

Public Document Pack

**NOTICE  
OF  
MEETING**

**LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

will meet on

**WEDNESDAY, 29TH JUNE, 2016**

at

**6.30 pm**

in the

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

COUNCILLOR PETER THORN (CHAIRMAN)

MAUREEN HUNT

ASGHAR MAJEED & VACANCY

& EXTERNAL MEMBERS: [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/laf\\_members.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/laf_members.htm)

Karen Shepherd

Democratic Services Manager

Issued: Date Tuesday 21 June 2016

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend Part I of this meeting.

The agenda is available on the Council's web site at [www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk) or contact the Panel Administrator **Tanya Leftwich** 01628 796345

**Fire Alarm** - In the event of the fire alarm sounding or other emergency, please leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings and do not use the lifts. Congregate in the Town Hall Car Park, Park Street, Maidenhead (immediately adjacent to the Town Hall) and do not re-enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

**Recording of Meetings** – The Council allows the filming, recording and photography of public Council meetings. This may be undertaken by the Council itself, or any person attending the meeting. By entering the meeting room you are acknowledging that you may be audio or video recorded and that this recording will be available for public viewing on the RBWM website. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to the Democratic Services or Legal representative at the meeting.

The Royal Borough



Windsor &  
Maidenhead

## AGENDA - PART 1

ITEM	SUBJECT		PAGE NO
1.	Welcome, apologies and introductions (a) Declarations of interest (b) Approval of Minutes (11 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2015) (c) Matters arising from last meeting	10 mins	3 - 24
2.	Members' update	10 mins	-
3.	Membership update (a) <b>Election of vice-chair</b> (b) General forum membership (c) LAF Fast Response Team membership (d) LAF member training	15 mins	-
4.	Ecology and public rights of way	20 mins	-
5.	Maidenhead Footpath 19 diversion proposal	20 mins	25 - 30
6.	LAF Annual Report (a) Approval of LAF annual report 2015/2016 (b) LAF Proforma report to Natural England 2016 (c) Work programme 2016/2017 (d) Site visits for 2016/2017	20 mins	31 - 42
7.	LAF Monitoring items	15 mins	43 - 58
8.	Feedback from meetings and conferences	10 mins	-
9.	Date of next meeting • Tuesday 8 November 2016		-

## 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.

This page is intentionally left blank

# ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

## LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

11 November 2015

### ATTENDANCE LIST

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest area</b>
Alan Keene (LAF)	Bisham Parish Council, Public Rights of Way, Land management
Katie Sarsfield	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
Sara Church	Horse riding, British Horse Society
Margaret Cubley	Bisham Parish Council, Campaign to protect Rural England
Christine Gadd	Sunningdale Parish Council, cycling and walking
Gordon Marrs	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Peter Thorn	Chairman, land management
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
Steve Gillions	Rambler
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 Members 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: tbc**

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 6.30 pm, ended at 9.05 pm.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Local Access Forum about the progress made on actions and issues arising from the Forum meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Key:

Completed items
In progress
Incomplete

Action owners:

AF	Andrew Fletcher (Public Rights of Way Officer)	AH	Anthony Hurst (Principal Public Rights of Way Officer)
SW	Sharon Wootten (Public Rights of Way Officer)	GM	Gordon Marrs
PT	Peter Thorn		

**Agenda Item 1: Matters arising**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
1.1	Investigate options for improving the crossing point at Bisham roundabout in light of the recent decision by Highways England not to proceed with the roundabout alterations	AF	The control and responsibility for this roundabout rests with Highways England and at present they do not have any plans to undertake substantial improvements to this roundabout. We are awaiting further feedback towards any small scale improvements that may be possible. Their full response is included as Appendix A to this report.

**Agenda Item 2: Members update**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
2.1	Update Katie Sarsfield regarding the safety concerns with the Twyford Road Horse Margin barrier.	SW	Discussed with traffic engineer who has recommended vergemaster bollards at 5m intervals. It has been agreed that the existing wooden rail will stay and bollards will be in addition. Katie has been updated with this proposal.

**Agenda Item 3: Membership update**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
3.1	Vice-chair election to be held at the next LAF meeting in June 2016	AF	This will be added to the agenda for the next Forum meeting
3.2	Write to all members who had resigned to thank them for their time and effort that they put into the Local Access Forum.	AF/PT	Letter sent 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
3.3	All members of the forum to get back to AF by <b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2015</b> with regard to membership of the Fast Response Team	<b>ALL</b>	Email sent to all members (17/11) Volunteers for members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geoff Priest</li> </ul>
3.4	All members to respond to AF as to whether they would wish to receive any training and on what matters by <b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2015</b>	ALL	Email sent to all members (17/11)
3.5	Arrange a LAF chairs meeting for March 2016	AF	Meeting has been arranged for 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2016

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

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
4.1	The forum <b>recommend</b> to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel that the draft ROWMIP be published, incorporating the comments received from the public consultation and with the additional amendments suggested at the meeting (listed as Appendix B to this document)	AH	These changes were approved by the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2015 and are included in the published plan.
4.2	Send a copy of the final plan to all forum members once it has been approved by the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on the 7 <sup>th</sup> December	AF	Sent on 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
4.3	Investigate options to re-instate a dedicated East Berks Ramblers Thames Path warden	GM	This is currently being investigated with East Berks Ramblers.

**Agenda Item 5: Milestones Statement**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
5.1	The forum <b>recommend</b> to the Council that the following changes are made to the priorities listed in the Milestones Statement for 2016/2017:  - Change the priority to “seek	AH	These recommendations will be reported to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2016

	<p>improvements to the network for horse riders, <i>cyclists</i>, and people with restricted mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add a new priority to “enhance and extend the network through the creation of Multi-User routes”</li> </ul>		
5.2	<p>The forum <b>recommend</b> to the Council that the following changes are made to the priorities listed in the targets for 2016/2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WM 1: remain at 95%</li> <li>- WM 2: remain at 10 surface improvements</li> <li>- WM3: remain at 5 bridges</li> <li>- LD1: No target suggested for this year</li> <li>- WP1: the forum suggests that the wording be changed from ‘people with special needs’ to ‘targeted user groups’ and suggested that this be increased to 3 leaflets. They also suggested the target be widened to include updating and improving the existing leaflets.</li> <li>- WP2: there was no discussion or advice given regarding this item.</li> <li>- AC1: remain at 1 new path</li> <li>- AC2: Remain at 15 physical access improvements</li> <li>- EN1: The forum suggested that the target be reduced to 10.</li> </ul>	AH	<p>These recommendations will be reported to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016</p>
5.3	<p>Investigate whether a monthly update of issues and what had been done to resolve them could be added to the RBWM website which can then be circulated to Forum members &amp; Parish Councils</p>	AH/AF/SW	<p>An update on the milestones targets has been added to the Milestones Statement web page and will be updated after each monthly team meeting. This document will detail particular issues that have recently been resolved.</p>

**Agenda Item 6: Hurley Footpath 18 diversion proposal**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
6.1	<p>The forum responded to the consultation with no objections to the proposal, however they</p>	AF	<p>The forum’s advice was communicated to Berkshire College of Agriculture on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov</p>

	<p>made the following additional suggestions should the diversion go ahead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Install an information board at the Diana statue in Hall Place giving information about the view, and the history of the statue and Hall Place</li> <li>- Ensure that the gate where the diverted path will rejoin the existing public right of way is easily accessible for the public</li> </ul>		2015
--	---	--	------

**Agenda Item 7: Looking forward**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
7.1	(7a) Work with Charters School to improve cycling links to the school	AF	Gordon Oliver is liaising with Charters School to identify areas of improvement, and where public rights of way can be improved to facilitate this
7.2	(7a) Work with Roy Fabry, SUSTRANS and Gordon Oliver to identify improvements that could be made to the network to improve cycling links	AH/AF/SW	Current projects being worked on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements to Wells Lane, Ascot to create a cycle route</li> <li>• Initial feasibility being conducted to create a cycle route between Hurley and Temple using Hurley Footpath 9/Bisham Footpath 21 and private land.</li> </ul>
7.3	(7b) Draft a letter to be sent from RBWM, Slough and Bucks LAF to landowners along the proposed Multi-user route through from Eton to Taplow through Dorney	AF	A letter from RBWM, Bucks and Slough Local Access Forums was sent to the landowner and tenants of the route on 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 following discussions with Bucks and Slough. A copy of the text of the letter, and a map detailing the requested route, is included in Appendix C to this report
7.4	Write to Parish Councils to ask them to help identify and prioritise the improvements to be made to the network in their area, in light of the suggestions made in the Rights of Way Management and Improvement	AF	An email to all Parish Council's was sent on behalf of the forum on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2016, requesting feedback from each parish by <b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2016</b> .



Plan.		
-------	--	--

**Agenda Item 8: South Lincs and Rutland consultation**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
8.1	Respond to consultation: The forum consider that there is not a need for issues to be discussed and taken forward at a national level, or for an England Access Forum to be developed. The preferred approach is for issues to be tackled at a local level, and for effective consultation to each LAF to enable each forum to respond.	AF	The LAF comments regarding this consultation have been sent to John Law from South Lincs and Rutland LAF.
8.2	Provide AF with information about permitted paths that have been lost since the withdrawal of the HLS scheme	GM	Gordon has provided information about the permitted paths that we lost: <i>There was one on my patch (White Waltham) which linked Restrifcted Byway 10 (Breadcroft lane) to Cox Green Footpath 4. It started from RB 10 opposite the property The Old Cottage and went NE along a field boundary to FP 4. It was closed and the sign removed, but now, since 2013, it has been reinstated as a permitted path by BBOWT (Woolley Firs).</i>

**Agenda Item 9: LAF monitoring items**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
9.1	Write a letter to the volunteer groups thanking them for all their hard work	AF/PT	Letter sent to all volunteer groups on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2015
9.2	Write a letter to the Council to thank the public rights of way team for arranging the volunteer works on public rights of way and to encourage the Council to continue and support their engagement. This letter should be copied to Cllr Rayner and Cllr Dudley	PT	Letter sent on 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
9.3	Circulate the Highways England response to the request for bridge changes as a result of the M4 Smart Motorway proposals.	AF	This has been included as Appendix D to this report
9.4	All members to consider the	<b>ALL</b>	Email sent to all members (17/11)

	response made by Highways England and respond to AF by <b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2015</b> with suggestions and thoughts about next actions (if any)		
--	--	--	--

**Agenda Item 10: Feedback from training and conferences**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action / Issue</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
10.1	Prepare a briefing note for the forum with feedback from the recent training and conferences attended	AF	This has been sent to all members on 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2015

## **APPENDIX A: Response from Highways England regarding Bisham Roundabout improvements**

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Consultation Report issued for the A404 Bisham Roundabout Improvement.

During the consultation period we received 659 responses, which were reviewed and collated.

The results confirmed that 77% of the respondents agreed that improvement of the A404 Bisham Roundabout is required, but felt the three options presented by Highways England only provided short term benefits and did not provide a long term solution to solve the wider issues that affect this junction and the overall route.

Option 1: Partial Signalised roundabout showed to be the most popular option, which was in line with the feedback received at the exhibitions and in discussions with the members of public, particularly those living locally. However there was a general reservation about all three options and a preference for a longer term solution, such as a flyover or other form of grade separation of this junction.

This view was also shared by the Local Authorities and stakeholders, who confirmed their opposition to the three options and are looking to Highways England to consider Bisham in the context of the A404/A404M corridor as a whole.

Highways England have, therefore, decided that none of the three proposed options should be taken forward in their present form. Further studies will be undertaken to develop longer term schemes, in the context of the A404/A404(M) corridor as a whole and Highways England will work closely with the local highway authorities and other stakeholders.

Meanwhile, the existing junction performance will remain under review to identify whether smaller scale interventions are required to deal with specific issues.

The time frame for an improvement scheme to be completed under the PPP has now elapsed and any further study or scheme will be funded through the future investment programmes.

Your comments will be passed onto the team responsible for the A404/A404(M) at Highways England to be considered during future studies.

**APPENDIX B: Recommended changes to the draft ROWMIP 2016-2026**

1. That the annual Thames Path Risk Assessment no longer needed to take place, but a risk assessment should instead be conducted in response to an extreme weather event (such as flooding), and to ensure that all waymarks along the Thames Path have RBWM telephone numbers on them so that the public can easily report any issues.
2. Item 1.2(b) - the wording to include 'in consultation with the public rights of way team, Parish Councils and the Local Access Forum on major developments'.
3. Item 1.5(c) - the wording to include Community Wardens.
4. Item 2.23 - to add a new target to develop the network using multi-user routes (for horse riding & cycling). *[Post meeting note: a target already exists for creating multi-user routes (2.23(c))]*
5. New Item 3.6 - to add a new target as follows:  
Identified need: improve community responses on issues and problems  
Proposed actions: To ensure the public rights of way signage includes the RBWM telephone number to allow the public to report any issues or concerns.
6. New site specific scheme: The existing Woodland Path be added at Broomhall Recreational Ground to Sunningdale Footpath 13.  
*[Post meeting note: This has been included as scheme 118 in the draft plan]*
7. Site specific scheme 14: Change the wording to specifically include reference to crossing the A404 Bisham Roundabout.
8. Site specific scheme 26 – Change the wording to state “To establish a continuous riverside route of the Thames Path in Maidenhead from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens’

**APPENDIX C: Copy of the letter sent to the landowner and tenants of the Jubilee River in Bucks regarding the proposed Multi-User Route**

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum (RBWM LAF), Slough Local Access Forum (Slough LAF) and the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum (Bucks LAF) are seeking to extend a multi-user route from Eton Wick, through Dorney, to Taplow.

The aim is to produce a traffic free horse riding route by allowing use of the existing cycle ways alongside the Jubilee River. This is a continuation of the existing permitted multi-user route that has successfully been in operation at Eton for since 2013.

We are writing to you as the landowner of the path to ask whether you would be willing to allow these cycle paths to be opened to horse riders as a multi-user route. We are proposing that this is done on an ongoing 'permitted path' basis which would allow the permission to be withdrawn if needed.

A map of the suggested route is attached to this letter. This also gives details of suggested minor alterations that could be undertaken to allow this use.

We would be grateful if you could respond to this letter and let us know if you would be amenable to this proposal. This proposal is being spearheaded by RBWM LAF and the secretary contact details are included above.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Thorn  
Chair – RBWM LAF

David Munkley  
Chair – Slough LAF

Richard Pushman  
Chair – Bucks LA

## **APPENDIX D: Responses from Highways England regarding the forum's request for bridge adjustments as part of the M4 Smart Motorway project**

### **3 Matters Agreed**

#### 3.24 Public Rights of Way

3.25 It is agreed that existing widths of the Thames Path National Trail should be maintained and that any closures should be kept short and convenient.

3.26 The existing path along the banks of the River Thames runs along the eastern bank and passes under the Thames Bray Bridge. Highways England recognise the importance of the trail and the duration of any closures will be kept to the minimum necessary. Closures of the footpath will be required when construction activities have the potential to put the safety of footpath users at risk; examples may include installing steelwork beams or installing and removing parapet temporary works.

3.27 When the new eastern abutment is constructed the current route will become a work site which will extend from the edge of the water and past the face of the existing abutment. To maintain the national trail, a local diversion will be required to route the path away from the construction of the abutment. For the trail to remain open, the only viable option is to route the path on pontoons or a temporary structure in/above the river. In order to arrange this diversion, approval of the appropriate authorities (e.g. Canal and River Trust, Environment Agency) will be sought. Trail diversions and closures will be advertised in advance and will form part of the finalised CTMP for the Scheme.

3.28 The Local Access Forum (LAF) Fast Response Team notes that there are approximately ten paths which cross the M4 in the borough. They request assurance from Highways England that these paths will be reinstated and put back to the same condition that they are now. Highways England confirms that where the Scheme works impact directly on existing PRowS, the paths will be properly reinstated and returned to their existing condition.

...

### **4 Matters Not Agreed**

#### 4.55 Public Rights of Way

4.56 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead wish to see the footway/cycleways over the River Thames Bridge retained and width improved to 3m.

4.57 Highways England intends to maintain and improve the northern footway at Thames Bray bridge but not to the width requested by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The existing width of 1.67 metres will

be improved to 2.5metres as part of the structural solution. This complies with current design standards. The widening arrangement with a 2.5m footway has been configured to closely replicate the existing girder spacings and edge cantilever dimensions as far as possible for reasons of buildability, structural capacity and aesthetics. The resulting edge cantilever is 2.15m wide matching the existing width, and the girders are spaced at 4m compared with the existing 3.81m spacing. Widening in this configuration has been the subject of detailed structural assessment of the existing bridge to confirm the technical feasibility of widening. This assessment has shown that strengthening is required to the existing structure as part of the widening scheme.

4.58 The increase in loading caused by widening the footway further to 3m would be highly likely to increase the amount of strengthening required. The size of structural sections, crane sizes and temporary falsework needed to construct the widening would also need to increase to accommodate the wider footway.

4.59 An additional consideration at this structure is the presence of a high pressure gas pipeline approximately 15m to the north of the structure which cannot be permanently loaded or caused to settle by the bridge and associated embankment widening. Reinforced steepened embankment slopes are required for several hundred metres on the approaches to the bridge to accommodate the wider highway alignment. Therefore further widening the structure, to accommodate a wider footway, would further steepen these embankments which in turn would significantly increase the overall construction cost.

4.60 For these reasons Highways England has designed a 2.5m wide footway on the northern side of the widened structure and approach embankments which is sufficient for shared pedestrian and cyclist use and improves the existing situation.

4.61 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead considers that the Scheme should progress opportunities for improvements to the Thames Path National Trail. Highways England has no plans to undertake work on the trail, itself, at this stage. Should however any be needed to facilitate the bridge construction, the trail will be reinstated to its original condition.

4.62 The Local Access Forum (LAF) Fast Response Team considers that Marsh Lane bridge forms part of an aspiration to improve horse riding in this area, in particular the forum is working towards a Multi-Use Route that will utilise this bridge. This area is heavily used by horse riders. The LAF consider that modifications are needed to this bridge to make it easier for use by horse riders which could easily be folded in to the design of the Highways England works, including building in a sufficient verge width and installing higher parapets on the bridge. The LAF suggests that the British Horse Society are consulted regarding the detailed design of the bridge.

4.63 Highways England has developed the bridge replacement works and associated side road improvements on the basis that such works would be on a like for like basis to the existing situation. The online improvements avoid

the need to acquire additional lands and the DCO application has been prepared on this basis. Widening of the verges to accommodate equestrian usage of the PRow would therefore result in additional retaining works for extended earthworks and design modifications to the bridge to include for 1.8m high parapets. It should also be noted that the visual intrusion element of the Environmental Statement would not have covered the impacts of the suggested upgraded PRow provisions.

4.64 The LAF also notes that Datchet Footpath 1 is used heavily by cyclists as well as walkers and recommend that the opportunity is taken to improve the widths of the path to accommodate this use.

4.65 Highways England has developed the bridge replacement works and associated side road improvements on the basis that such works would be on a like for like basis to the existing situation. However, the cyclist usage of this bridge is recognised and as such the parapet height provisions for the new bridge have been enhanced compared to the existing situation. The parapet heights at Recreation Road overbridge will be 1.4m compared to the existing which are 1.0m high.



## CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED DIVERSION OF MAIDENHEAD FOOTPATH 19 AT MAIDENHEAD CRICKET CLUB

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consult the Forum on the proposal to divert Maidenhead Footpath 19 at Maidenhead Cricket Club.

### 2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 Maidenhead Footpath 19 runs from North Town Moor in Maidenhead through to Widbrook Common. The route of the path takes it past the Maidenhead Cricket Club and along the permitted cycle path at Summerleaze.

2.2 Summerleaze, the landowner of the path, has applied to divert part of the footpath which runs in a field adjacent to the cycle track, to take the path fully along the existing cycle track at this point. A map detailing the proposed diversion is included in Appendix A to this report.

2.3 The landowner states the following reasons for their desire to move divert the path

*A Permissive Path has already been provided as a more convenient and direct route between points A and B on the enclosed Plan. The Permissive Path is surfaced with gravel and is used by the great majority of walkers, including users of Green Way East.*

*The present Definitive Route loops into a small field that the applicant wishes to continue using for recreational use for football in response to requests from local community football clubs.*

*The footpath conflicts with this use due to walkers exercising their right during periods when the football pitch is in use. Users of the footpath also exercise their dogs in the field and do not clear up their dog faeces. This unedifying task is left to the players and is a deterrence to participation. The playing area therefore needs to be fenced.*

*There are no gates on the existing Permissive Path and none are proposed on the proposed route. The existing Definitive Path between Points A and B will be closed. It is unsurfaced and no restoration works are required*

*The existing Permissive Path had a gravel surfaced width of approximately 1.8m and overall width of approximately 2.7m between existing post and wire fencing.*

2.4 The East Berks Ramblers and the Maidenhead Civic Society have been consulted at the pre-application stage and have made the following comments:

Group	Comments received
East Berks Ramblers	We will most certainly object to this proposed diversion were it to be formally requested. As I noted in our earlier conversation, we would be concerned about the loss of a green path. We have now undertaken a site visit to this very popular walking area and feel strongly

	<p>the loss of the section of FP 19 as proposed would be a severe loss to the footpath network in the locality. It is also part of the Green Way East, and we would hope the Council will safeguard the Green Way as it is now, in view of the high profile accorded to it.</p>
<p>Maidenhead Civic Society</p>	<p>Diverting the footpath onto the permitted cycle track and thus creating a combined cycle path and public right of way seems a sensible move and we have no objection to this being done subject to certain conditions and clarifications.</p> <p>These are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The existing cycle path access gate be changed to the authorised structure for such paths i.e. the Three Valleys Gate. This will encourage cyclists to use this access rather than the footbridge. This gate, compared to the existing access, is easier for pedestrians to use and is accessible for disabled people using mobility scooters. It will prevent motorbike access.</li> <li>2. The width of the cycleway is supposed to be 2.5 metres. However encroachment by nature can restrict the width. If it is to be a combined path any encroachment needs to be cleared regularly.</li> <li>3. Previously the field to the east of the cycleway was used for football. We would like clarification on whether it will be returned to such use once it has been re-fenced.</li> <li>4. Though not affected by the proposed diversion of Footpath 19 (Green Way East), we note that the field to the west of the cycle path has recently been supplied with water and that a few bullocks are being kept there. We would like clarification on whether the landowner has any future plans that could result in the diversion of Green Way West that runs along the stream. FYI Such a diversion would be strongly resisted by the Society as the Green Way was designed as a streamside path.</li> </ol>

2.5 Photograph of the route:

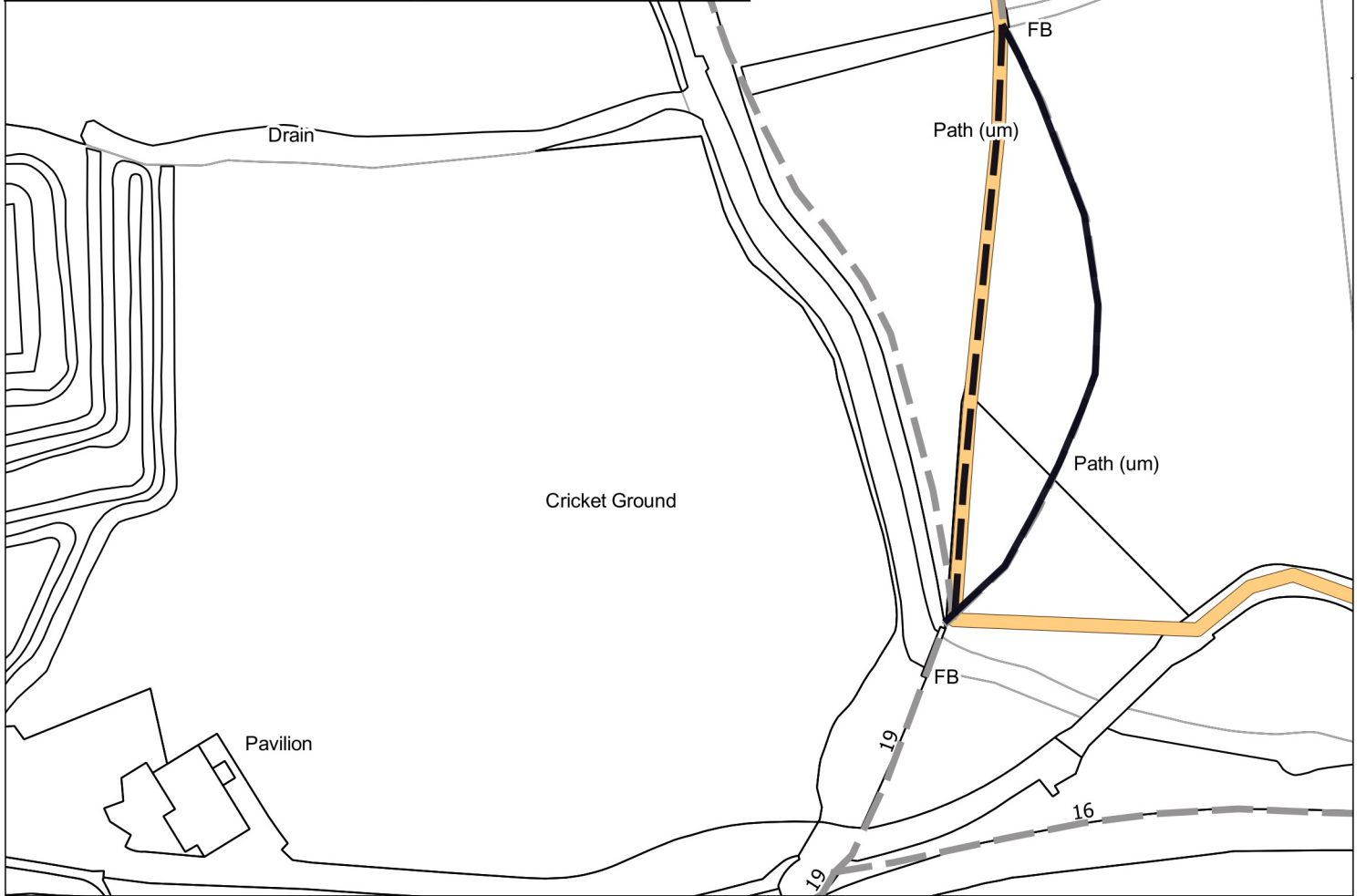
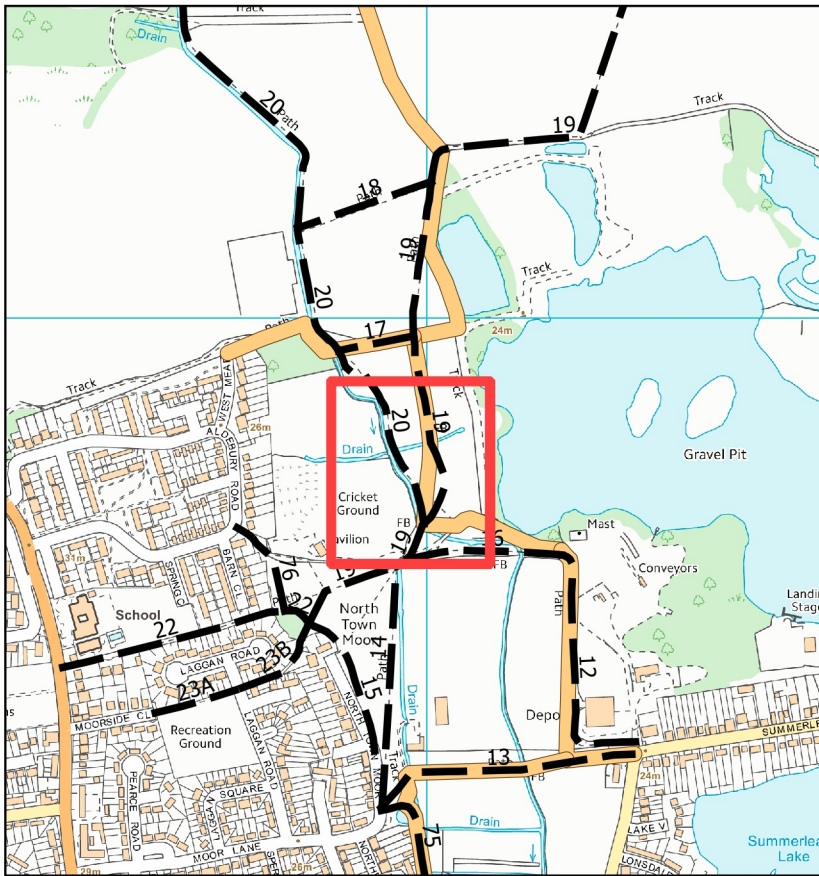


Approximate line of existing path adjacent to existing permitted cycle track

2.6 The opinion of the Forum is being sought with regard to this proposed diversion. At the time of writing discussions are currently underway with the landowner in response to the feedback received. Any further details or changes will be reported at the meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*





This page is intentionally left blank



Public Rights of Way  
 Drawn by: Andrew Fletcher

Date: 20/06/2016  
 Scale: 1:1,250

**Local Access Forum - 29th June 2016 - Item 5 Appx A  
 Maidenhead Footpath 19 diversion proposal map**

-  Line of footpath proposed to be deleted
-  Line of footpath proposed to be added
-  Existing permitted cycle track
-  Footpaths unaffected by the proposal



This page is intentionally left blank

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 29 JUNE 2016

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT AND PROFORMA

## **DECISION ITEM**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Local Access Forum about the preparation of the annual report and Natural England Proforma for its activities over the past year, and to seek approval for them to be published.

### **2. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the forum consider and approve the publication of the Local Access Forum Annual Report 2014-2015.

That the forum the consider and the Natural England proforma, and provide any comments to be added to the submission of the same to Natural England

### **3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

3.1 Under the Local Access Forum regulations, the forum must publish annually a report of its activities throughout the year. This report has historically served the purpose of reporting it's activities to Natural England and serves as a promotional tool for the forum.

3.2 This text of this report is attached as Appendix A to this report. The forum is invited to review and approve this text as the final publication.

3.3 In addition to the annual report above, Natural England require that a report proforma is produced each year. A copy of the proforma form is attached as Appendix B to this report. The forum is invited to review this form and add any comments that it would like to make. The deadline for submission is the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

\*\*\*\*\*

This page is intentionally left blank



## ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

### LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016



#### Introduction from the Chair

[tbc]

**Peter Thorn**

Chairman of the Local Access Forum.

#### Activities of the forum

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

As one of the key strategic documents shaping the Council's approach to public rights of way the forum has been and remain closely involved with the Council's review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The forum discussed and provided detailed advice with regard to the consultation draft of the Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026, and the final plan that was published in December 2015.

##### **Milestones Statement, and targets for the coming year**

The forum was consulted on the Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Report 2016-2017 and recommended that the targets and priorities are retained for the coming year. These recommendations were reported to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel in March 2016 and formed the basis of the targets for the coming year.

##### **M4 Smart motorway**

The forum has been involved with the M4 Smart motorway proposal and has requested that improvements are made to the Marsh Lane bridge for horse riding and cycling use. The forum ensured that they are actively involved in the progress of this scheme as it progresses through the necessary planning stages to seek these improvements.

##### **Multi-user routes and Horse Riding improvements**

The forum has continued to be involved with the creation of a multi-user route from Eton Wick to Dorney and has worked closely with Slough and Bucks Local Access Forums to take the project forward. The Forum also considered reports regarding horse riding access to Windsor Great Park and provided advice regarding issues that users were experiencing crossing the main road.

### **Improvements to cycling**

In addition to making the best use of existing cycle tracks by converting them into multi-use routes where possible, the forum has discussed how the existing provision for cycling can be improved, in particular the forum have responded to the 'Skindles' planning application and suggested that cycling provision is included over the proposed Thames bridge and through the development. It has also responded to the Draft Cycling Delivery plan consultation from the Department Environment, Food and Rural Affairs suggesting that the government consider options to make it easier to create dual and multi-use paths.

### **Diversion of Hurley FP 18**

The forum considered a proposal from Berkshire College of Agriculture to divert Hurley Footpath 18. The forum responded with no objections to the proposal, and made suggestions for an information board to be installed along the new route to explain the history of the area.

### **Quiet Lanes**

The Forum reviewed the success of quiet lane schemes in the South East of England with a view to informing advice to the Council with regard to priorities and targets. After research the Forum concluded that Quiet Lanes have had limited success and recommended to the Council that it was not considered worthwhile to have a target to create them in the Royal Borough.

### **Links with other local, regional and national groups**

The forum has remained very active over the past year in improving its links with neighbouring Local Access Forums and has continued to host meetings of neighbouring Local Access Forum chairs to discuss cross boundary issues and ways that the local forums can work together. In addition to this the LAF has continued to be involved on a national and regional level, and was represented at the National Local Access Forum conference in February 2016.

The forum has also arranged for a joint LAF training course to be run by the Institute of Public Rights of Way to be held at Maidenhead in September 2016.

The forum considered a proposal from South Lincs and Rutland LAFs for a revival of the England Access Forum as a mechanism for providing advice from a national perspective. After some debate the forum decided that it would prefer to tackle issues at a local level.

### **Fast Response Team:**

The Fast Response Team, set up by the forum to respond to consultations that fall outside of the forum's formal meeting dates, responded to the following requests for advice on behalf of the forum:

- Initial Response to the M4 Smart Motorway Proposals
- Eton Footpath 51 gating proposal

### **Other issues that the forum has discussed during 2015-2016:**

- Volunteer works
- Monitoring the progress of the Deregulation Act
- Current cycling schemes
- Rambler's Big Pathwatch

### Looking forward

[To be decided at June 2016 meeting]

### Meetings of the Forum

The Local Access Forum meetings for 2015-2016 were as follows:

#### Formal meetings

- 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### Informal meetings

- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 – Local LAF Chairs meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Local LAF Chairs meeting

#### Site meetings

- 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Eton-Dorney Multi-User Route site visit
- 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 – Swinley Forest Multi User Route site visit

## Membership of the Forum

The forum is expected to achieve a reasonable balance of members' interests. The current membership of the Local Access Forum is listed below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Other interests</b>
Cllr. Malcolm Beer	RBWM Councillor	Walking; Cycling; Caravanning; Member of Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve Management Committee; Rights of Way; Old Windsor Parish Councillor
Sara Church	Horse riding	
James Copas	Land and estate management	
Margaret Cubley	Walking and open spaces	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Bisham Parish Councillor
Rachel Forsyth	Land and Estate Management	National Trust
John Foulger	Walking	Open Spaces; Rights of Way; Bray Parish Councillor
Christine Gadd	Rights of Way; Walking; Cycling	Sunningdale Parish Councillor
Steve Gillions	Walking	East Berks Ramblers
Cllr. Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor	Chair of Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel
Tom Jarvis	Land and estate management	Crown Estate
Cllr. Asghar Majeed	RBWM Councillor	
Gordon Marrs	Walking	East Berks Ramblers
Andrew Nye	Rights of way	Cookham Parish Council
Geoff Priest	Open countryside, access for younger users	Hurley Parish Council
Katie Sarsfield	Rights of way	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
Peter Thorn	Land and estate management	Estate Management; Management of the Countryside; Management of Education and Training

## Finances

			<b>Total Cost (£)</b>
<b>Meeting expenses</b>			
	Meeting refreshments	<b>16.33</b>	
			<b>16.33</b>
<b>Members' Expenses:</b>			
	Dependent Care	-	-
	Travel / Mileage		<b>251.50</b>
	Other Expenses	-	-
			<b>251.50</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>267.83</b>

**Note: The costs above do not include overheads such as Officer time or printing costs**

## How to get involved

For more information about the Local Access Forum and how you can get involved, visit the Local Access Forum web pages at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/local\\_access\\_forum.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/local_access_forum.htm), or contact Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer on (01628) 796122 or email [andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk) or [prow@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:prow@rbwm.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2015 to March 2016

Name of LAF	
Name of LAF Chair	
Name of LAF Secretary	

Total number of LAF members	
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	
Number of members representing other interests	

Number of full LAF meetings held		Number of sub-group meetings held	
Number of working groups led by others		Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	
How many km of PROW have been improved due to LAF input?		How much funding did the LAF (or an associated body) raise?	
How many extra volunteer hours were committed to public access (not including LAF committee meetings)?			

**Partners your LAF worked with during 2015/16** (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Enterprise Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health and Wellbeing Boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEADER funding Local Action Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>

**LAF achievements/making a difference?**<sup>1</sup> Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. Do you think your LAF has made a difference to public access in your area via its discussions and actions?

**What activity did your LAF undertake to help record historical PROW before 2026?**

---

<sup>1</sup> These achievements form an important part of the national annual report that is submitted to Defra/Minister and help to promote the work and good practice of LAFs

# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2015 to March 2016

Please add numbers to the following differentiating between formal consultations and general advice given by the LAF on particular subjects. If a consultation covered more than one subject area, please count separately.

	Consultations	Advice	Optional Detail
Green Infrastructure strategies			
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)			
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)			
Public open space (public space protection orders)			
Dog control/exclusion/on leads/fouling orders			
Planning applications /Housing development schemes			
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)			
Local development frameworks and planning strategies			
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each			
Recording lost ways/historical rights - working towards the 2026 cut-off			
Right of Way Improvement Plan review			
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)			
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area			
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW			
Parish Council or other grant schemes			
Access for people with reduced mobility			
Commons, village greens			
Open Access land restrictions			
Coastal Access/National Trails			
NNR dedication			
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves			
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)			
Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.			
Forestry and woodland			

Any other LAF activity (please specify):



# Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

## April 2015 to March 2016

What are your top priorities for the year ahead?

Do you foresee any issues or challenges that may affect your LAFs operation and/or its ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?

Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities or work program for next year?

Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies<sup>2</sup>

Comments from the Appointing Authority

Comments from LAF Chair

Any other comments

---

<sup>2</sup> The Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000, Section 94(4) specifies that it is the function of a local access forum, as respects to the area for which it is established, to advise the appointing authority; the local highway authority; other bodies exercising functions under CROW Act Part 1 (Natural England, Forestry Commission and English Heritage) and such other bodies as may be prescribed. These other bodies are set out in the LAF Regulations 2007, paragraph 21, and include: any conservation board established by the Secretary of State, any parish or town council in the area covered by the LAF, and Sport England.

This page is intentionally left blank

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 29 JUNE 2016

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MONITORING REPORT

## 1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

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.

## 2. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### (a) **Eton-Dorney Multi-User Route**

Since the last forum meeting we have been discussing the details of the proposed multi-user route from Eton-Wick to Dorney with the neighbouring Local Access Forums of Buckinghamshire and Slough. A joint letter from the chairs of all three forums was sent in January 2016 to the Environment Agency (EA) as the landowner requesting permission for horses to use the jubilee river paths.

The EA responded in May 2016 stating that they were not able to give permission for the route to be opened up to horse riders.

A joint site meeting between Slough and RBWM LAF members was held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 to look at the route and a response was drafted and sent on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016 addressing the points raised by the EA on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

A copy of the proposal letter and the subsequent correspondence is included as Appendix A to this report

### (b) **Forlease Road to Green Lane**

As part of the response to the Stafferton Link road scheme, the Forum supported the proposal for a link between Forlease Road and Green Lane underneath the bridge. A map showing the proposed route for this scheme is included as Appendix B to this report.

At present the Maidenhead Waterways project are not planning to undertake works here for approximately 3 years. In order to realise the benefits of this path immediately we have been discussing proposals to create a simple surfaced path through this area as soon as possible, with a view that the path will then be brought up to a higher standard once the waterways scheme passes through the area. It is expected that a path will be able to be created in Sept/Oct 2016.

### (c) **Deregulation Bill update**

The Deregulation Bill was passed and received Royal Assent on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Regulations and guidance enacting the public rights of way sections of the bill has been delayed and are now expected later this year.

### (d) **Volunteer works**

The following volunteer works have been conducted since November 2015 (as of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016)

Path	Group	Date(s)	Task	Total participants
Henley Road Horse Margin	BCA	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar 16	Vegetation clearance	5
White Waltham RB 10	BCA	17 <sup>th</sup> Mar 16	Vegetation clearance	5
Hurley RB 2	BCA	24 <sup>th</sup> Mar 16 14 <sup>th</sup> Apr 16	Vegetation clearance	10
Datchet FPs 8 & 9	WiW	6 <sup>th</sup> Apr 16	Vegetation clearance	5
The Green Way and Maidenhead FP 2	WiW	13 <sup>th</sup> Apr 16	Litter picking	5
Eton FP 6	WiW	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr 16	Vegetation clearance	3
Bray BR 29 (Primrose Lane)	WiW	27 <sup>th</sup> Apr 16 4 <sup>th</sup> May 16	Vegetation clearance	9
Maidenhead FP 23B	BCA	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr 16 (x2) 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr 16	Vegetation clearance	15
Cookham FP 50	BCA	5 <sup>th</sup> May 16 (x2) 12 <sup>th</sup> May 16 19 <sup>th</sup> May 16 (x2) 26 <sup>th</sup> May 16 9 <sup>th</sup> Jun 16 16 <sup>th</sup> Jun 16 (x2)	Vegetation clearance	45
Maidenhead BR 46	WiW	11 <sup>th</sup> May 16 18 <sup>th</sup> May 16	Vegetation clearance	8
Bray FP 57	WiW	25 <sup>th</sup> May 16 1 <sup>st</sup> Jun 16	Vegetation clearance	9
Bray FP 59	WiW	8 <sup>th</sup> Jun 16	Vegetation clearance	5*
<b>Total number of task days: 26</b>		<b>Total participant days: 124</b>		
*estimated figures				

(e) M4 smart motorway

Discussions are ongoing with Highways England with regard to requested changes to the fence height for the bridge at Marsh Lane, Dorney to improve horse riding and cycling access across the bridge. Currently under the Development Control Order process the maximum height allowed for the parapet fence is 1.5m however the recommended height for equestrian use is 1.8m. Discussions are focusing on whether it is feasible to design the bridge to take a 1.8m high parapet fence and raise the height of this at a later date.

(f) Ramblers' Big Pathwatch

The Rambler's Big Pathwatch project ended in January 2016, and the full report is included as Appendix C to this report. The Council has recently received an update from the Ramblers with regard to the planned next steps following on from the project:

*As we prepare for the next phase of our Pathwatch campaign, I wanted to give you, as key people in protecting paths, a bit more information about what to expect next and how you might like to get involved.*

*Thanks to your support we managed to survey **45%** of the path network in England and Wales last year, reporting over **59,000 path problems and discovered how these affected people's walks**. We have used your findings to build a 'state of the nation' report, and to help identify the long-term solutions to protecting our paths.*

**The full report launches on 16 July.** We will send you a copy ahead of this, but in the meantime we thought you'd like to know some of the key findings.

*The good news is that the majority of our paths seem to be in good condition but things could undoubtedly be better. The scale of the challenge is far from insurmountable and with low level maintenance to deal with undergrowth and missing signs, the majority of problems could be solved.*

*We understand that it's not simply a lack of will that means paths are sometimes neglected - we know many Highways Authorities are working hard to address the problems the Big Pathwatch identified. But local authorities are under pressure from increasingly squeezed budgets, and alternative solutions are needed.*

*The Ramblers, as guardians of the path network, our active membership and path maintenance teams, are particularly well placed to help. And that's what the next phase of the campaign is all about. We want to ensure that every path in England and Wales is well maintained by 2020. This means better tools for monitoring and reporting path problems and solutions, more volunteers working better with local authorities, identifying alternative funding opportunities to make sure path maintenance remains a priority, and - crucially - more people taking personal responsibility for paths.*

**We've been working on a new version of the Pathwatch app.** This takes into account much of the valued feedback we received from you during Big Pathwatch as well as through the recent online survey, and will be available for use very soon – we will be updating you. We've also been looking at how path problems are reported on our website, and will be introducing an interactive map to locate path problems. Again, more on this soon.

*The Pathwatch mobile phone app and interactive map will aim to build on the strong groundwork from the Big Pathwatch survey, and collect similar data on positive and negative features reported on our path network. As previously, the data collected via Pathwatch will be sent to you as someone who protects paths in your area, as well as the Rights of Way teams at your local Highway Authority, on a fortnightly basis.*

*Thank you so much for your work so far. By working with your local Highway Authority to resolve the path issues highlighted, you are enabling us to protect and promote our fantastic path network across the country within the severe financial restraints that Highways Authorities now face.*

*Our public facing campaign aims to engage more people in looking after paths. Regular use and low level maintenance could fix many of the existing path problems – but we recognise that many people just don't think about paths very much. Our campaign aims to get more people to recognise paths as a valuable asset, and ultimately to take action to protect them.*

*As ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing [pathwatch@ramblers.zendesk.com](mailto:pathwatch@ramblers.zendesk.com) if you have any questions or require further information.*

*With kind regards,*

*Lindsay Walker*

*Dr Lindsay Walker  
Policy and Advocacy Support Officer  
Ramblers*

(g) Activities of the LAF Fast Response Team

The Fast Response Team has responded to the following consultation on behalf of the forum since 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The responses given on behalf of the Forum is included in Appendix D to this report.

- Proposed restriction of Eton Footpath 51, Eton Thameside

Outcome of Panel decision:

*The Public Space Protection Order panel agreed to the gating of the undercover area of the footpath only, 10pm to 5am year round. The existing gate and keypad at the Brocas entrance was to removed as part of this decision.*

**CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING ETON-DORNEY MULTI-USER ROUTE**

Environment Agency  
c/o George Shelton  
Kingfisher House  
Goldhay Way  
Orton Goldhay  
Peterborough  
PE2 5ZR

27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Mr Shelton

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum (RBWM LAF), Slough Local Access Forum (Slough LAF) and the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum (Bucks LAF) are seeking to extend a multi-user route from Eton Wick, through Dorney, to Taplow.

The aim is to produce a traffic free horse riding route by allowing use of the existing cycle ways alongside the Jubilee River. This is a continuation of the existing permitted multi-user route that has successfully been in operation at Eton for since 2013.

We are writing to you as the landowner of the path to ask whether you would be willing to allow these cycle paths to be opened to horse riders as a multi-user route. We are proposing that this is done on an ongoing 'permitted path' basis which would allow the permission to be withdrawn if needed.

A map of the suggested route is attached to this letter. This also gives details of suggested minor alterations that could be undertaken to allow this use.

We would be grateful if you could respond to this letter and let us know if you would be amenable to this proposal. This proposal is being spearheaded by RBWM LAF and the secretary contact details are included above.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Thorn  
Chair – RBWM LAF

David Munkley  
Chair – Slough LAF

Richard Pushman  
Chair – Bucks LAF





**RESPONSE FROM ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – 17<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016**

Dear Andrew,

I have been passed on your enquiry regarding the path along the Jubilee River.

The Environment Agency are the Freehold owners of top section of the path along the Jubilee River to the M4. The section of path below the M4 motorway to Lake End Road is owned by another party who will also need to be consulted on the request.

I have consulted our Operations Team who look after this area and they have advised as follows:-

1. The rights of way along this section of the Jubilee River were adopted by Buckinghamshire County Council who are responsible for any maintenance of the path and therefore they would also need to be involved with the request.
2. The path cannot be traffic free, as access will be required for maintenance and emergency response.
3. Several sections of the path currently are below the minimum 3 meters required and will require upgrading if to be used by horses.
4. Suitable horse gate access will need to be installed or modified at crossing points to allow horses to cross, with security being maintained to prevent motorbike access.
5. There are concerns regarding the section of path under the M4 Road Bridge, as it's not really suitable for horses, even if lead and not ridden by their rider. This section is also dark and noisy. The path at this particular point is only 1.5 meters wide. Highways England will possibly need to be contacted for their views regarding this request.
6. The path from Marsh Lane to Amerden Lane also acts as a flood embankment, therefore, the integrity of this would need to be ensured if to be used by horses.

Given the above, unfortunately at present we are not in a position to provide our consent to permit access to horse riders along this section.

Kind regards

Lindsay Badman AssocRICS  
Estates Officer (South East)  
Environment Agency

**RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2016**

Dear Lindsay,

Thank you very much for your reply dated 17th May 2016. I have some answers to the points that you raise below:

Buckinghamshire County Council are also involved with this project and are in agreement with the proposal. I was not aware that there was another landowner for the southern section as this had not come up through my land searches. I would be grateful if you could provide me with the details and I will certainly contact them as well.

The proposal is not seeking to restrict or change the existing set-up, either by the change of widths (except for some vegetation clearance of overgrowth that has happened over the years), barriers or existing access arrangements for maintenance or emergency vehicles (save for that detailed below). Informal use by horse riders is already happening; the proposal is seeking permission to allow use of the facility as is. We would not be seeking to widen the path to a 3 metre width.

You are correct that the M4 bridge is the pinch point along this route – we propose to address this by firstly providing signage and information so that users will know well in advance about the narrow path and route at this point, providing signage and mounting blocks either side of the bridge so that users can dismount and lead their horse under the M4, and making the approach to this path straighter by adjusting the existing barriers. We would also install signage to advise other users that horses may be passing under the bridge. In addition to this I also hope to secure an alternative route through the adjacent fields to Marsh Lane for users whose horse would not be comfortable going under the M4 bridge.

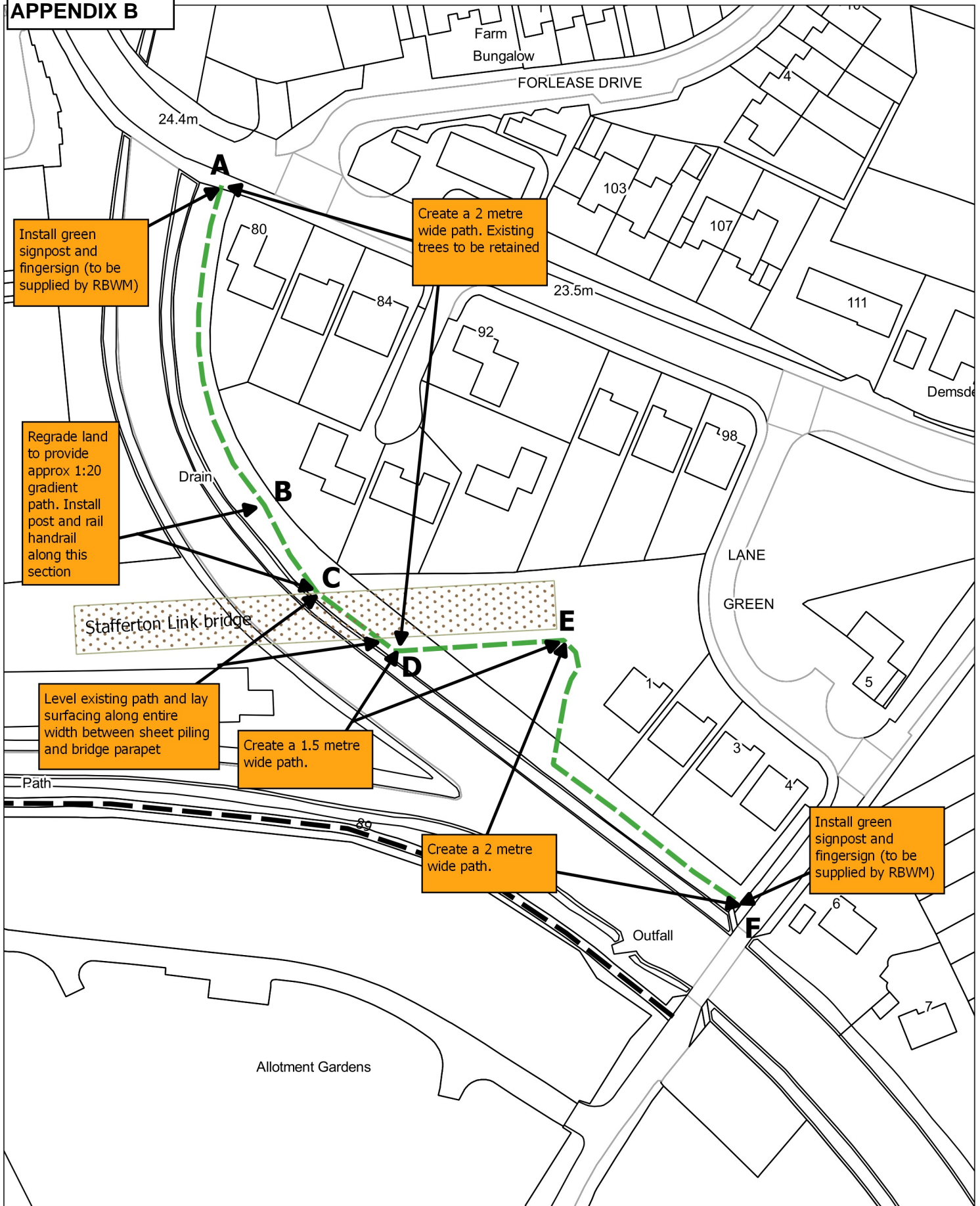
The width of the Jubilee paths between Marsh Lane and Amarden Lane is very wide and well suited to multi-use of the paths in a similar way that is already happening with EA consent near to Eton Wick. We can ensure that the paths are regularly inspected and any necessary maintenance is carried out.

I would be grateful for an opportunity to meet with you on site and discuss any particular issues, if you would be happy to reconsider this proposal. Would you or a member of your operation teams be available to meet?

Thanks and Best Regards,

Andrew Fletcher  
Public Rights of Way Officer

**APPENDIX B**

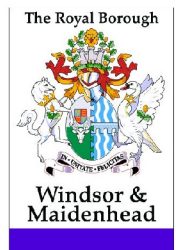


Public Rights of Way  
 Drawn by: Andrew Fletcher

Date: 24/05/2016  
 Scale: 1:1,000

**Dwg No. Moor Cut FP 1A**

**Creation of new footpath along the Moor Cut, Maidenhead  
 Design Plan**



# Ramblers Big Pathwatch

## All Survey Data





The Big Pathwatch aimed to get everyone out walking paths, checking them and telling us what they found. Between July 2015 to early January 2016, we reported back to you the issues they found. We also received a lot of positive data, which showed why people enjoyed walking and how they valued the right of way network.

This report details everything in the Big Pathwatch found on the right of way network in your area during the reporting period. We hope this provides you with a helpful overview; local Ramblers volunteers will be happy to discuss this in more detail with you. To find your local Ramblers volunteer contact [bigpathwatch@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:bigpathwatch@ramblers.org.uk) or visit <http://www.ramblers.org.uk/go-walking/group-finder.aspx>

The way we work together to protect our paths is very important and we would very much value your feedback on the Big Pathwatch and how it has worked for you. You can provide comments via an online survey - a link to this will be sent shortly in a separate e-mail.

Nicky Philpott  
Director of advocacy & engagement

## Windsor and Maidenhead (B)

All Survey data		features reported:	
squares adopted:	189		
squares completed:	189	683	197
km of RoW surveyed:	303.28		

This reporting period 13-July-15 to 10-January-16

The report and all data contained in it remains the intellectual property of the Ramblers. It should not be provided to any third party without the prior written consent of the Ramblers. If any extracts are used/published they should be credited accordingly.

For further clarification please see the full terms and conditions on our website by [clicking here](#)

Negative Reported Features		Path unusable	Path inconvenient	Total
<b>Intimidating</b>	Dog	0	1	1
	Other	0	6	6
<b>Bridges, gates &amp; stiles</b>	Unsafe stile	0	9	9
	Unsafe gate	0	3	3
	Unsafe bridge	0	4	4
	Other	0	2	2
<b>Finding your way</b>	Missing sign on route	2	19	21
	Missing sign at road	0	13	13
	Broken sign on route	0	1	1
	Broken sign at road	0	3	3
	Discouraging sign	0	1	1
	Path not found	1	3	4
	Other	0	9	9
<b>Path surface</b>	Muddy	0	16	16
	Flooded	0	1	1
	Ploughed	1	9	10
	Other	0	8	8
<b>Road crossing</b>	No safe way to cross	0	4	4
	Other	2	1	3
<b>Obstructions</b>	Undergrowth	2	20	22
	Overhanging vegetation	0	21	21
	Barbed wire (close to path)	0	10	10
	Barbed wire (across path)	0	1	1
	Electric fence (across path)	0	2	2
	Fallen or hanging tree	0	12	12
	Other	2	7	9
<b>Total</b>		10	186	196

**Positive Reported Features**

<b>Positive Reported Features</b>		<b>Positive</b>
<b>Attractive views</b>	Woodland	35
	Open country	137
	Town /City	5
	Mountains and hills	2
	Other	34
<b>Fauna</b>	Small mammal	5
	Larger mammals	12
	Birds	63
	Butterfly	5
	Insects	1
<b>Flora</b>	Trees	57
	Flowers	15
	Fungi	10
	Other	22
<b>Interesting</b>	Toilets	2
	Bench	32
	Pub or tea shop	24
	Buildings	41
	Lake or body of water	19
	Other	43
<b>Welcoming</b>	Person	2
	Signs	110
	Other	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>684</b>

## **RBWM Local Access Forum Fast Response Team**

### ***Consultation response:***

### ***Proposed restriction of Eton Footpath 51, Eton Thameside***

*The Local Access Forum (LAF) Fast Response Team has examined the proposals for the above path and make the following comments on behalf of the forum. Please note the consultation did not detail the level and nature of the anti-social behaviour. The LAF Fast Response Team made their comments with the assumption that the level of anti-social behaviour experienced is sufficient to justify the closure*

The Local Access Forum does not object in principle to the proposal to close the path during night-time hours, however they do raise concerns about the extent of the closure and the proposed timing. There are a number of issues that the Panel needs to be consider before granting the request.

#### **1. Extent of the closure**

The Forum have concerns about the proposal to close the entire path and consider that the anti-social behaviour issues could be resolved by restricting use of the “underpass” section of the path without restricting use of the river frontage. This would provide an effective balance between the public use and resident concerns.

In addition to not unduly restricting the public enjoyment of the path limiting the closure to the underpass would make the operation and design of the gates simpler and easier to maintain. Specific comments regarding the design of the gates are included below.

#### **2. Timing of the closure**

The issue of the closure is to restrict use of the path during the hours of darkness, to reduce potential intimidation and anti-social behaviour. The Forum advise that the timing of the closure is important and needs to be properly defined. The forum also consider that whatever timing is used it should be well signed and clear to the public when the path will be closed.

The proposal to restrict between sunset and sunrise poses logistical problems as these timings change every day, likewise a fixed time closure could close the path too early in the summer and too late in the winter. The forum consider that the best times to restrict use would be 1 hour after sunset and 1 hour before sunrise every day, as at these times the light levels are still adequate to allow use.

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

**Secretariat:** Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer  
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF  
**Telephone:** 01628 796122 **Email:** [prow@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:prow@rbwm.gov.uk)  
[http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow\\_local\\_access\\_forum.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm)

---

If an automated mechanism can be put in place that would open the path 1 hour before or after sunset, the forum consider this would be acceptable. This would however require a more complex timing system. If this is not possible then the forum recommend that a fixed time frame of 10pm to 6am, depending on the nature and timing of the problems experienced.

If the closure is based on a “dusk until dawn” approach this would need to be carefully defined to ensure that the public and the owners of the property are fully aware of the expectations when the path will be open and closed.

### **3. Nature of the closure**

There are no details given about the design and operation of the gate in the consultation, however in preparing this advice the Fast Response Team visited the site and examined the proposed gate position.

The forum consider that there is a risk that the public would be deterred from using the path if they encounter a closed gate, even if the gate was not locked.

The forum consider that it would be better for the public if the gates are left in an open position during the daytime so that the public are not deterred from using the path. The automatic system proposed should therefore physically open the gates.

### **4. Design and operation of the gates**

The gate at the pub side of the path should be a full width single gate, which can swing inwards to open the full width of the path. There appears to be adequate space to enable this to be installed.

There forum have concerns about how the gate at the Brocas end of the path would operate. The current hinged gate would require electric equipment to be installed over the river, which raises concerns about safety and also maintenance issues, particularly should the area flood. In addition to this there is no space for a gate to hinge on the other gate post without the existing bench being moved.

The forum recommend that a sliding gate may be the best option at this point allowing it to retract into the private area to the north of the footpath. It would also be easier to install the necessary electrics at this point.

If the extent of the restriction was limited to the underpass both gates could be simple swing gate designs that can open to the full width of the path.

The Forum consider that a manual operation button will need to be installed to prevent users being trapped inside the gated area. This should be set back from the gates so that it cannot be activated from the other side. Flashing warning



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

**Secretariat:** Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer  
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF  
**Telephone:** 01628 796122 **Email:** [pro@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:pro@rbwm.gov.uk)  
[http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow\\_local\\_access\\_forum.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm)

---

lights may also be needed on the gate to warn people when they are about to move.

### **5. Signage**

At present the signage is minimal and not prominent. Should the gating proposal be implemented new signage should be installed which is prominent and clear, and also details the times that the path will be closed.

### **6. Costs**

It is not clear from the public consultation who would install and maintain these gates. The Forum consider that these gates should not be installed and maintained at the public cost.

In addition to this the Forum advise that there should be a named company or specific person who is responsible for the gates, this would allow the Council to take effective and timely action should any problem arise.

**This letter constitutes formal advice from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum. Local Authorities are required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.**

This page is intentionally left blank