Georges Lane and Wells Lane)</i></p>
48	<p>Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill <i>(March 2009 update: feasibility studies have indicated that this project is</i></p>

	<i>not viable, however if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
49	Create a path from Ascot Station westwards parallel to the railway line to Kings Ride <i>(March 2007 update: Network Rail are unwilling to consider this proposed footpath creation)</i>
50	New footpath between Ascot High Street and Ascot Rail Station. <i>(February 2016 update: negotiations are ongoing with the adjacent landowners regarding re-opening this path)</i>
51	New footpath or cycle route from Ascot Centre to Ascot Rail Station
52	New footpath from St Georges Lane to Ascot Rail Station
53	New footpath or cycle route from Heatherwood Hospital to Prince Albert Drive
54	New footpath or cycle route between Prince Albert Drive and Ascot High Street around Heatherwood Hospital
55	New footpath or cycle route linking Bridge Road to Kings Road
56	New footpath or cycle route from Cavendish Meads to railway line
57	New footpath from Farm Close to Upper Village Road
58	New footpath linking Allens Field to Swinley Forest
59	New footpath from Coombe Lane to Victory Fields Recreation Ground
60	New cycle route from Ascot High Street east of Station Hill to South Ascot via the A330 viaduct
61	New cycle route alongside Winkfield Road from the entrance to Ascot Racecourse and Royal Ascot Golf Course to the junction of A330 and A329 London Road/Ascot High Street
62	New cycle route from A330 Winkfield Road alongside New Mile Road, Cheapside Road and Watersplash Lane to B383 Sunninghill Road

63	Upgrade Sunninghill Footpath 5 to a bridleway usable by cyclists
64	Upgrade Sunninghill Footpath 1 to a bridleway usable by cyclists
65	New footpath from Liddell Way to Whiteladies Park
66	New footpath or cycle route from Heatherwood Hospital to Ascot Rail Station
67	New footpath from North Ascot to Ascot High Street across Ascot racecourse and through tunnel
68	New footpath east of Ascot Racecourse alongside Winkfield Road
69	New footpath through Silwood Park from Sunninghill Footpath 2 to Buckhurst Road
70	New footpath along Mill Lane linking into Windsor Great Park
71	New footpath alongside Whitmore Lane linking Sunningdale Byway 4, Sunningdale Footpath 2 and A329 London Road
72	New footpath alongside railway between Beech Hill Road to Kings Road
73	New footpath or cycle route from Sunninghill to Charters School on the edge of the railway and around school sites
74	New footpath from Sunningdale Park parallel to Larch Avenue
75	New footpath from Sunningdale Park / Larch Avenue to Park Drive
76	New footpath within Sunningdale Park linking Silwood Road to Station Road
77	New footpath around Southern border of Sunninghill Park parallel to Park Drive
78	New footpath from Sunningdale Park to Station Road
79	New footpath from Sunningdale Footpath 1 to Windsor Great Park

	adjacent to London Road
80	New footpath or cycle route linking Beech Hill Road over railway line to Charters School
81	New footpath from Bagshot Road to Charters School along Broadlands Drive
82	New footpath from Sunning Avenue into Charters School
83	Record the existing path round Beaufort Gardens loop to Burleigh Lane
84	Record the existing path from Kings Ride west of Heatherwood Hospital to the railway line
85	Record the existing path between Vernon Drive and Ruston Way
86	Record the existing path around Allen's Field
87	Record the existing path around the woods off Allen's Field
88	Record the existing path from Woodlands Ride to Allen's Field
89	Record the existing path along pine tree ridge near Liddell Way
90	Record the existing path to the west of Allen's Field
91	Record the existing path From Carroll Crescent via Beaumont Court to adopted path onto Bouldish Farm Road
92	Record the existing path between Elizabeth Gardens and Brockenhurst Road
93	Record the existing path from Armitage Court through open land / woods off St Mary's Hill
94	Record the existing path through woodland north west of Coombe Lane
95	Record the existing footpath round woodland off Coombe Lane
96	Record the existing path from St George's Lane to Coombe Lane

97	Record the existing path from Coombe Lane to Victory Field through Tom Green's Field
98	Record the existing path around the woods off Allen's Field
99	Record the existing path between New Road and Kennel Ride
100	Record the existing path between Winkfield Road and Oaklands Drive
101	Record the existing path across Ascot Racecourse
102	Record the existing path behind Hilltop Close
103	Record the existing path south of Hilltop Close to Sunninghill Footpath 2
104	Record the existing path from Hilltop Close to Playground
105	Record the existing path from Park Drive to Sunningdale Park
106	Record the existing path from Queen's Road Car Park to High Street by Chapmans
107	Record the existing path through woodland adjacent to Blythewood recreation area
108	Record the existing path through protected woodland by Blythewood recreation area
109	Record the existing path to/from green on Hanover Estate
110	Record the existing path under Ascot station and to Lyndhurst Rd
111	Record the existing path between Sutherland Chase and Blythewood Lane (Sunninghill Byway 18)
112	Record the existing path from Cross Rd into Sunningdale Golf Course
113	Record the existing path between the A30 and the RBWM Car Park
114	Record the existing path around RBWM car park at Sunningdale

115	Record the existing path between Priory Road and Richmond Road
116	Record the existing path between Ridgemount Road and Priory Road to the level crossing
117	Record the existing path between Cedar Drive and Sunningdale Footpath 13
118	Record the existing path through Broomhall Recreation Ground
119	Record the existing paths linking from Hamilton and Greenways Drives to London Road A30
120	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Old Sunningdale via Silwood Rd to Sunninghill via Larch Avenue
121	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Silwood Rd to Sunninghill or Sunningdale
122	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (west) to Coworth Rd
123	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (east) to Coworth Rd

Further information on public rights of way in the Royal Borough, including maps of all the paths and ways, and an electronic version of this document, can be found on the Borough website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_index.htm

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Operations Directorate
Highways, Engineering and Transport,
Town Hall, St Ives Road,
Maidenhead
Berks SL6 1RF**

If you require information in an alternative format please contact the Public Rights of Way Team on 01628-683800

Report for: INFORMATION



Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT
Responsible Officer(s)	Ben Smith, Head of Highways and Transport
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Anthony Hurst, Principal Rights of Way Officer 01628-796180
For Consideration By	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel
Date to be Considered	10 th March 2016
Implementation Date if Not Called In	N/A
Affected Wards	All

REPORT SUMMARY

This report updates the Panel on progress made with Public Rights of Way issues during the period from August 2015 to February 2016. The Progress Report is attached as Appendix 1. Progress Reports are submitted to the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel in March and September each year, and are also circulated to all members of the borough's Local Access Forum.

If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit	Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference
Effective monitoring of the Council's performance in providing the Public Rights of Way service.	2016/17

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION

That the Panel notes the report.

2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To update the Panel on public rights of way matters

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Defined Outcomes	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date they should be delivered by
Panel updated	<i>n/a</i>	March 2016	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	2016/17

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS

Financial impact on the budget

None.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. VALUE FOR MONEY

Effective monitoring of the Council's Public Rights of Way Service ensures that good value for money is achieved in meeting agreed objectives.

7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

Effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

None.

9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on healthy lifestyles by encouraging walking and cycling.

10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

The Progress Report refers to a number of initiatives aimed at improving access to the countryside for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs.

11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

None.

12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

None.

13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

14. CONSULTATION

The Progress Report includes the minutes of the December 2015 meeting of the RBWM Local Access Forum, a statutory consultative Forum established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

15. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

2016-17

16. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Public Rights of Way: 6-monthly Progress Report August 2015 to February 2016.

17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None.

18. CONSULTATION

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Chairman	12 Feb 2016	25 Feb 2016	Throughout report
Cllr Clive Bullock	Panel Vice-Chair	12 Feb 2016	25 Feb 2016	Throughout report
Ben Smith	Head of Highways and Transport	12 Feb 2016	-	-

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Non-key decision	No

Full name of report author	Job title	Full contact no:
Anthony Hurst	Principal Rights of Way Officer	01628-796180

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**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6- MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

1st AUGUST 2015- 1st FEBRUARY 2016

The total number of outstanding reported problems on Public Rights of Way has risen from **34** to **65** during the six month period, (*see table at Annex A for further details*).

1. ENFORCEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 31st July 2015</i>	<i>Reported 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 2016</i>	<i>Closed 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 016</i>	<i>Outstanding on 1st Feb 2016</i>
Enforcement problems	11	40	37	14

Examples of enforcement cases that have been resolved:

Path	Date reported	Problem
Bray Footpath 77 (off Langworthy Lane)	10/7/2015	Path obstructed by overhanging vegetation. <i>Vegetation cleared by adjacent residents</i>
Bray Footpath 25 (off Forest Green Road)	23/11/2015	Paths ploughed and not marked correctly. <i>Paths marked out by farmer</i>
Bray Footpath 55 (off Oakley Green Road)	26/11/2015	Gate damaged and bound with rope. <i>Gate repaired by landowner</i>
Eton Footpath 41 (off Eton Wick Road)	21/12/2015	Path blocked by parked vehicles. <i>Vehicles removed from path by adjacent house owner, and path marked out.</i>
Hurley Footpath 45 (off Bath Road)	11/6/2015	Path surface covered with rubble. <i>Path surface repaired by landowner</i>
Old Windsor Footpath 3 (Thames Path)	17/8/2015	Path partially blocked by posts and rope fence. <i>Fence removed by landowner.</i>

The following cases have been reported to the Rural Payments Agency under Defra's Cross Compliance procedure during this period:

- Bray Footpaths 25, 28,31 (Hornbuckle Farm, Bray) paths obstructed by crops
- Bray Footpaths 25, 28,31 (Hornbuckle Farm, Bray) paths ploughed and not reinstated
- Bray Footpath 58 (Fairacres Farm, Bray) – paths ploughed and not reinstated
- Eton Footpath 4 (North Field, Eton) – paths cropped and not reinstated.

2. MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 31st July 2015</i>	<i>Reported 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 2016</i>	<i>Closed 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 016</i>	<i>Outstanding on 1st Feb 2016</i>
Maintenance problems	23	106	78	51

Examples of maintenance and improvement projects completed:

Hurley Footpath 25 (Channers) and Bridleway 22 (Pudding Hill)	Surface improvements
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Eton Footpath 38 (off Pococks Lane)	Surface improvements
Cookham Byway 68 (Jobs Lane)	Drainage improvements
Maidenhead RB 70 (Malders Lane)	Surface improvements
Horton Bridleway 5 (off Horton Road)	Clearance works

Works due to be carried out

The following projects are scheduled to be carried out in the next 2-3 months:

Hurley Walks	Map board to be installed at Hurley car park
Maidenhead RB 72 (Nightingale Lane)	Surface improvements
Eton Bridleway 13 (South Field)	Anti-graffiti paint to be applied to underpass
Waltham St Lawrence RB 35 (Uncles Lane)	Surface and drainage improvements
Cookham Footpath 55 (Thames Path)	Riverbank repair and path surfacing

3. DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER (DMMO) applications (path claims)

3.1 Wraysbury claimed footpaths 501 to 505 (Thamesfield)

Five DMMO applications were received in June 2009 for footpaths crossing land at Thamesfield in Wraysbury. A Village Green application was also received for the land crossed by these claimed footpaths, and the footpath applications were held in abeyance pending resolution of the Village Green application. The Village Green application was refused following a public inquiry held in November 2012. Following a Judicial Review, the Council's decision on the Village Green application was upheld in 2014. The footpath applications are currently being investigated.

3.2 Windsor claimed footpath 502

A DMMO application was received in March 2014 to add a footpath running from Priors Road to Keepers Farm Close to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. An Order was made in December 2014, and as objections were received a Public Inquiry was held on 21st October 2015. The Inquiry Inspector published a revised Order with amendments to the path width: however, a further objection was received to the revised Order, and the matter is currently being reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate.

3.3 Cookham claimed footpath 501

A DMMO application was received in December 2015 to add a footpath running from Strande Lane to Maidenhead Road in Cookham to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way, and delete the existing line of Cookham Footpath 48 which runs over the same land. This application is currently being investigated.

4. RAMBLERS BIG PATHWATCH PROJECT

Between July and December 2015 the 'Ramblers' national office organised a major condition survey of public rights of way across the whole of England and Wales. Called the "Big Pathwatch", the survey involved members of the public selecting one or more Ordnance Survey 1km grid squares and walking all public rights of way within that area and recording any problems they encountered (such as blocked paths, missing signs, broken stiles etc.) The results of the surveys were collated by the Ramblers Big Pathwatch project team and circulated to the relevant Highway Authorities. Every two

weeks each Highway Authority (including RBWM) received a report setting out any problems reported in their area. This provided useful feedback, and supplemented the information already provided by the local East Berks Ramblers from their own regular path surveys.

Within the RBWM area a total of 189 grid squares were covered by the Big Pathwatch survey, and almost the entire public rights of way network (303km out of 306km) was surveyed by members of the public taking part in the project. Across England and Wales as a whole, 83,434 km of public rights of way were surveyed.

The 'Ramblers' are currently preparing a full report on the project to be published in the Spring.

5. BIG SOCIETY

5.1 Working with Parish Councils, path user groups and the National Trust

All Parish/Town Councils in the borough, as well as the British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust, are members of the Parish Paths Initiative (PPI). Through this scheme the rights of way officers work directly with the Parish/Town Councils and the voluntary groups on maintaining and improving the rights of way network in the borough. As part of the PPI project, annual grants are paid to Cookham and Old Windsor Parish Council's who organise routine path clearance works in their parishes. A number of successful projects have been completed this year and the partnership continues to deliver benefits to all involved.

5.2 Volunteers

The Public Rights of Way team have worked with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA), Ways into Work (WiW) and Sunninghill and Ascot Girl Guides (SGG) to carry out practical work on public rights of way in the borough over the past 6 months. The PROW team is actively looking to expand works with other volunteer groups including local Scouts and Girl Guide groups and other conservation groups.

The following projects were completed between August 2015 and February 2016:

Path	Group	Date(s)	Task	Number of participants
Hurley Restricted Byways 52/53/54 (Knowl Hill)	WiW	5 th Aug. 12 th Aug.	Vegetation clearance	14
Maidenhead FPs 2/88/89 (The Green Way)	WiW	19 th Aug.	Vegetation clearance	6
Bisham Footpath 3 (off Quarry Wood Road)	TCV	20 th Aug.	Step construction	7
Bray Footpaths 71/72 (Vicarage Walk/The Causeway)	WiW	26 Aug. 2 Sept.	Vegetation clearance	11
Maidenhead Footpaths 3B, 3C, 82 (Hines Meadow and near Fire Station)	WiW	9 th Sept 16 th Sept	Path clearance/ sweeping	12
Cookham Footpath 48 (The Green Way)	TCV	10 th Sept 17 th Sept	Path regarding/ surfacing	22
Hurley Restricted Byway 2 (Thames Path)	BCA	10 th Sept	Himalayan Balsam clearance	7
Hurley Horse Margin	BCA	17 th Sept	Vegetation	12

(off Henley Road)		1 st Oct	clearance	
Maidenhead Footpath 22 (Garretts Lane)	WiW	23 rd Sept 30 th Sept	Vegetation clearance	12
Datchet Footpath 9 (Thames Path)	TCV	24 th Sept 12 th Nov	Vegetation clearance/ surfacing	16
Cookham Footpath 42 (Cookham Moor)	BCA	24 th Sept	Vegetation clearance	6
Sunninghill Footpath 8 (off Winkfield Road)	SGG	Oct. 2015	Vegetation clearance	10*
Sunninghill Footpath 16 (off Kennel Ride)	SGG	Oct. 2015	Vegetation clearance	10*
Hurley Bridleway 18 (Hodgedale Lane)	BCA	1 st Oct	Vegetation clearance	8
Maidenhead Footpath 80 (Green Lane)	WiW	7 th Oct	Vegetation clearance	6
M'head Restricted Byway 72 (Nightingale Lane)	BCA	8 th Oct	Vegetation clearance	5
Cookham Footpath 54 (Thames Path)	BCA	8 th Oct	Vegetation clearance	7
Maidenhead Footpath 13 (North Town Moor)	WiW	14 th Oct	Vegetation clearance	5
White Waltham Bridleway 2 (off Bath Road)	BCA	15 th Oct	Vegetation clearance	5
Bray Bridleway 29 (Primrose Lane)	WiW	21 st Oct 28 th Oct	Winter cut back	13
Maidenhead Footpath 16 (North Town Moor)	TCV	22 nd Oct	Path surfacing	6
Bray Bridleway 22 (Long Lane)	BCA	22 nd Oct 29 th Oct	Vegetation clearance	18
Bray Footpath 41 (off Stroud Farm Road)	TCV	5 th Oct	Stile replacement	8
Total number of task days: 32		Total participant days: 226		
*estimated figures				

5.3 Partnership working with the East Berks Ramblers

Local volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carry out inspections of the public rights of way network in spring and autumn each year, based on a three year rolling programme (i.e. approx. 1/3rd of the network is surveyed each year). The information obtained from these surveys is used to identify and prioritise works, and to calculate the annual performance indicator that measures the percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use. The 'easy to use' figure for 2015/16 is 93%.

6. PUBLICATIONS

Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2016/17

The Milestones Statement for 2016/17, which sets out targets and priorities for the coming year, has been submitted for approval by the Rights of Way & Highways Licensing Panel at its meeting on 10th March 2016.

Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026

The "Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026" came into effect on 1st January 2016. Annual updates are published as part of the Milestones Statement.

Public Rights of Way information booklet

This booklet has produced by the Rights of Way team in partnership with the Local Access Forum.

Public Rights of Way section of Borough website

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way

The Public Rights of Way section of the borough website contains comprehensive information about public rights of way in the borough, including contact details, problem report forms, downloadable leaflets, registers of path claims and Highways Act landowner declarations.

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way is available online and the public rights of way information is also available through the Council's MapsOnline service, allowing users to view the paths around their home address, and view the location of all stiles, gates, bollards and signs on public rights of way.

7. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Local Access Forum (LAF) is *"a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community"*. established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Forum membership is listed at Annexe C. The Forum meets twice a year, with additional informal meetings or site visits as required. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 11th November 2015 are included in Appendix D.

The Local Access Forum web pages can be found at:

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way/452/local_access_forum

The LAF web content was developed by the Forum and contains the following:

- Information about the Forum, and how to get involved
- Minutes and agendas for the Forum meetings
- Links and information tailored for walkers, horse riders and cyclists
- Information about the Forum members and projects
- Copies of advice supplied by the Forum's Fast Response Team
- Links to neighbouring Local Access Forums and other useful links.

Anyone interested in applying to join the Forum should contact the Forum Secretary, Andrew Fletcher (01628-796122).

ANNEXE A

Recorded problems on Public Rights of Way in the Borough.

	Outstanding at 31 st July 15	Reported 1st Aug 2015 to 31 st Jan 16	Closed 1st Aug 2015 to 31 st Jan 16	Total Outstanding at 1 st Feb 16	Issues outstanding over 5 years
ENFORCEMENT					
Ploughing and lack of marking	0	4	3	1	0
Obstruction by crops	0	4	4	0	0
Fence encroachment	5	3	2	6	2
Fence obstruction	0	3	3	0	0
Building obstruction	0	0	0	0	0
Other obstructions	1	3	1	3	1
Stiles	3	6	7	2	1
Gates	0	3	2	1	0
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised vehicular use	0	0	0	0	0
Electric fencing	0	4	4	0	0
Misleading notices	0	3	3	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	1	3	3	1	0
Other Enforcement Problems	1	4	5	0	0
TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:	11	40	37	14	4
MAINTENANCE					
Vegetation	2	30	14	18	0
Rutting	1	1	0	2	0
Drainage	3	1	1	3	1
Fallen trees	0	15	11	4	0
Erosion	8	13	10	11	0
Tree problems	0	2	2	0	0
Bridges	2	10	5	7	1
Safety barriers	1	0	1	0	0
Steps	0	1	1	0	0
Roadside signposting	1	17	17	1	0
Signposting at path junctions	0	0	0	0	0
Waymarking	2	2	3	1	0
Rubbish/ waste	0	6	4	2	0
Other Maintenance Problems	3	8	9	2	0
TOTAL MAINTENANCE:	23	106	78	51	2
TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	34	146	115	65	6

ANNEXE B**PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
CLAIMED PATHS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION****FEBRUARY 2016**

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Current status
			From	To	
Cookham	FP 501	2015	Strande Lane	Maidenhead Road	Under investigation
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various paths in and around Thamesfield	Various paths in and around Thamesfield	Under investigation
Windsor	FP502	2014	Priors Road	Keepers Farm Close	Public Inquiry held 21 st October 2015: objection received to amended Order, currently under further review by Planning Inspectorate

ANNEXE C

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

February 2016

Name	Main Interests
Peter Thorn (Chairman) (Basildon, Berks)	Land management
Malcolm Beer (Old Windsor)	Old Windsor Parish Council, walking, cycling
Sara Church (Eton)	Horse riding, British Horse Society
James Copas (Maidenhead)	Land management / farming
Margaret Cubley (Bisham)	Walking, open spaces, CPRE, Bisham Parish Council
Roy Fabry (Maidenhead)	Cycling, Sustrans, disabled access
Rachel Forsyth (Taplow)	Land management, National Trust
John Foulger (Fifield)	Walking and open spaces
Christine Gadd (Sunningdale)	Walking and cycling
Steve Gillions (Old Windsor)	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Councillor Maureen Hunt (Hurley)	RBWM nominated councillor
Tom Jarvis (Windsor)	Land management, Crown Estate
Alan Keene (Bisham)	Bisham Parish Council, Countryside, public rights of way, farming and land management
Councillor Asghar Majeed (Maidenhead)	RBWM nominated councillor
Gordon Marrs (Maidenhead)	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Andrew Nye (Cookham)	Cookham Parish Council, public rights of way
Geoff Priest (Hurley)	Hurley Parish Council, open countryside, access for younger users
Katie Sarsfield (Waltham St Lawrence)	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council, public rights of way

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

11 November 2015

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Interest area
Peter Thorn	Chairman, land management
Katie Sarsfield	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
Sara Church	Horse riding, British Horse Society
Margaret Cubley	Bisham Parish Council, CPRE
Christine Gadd	Sunningdale Parish Council, cycling and walking
Gordon Marrs	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Alan Keene	Bisham Parish Council, land management, public rights of way
Roy Fabry	SUSTRANS, cycling & disabled access
Geoff Priest	Hurley Parish Council
Councillor Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor
Councillor Malcolm Beer	RBWM Councillor / walking, cycling, Old Windsor Parish Council
Tanya Leftwich	Clerk to the Forum
Andrew Fletcher	Local Access Forum Secretary

Apologies

Andrew Nye
James Copas
Rachel Forsyth
John Foulger
Tom Jarvis

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
11 November 2015
MINUTES**

1 Welcome, apologies and introductions

The Chairman Peter Thorn welcomed everyone to the thirty-third meeting of the Local Access Forum.

The Chairman explained that very sadly in August 2015 Gordon Harris had passed away. It was noted that Gordon had been on the Forum since 2006 and that this meeting would be held in memory of him.

Apologies for Absence were received from James Copas, John Foulger, Tom Jarvis, Andrew Nye and Rachel Forsyth.

The Forum approved the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015.

Matters arising from last meeting

Andrew Fletcher referred members to pages 13-28 of the agenda.

Action (AF): Item 1(c) That **Andrew Fletcher** would look into whether there were any options to put in a crossing at the Bisham roundabout as the 3 options had been dropped.

Councillor Beer arrived.

Action (AF): Item 1(c) That **Andrew Fletcher** would ask Sharon to update the horse margin as concerns had been raised about the barrier as a number of accidents had taken place and it was felt that someone might die soon.

2 Members' update

None received.

3 Membership update

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chair

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that one nomination had been received for the Chairman's position, that of Peter Thorn. It was noted that Peter Thorn had been invaluable on this Forum and it was hoped that he would continue in his role. Councillor Hunt proposed Peter Thorn as Chairman, which was seconded by Christine Gadd.

Unanimously agreed: That Peter Thorn would remain as Chairman for the next two years and the Vice-Chair position to remain open until the next meeting.

General Forum membership

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that five new members had joined since the last meeting:

- Councillor Maureen Hunt (RBWM Nominated Member)
- Alan Keene (Bisham)
- Andrew Nye (Cookham)
- Geoff Priest (Hurley)
- Katie Sarsfield (Waltham St Lawrence)

It was noted that the following members had been re-appointed:

- Councillor Malcolm Beer
- James Copas
- Sara Church
- Margaret Cubley
- John Foulger
- Christine Gadd

- Tom Jarvis
- Peter Thorn

It was noted that the following members had resigned from the Forum:

- Julie Mason
- Helen Howard
- Phil Jackson
- Andrew Randall
- Christopher Westacott

Andrew Fletcher explained that the Forum membership was made up of a balance of 53% user interests, 29% land management, 6% other interests and 12% RBWM Councillors. It was noted that Slough had a disabled Member on their LAF who was happy to give the Royal Borough advice re: disabled access when needed.

Action (AF): That **Andrew Fletcher** would write to everyone who had resigned (particularly Chris Westacott who was very ill) to thank them for their time on the Forum.

It was noted that the Royal Borough were able to jointly fund training with other Local Authority LAF's.

Action (ALL): That anyone interested in being trained to let **Andrew Fletcher** know by the first week in December and to let **Andrew Fletcher** know what were the areas of interest.

LAF Fast Response Team membership

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that the LAF Fast Response Team looked at issues outside the Forum meetings in order to meet deadlines and reported back to subsequent meetings. It was noted that these issues tended to be handled via email as it was less time consuming than meeting face to face. Andrew Fletcher stated that additional LAF members were needed on the LAF Fast Response Team.

Action (ALL): That ideally two new members to the Fast Response Team were needed - anyone interested to let **Andrew Fletcher** know by the first week in December.

4 **Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026**

Andrew Fletcher informed Members that the purpose of this report was to consult the Forum on the outcome of the "Draft Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-26" public consultation and to seek the Forum's endorsement of the Final Plan.

The Chairman explained that the Royal Borough had received a commendation from Natural England to say good effort / approach and congratulated officers on their hard work, which was echoed by the Forum.

The Chairman went through the "Draft Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-26" (pages 33 – 57 of the agenda) page by page and the following comments were noted / agreed:

- It was noted that the annual risk assessment of the Thames Path Nation Trail was felt not to gain any new / useful information and it was proposed by Andrew Fletcher that this be stopped in the future. The Forum suggested that instead of an annual assessment, a risk assessment should be conducted in response to an extreme weather event (such as flooding), and also to ensure that all waymarks along the Thames Path have RBWM telephone numbers on them. EBR also stated that they could arrange for a dedicated Thames Path warden as well.

Unanimously agreed: That the annual risk assessment no longer needed to take place.

Unanimously agreed: That a monthly update of issues and what had been done to resolve them be added to the RBWM website / be circulated to Forum members & Parish Councils.

Unanimously agreed: That the wording on page 37 1.2(b) include 'in consultation with public ROW team on major developments'. Parish councils were also thought to be key to identifying these areas.

Unanimously agreed: That the wording on page 38 1.5(c) include Community Wardens.

Unanimously agreed: (page 39 2.1(a)) to a minimum of 2 cuttings per year.

Unanimously agreed: (page 44 2.23) To add an additional identified needs section in about increasing multi-user routes (for horse riding & cycling).

Councillor Beer left the meeting.

Unanimously agreed: (page 47 3.6) To add in improve communication / responses on issues and problems & to ensure signage has contact telephone numbers on them. This was a target to improve Community responses rather than communication responses.

Unanimously agreed: That Woodland Path be added (B.Hill Recreational Ground to F/Path 13).

Action (AF): Re: A404 - that **Andrew Fletcher** contact Highways England and also change the wording to emphasise safety re: the Bisham roundabout crossing.

Unanimously agreed: (page 53 ref: 26) To add in the wording 'to establish a continuous riverside route'.

Unanimously agreed: The overall plan (pages 31-47) was agreed subject to the changes noted above.

Action (AF): That **Andrew Fletcher** send a copy of the final plan to the Forum members once it had been to the Rights of Way & Highway Licensing Panel on the 7 December 2015.

5 Milestones Statement and Annual Targets for 2016-2017

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that this report was to consult the Forum on the priorities, targets and service standards to be included in the Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2016/17.

The Chairman explained that the views of the Forum were requested on the following:

- **Priorities for 2016/17:** Were there any recommended changes to the priorities listed in the current 2015/16 Milestones Statement (Appendix A)?
- **Milestones Targets for 2016/17:** Were there any recommended changes to the Milestones Targets listed in the current 2013/14 Milestones Statement (Appendix A)?
- **Service Standards for 2016/17:** Were there any recommended changes to the Service Standards listed in the 2015/16 Milestones Statement (Appendix A)?

Andrew Fletcher gave Members a brief overview presentation which was agreed would be emailed out with the minutes.

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that over the last five years the number of issues had reduced from 314 to 42 which he was very proud of. It was noted that the issues considered 'cold cases' had not been included in his figures as suggested by the Rights of Way & Highway Licensing Panel. The Forum congratulated Andrew Fletcher

and his team on such a fantastic achievement.

It was noted that it had been agreed with Viola that they would collect rubbish bins in agreed locations (in this case at the entrance points of Cookham Bridleway 19) but it was not possible to place rubbish bins at every location along public rights of way because the refuse collectors will not walk great distances to empty them.

The Forum were shown before and after photos of:

- Bray Footpath 41 – stile replacement by conservation volunteers.
- Old Windsor Footpath 2 – surfacing works.
- Cookham Bridleway 19 – surfacing works.
- Hurley Footpath 25 – surfacing works.
- Datchet Footpath 8 – bank repair works – a joint scheme between the Royal Borough and the National Trails Office (50/50 funding of £10,700).

Peter Thorn informed the Forum that Andrew Fletcher had been very pro-active in engaging the volunteers for which he was congratulated.

It was noted that the priorities and targets could be found on page 97 of the agenda.

Action (AF): That **Andrew Fletcher** add cyclists & enhance multi user network to the ninth bullet down on the priorities for 2015/16.

Unanimously agreed:

- That no changes were requested to be made to the priorities listed in the current 2015/16 Milestones Statement.
- That the targets remained as proposed bar LD1 being left blank, WP1 being increased to 3 and the wording be changed to ‘targeted user groups’, WP1 to include updating current leaflets & EN1 being reduced to 10.
- That the service standards wording was agreed.
- That a vote of thanks be given to the team of 2.8.

6 Proposed diversion of Hurley Footpath 18 at Berkshire College of Agriculture

Andrew Fletcher referred Members to pages 99 – 102 of the report.

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to consult the Forum on the proposal to divert Hurley Footpath 18 at Berkshire College of Agriculture.

Members were informed that Hurley Footpath 18 ran from Hall Place Lane in Burchetts Green to the junction of Hurley Footpath 17 at Prospect Hill in Hurley. It was noted that the route of the path took it through the centre of the Berkshire College of Agriculture campus.

Andrew Fletcher explained that the Berkshire College of Agriculture was considering applying for a diversion of the centre section of this footpath to take the path around the main buildings of the college instead of running through the centre of the complex. It was noted that a map detailing the proposed diversion could be found in Appendix A of the report.

Councillor Hunt expressed her concern that children and young adults used the area / campus and that the new route would allow walkers to walk through the area without being noticed. Andrew Fletcher explained that the Berkshire College of Agriculture had considered alternative route to the south and had discounted it.

Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher to give feedback to say that the Forum had no objections to the proposal made by Berkshire College of Agriculture.

Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher to request that an information board be added to the bottom of the statue and ensure the bridleway access was OK.

7 Looking forward issues

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that he had nothing prepared for this item as he was seeking views on ways to improve cycling, bridleways and disabled access, etc.

Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher to write to the Parish Councils to ask them to help identify and prioritise which bridleways needed linking.

Action (ALL): That suggestions be sent to **Andrew Fletcher** by the first week in December.

8 **South Lincs and Rutland LAF consultation: Making our needs known and future of permissive access**

The Forum was referred to pages 103-116 of the agenda.

The Chairman explained that the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum, working with the Mid and West Berks Local Access Forum had sent a proposal and consultation document to all Local Access Forums advocating the re-instatement of a modified "England Access Forum" to work and advise on specific 'nationally significant' issues. It was noted that in addition to this proposal, the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF were seeking the opinion of the Forum regarding the future of permissive access in stewardship schemes nationally.

The Chairman went on to explain that the proposal prepared by the South Lincs and Rutland LAF was included in the agenda as Appendix A to the report and that accompanying the proposal was a consultation document asking various questions, which was attached as Appendix B to the report.

The Forum were invited to consider and discuss the report and respond to the consultation questions.

Action (GM): Gordon Marrs to inform Andrew Fletcher of the ones the RBWM had lost.

The Chairman expressed his concerns that there could potentially be issues that the Royal Borough were not consulted on and that he saw this as a group to help raise the Forums profile.

It was suggested that the Forum be more reactive and focus its efforts more on how to solve issues once the Stewardship Scheme had gone rather than trying to influence Government.

Unanimously agreed: That the Forum would prefer to tackle issues at a local level and not support the proposal re: national support.

9 **LAF Monitoring items**

The Forum was referred to pages 117-120 of the agenda.

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to update the Forum about the status of projects on the LAF regular monitoring list and to seek the Forums advice regarding the members' discussion forum.

Thames Path 'missing link' at Bridge Gardens

Andrew Fletcher showed the Forum before and after photos of Bridge Gardens roadside path which was now in place but explained that the riverside route was still included in the Plan.

Deregulation Bill update

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that the Deregulation Bill had been passed and received Royal Assent on the 26 March 2015. It was noted that regulations and guidance enacting the public rights of way sections of the bill were expected in April/May 2016.

Volunteer Works

Andrew Fletcher showed some before and after photos of Hurley Footpath 29 and Cookham Footpath 48 and explained that his target was to reach 50 task days with the volunteers which he had already met.

Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher to write a letter to the volunteers thanking them for their hard work and also write to the Council (cc. Cllr Dudley) saying how wonderful the volunteers had been and how the Forum would like their work to continue.

Activities of the LAF Fast Response Team

Andrew Fletcher referred the Forum to page 119 in the agenda that listed the activities.

Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher to send the response he had received from Highways England to the Forum members.

Action (ALL): That suggestions of where to go from now be sent to **Andrew Fletcher** by the first week in December.

10 Feedback from meetings and conferences

Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher to prepare a briefing note on the feedback from meetings and conferences and circulate it to the Forum members.

11 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed.

The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting which started at 6.30pm, ended at 9.05pm.

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