

NOTICE
OF
MEETING

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

will meet on

TUESDAY, 3RD JULY, 2018

at

6.00 pm

in the

DESBOROUGH SUITE - TOWN HALL,

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

COUNCILLOR MAUREEN HUNT
ASGHAR MAJEED & VACANCY

& EXTERNAL MEMBERS: http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/laf_members.htm

Karen Shepherd- Service Lead - Democratic Services

Issued: 25/06/18

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 or contact the Democratic Services Officer: **Nabihah Hassan-Farooq** 01628 796345

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AGENDA - PART 1

ITEM	SUBJECT			PAGE NO
1.	Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman <i>To nominate and appoint a Chairman and Vice Chairman.</i>			-
2.	Welcome, Apologies & Introductions (a) Declarations of interest (b) Approval of minutes- 1 st November 2017 (c) Matters arising from last meeting			3 - 4
3.	Minutes of the last meeting To confirm the part I minutes of the last meeting held.			5 - 10
4.	Declaration of Interests			11 - 12
5.	Members' Update			-
6.	Membership and staff update			Verbal Report
7.	Presentation: Accessibility of Public Rights of Way for People with Disabilities- Training for those auditing PRow			13 - 46
8.	LAF Annual Report			47 - 56
9.	Progress towards existing public rights of way targets			57 - 92
10.	LAF Monitoring items			93 - 94
11.	Feedback from meetings and conferences			95 - 100
12.	Date of the next meeting • 6 th November 2018			-

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

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- 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 licence 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.

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Agenda Item 3

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

1 November 2017

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Interest area
Councillor Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor
Councillor Malcolm Beer	RBWM Councillor
Alan Keene	Bisham Parish Council
Fiona Hewer	Cookham Parish Council
Lisa Hughes	Disabled users
Christine Gadd	Cycling and walking
Steve Gillions	Walking, East Berkshire Ramblers
Gordon Marrs	Walking, East Berkshire Ramblers
Ian Wilson	The National Trust
Geoff Priest	Vice Chair in the Chair, Hurley Parish Council
Andrew Fletcher	Local Access Forum Secretary
Ambika Chouhan	Incoming LAF Secretary
Andy Carswell	Clerk

OBSERVERS

Annie Keene

APOLOGIES

Name

Katie Sarsfield

Sara Church

Peter Thorn

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
1 November 2017
MINUTES**

ACTION

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

The Vice Chairman, **Geoff Priest**, welcomed everyone to the **thirty-seventh** meeting of the Local Access Forum. He explained that **Peter Thorn** was not well enough to attend and that he would be chairing the meeting instead. **Geoff Priest** asked everyone present to introduce themselves. He explained that the meeting was being recorded and would be uploaded to the RBWM website.

Apologies for absence were received from **Sara Church**, **Katie Sarsfield** and **Peter Thorn**.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Forum approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2017.

Matters arising from last meeting

A draft letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, asking for the success of Countryside Stewardship schemes and other financial incentives to be taken into consideration when considering policies following the withdrawal from the

EU, was circulated amongst members by **Andrew Fletcher**. The Forum approved the letter, subject to a few typos being corrected.

2 Members' Update

Members had nothing to update.

3 Membership and Staff Update

Andrew Fletcher introduced **Ambika Chouhan**, who would be taking over secretarial responsibilities for the Forum following the meeting, and would become the main point of contact. **Andrew Fletcher** explained that he would be taking on a new role at RBWM that included greater responsibility for highways enforcement, although he would continue to assist **Ambika Chouhan**. The Forum was also informed that the regular Panel clerk, **Tanya Leftwich**, had recently left RBWM to take up a new role at Wycombe District Council.

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that **John Foulger** had resigned. **Andrew Fletcher** stated that he would send him a letter of thanks for his years of service, explaining that he had been a member of the Forum since its inception in 2003.

4 National Trust Public Rights of Way Plan

Ian Wilson introduced the item and explained that the an Access and Public Access Rights of Way Management Plan was being developed by the National Trust for the Maidenhead and Cookham Commons. **Ian Wilson** explained that the Management Plan would tie in with the National Trust's values and behaviours and allow the National Trust to be more proactive regarding the maintenance of rights of way if a Management Plan was clearly defined. **Ian Wilson** informed the Forum that creating a Management Plan was usually the job of a Local Authority; however the Management Plan he was referring to had

been created in partnership between the National Trust and the Royal Borough to enable upgrading of pathways and bridleways.

During his presentation to the Forum, **Ian Wilson** explained the issues that were relevant to each section of the Maidenhead and Cookham Commons; for example poor conditions of pathways, lack of waymarkers, and conflict between, for example, dog walkers and horse riders. **Ian Wilson** gave the example of there only being one waymarker at the Big Thicket. He stated that the largest number of complaints received related to conflict between dog walkers and horse riders at Pinkneys Green, and he requested help from Forum members for ideas on improvements that could be made in this area. The best solution that had been put forward was better engagement and improved signage in the area.

Ian Wilson explained that one of the car parks at Winter Hill had had to be closed due to a large amount of antisocial behaviour. He stated that the National Trust had been reluctant to do this, but since the closure the incidents of antisocial behaviour had decreased.

Ian Wilson told the Forum that plans had been put forward to link Widbrook Common to the Thames Path, which had the full support of the National Trust.

Fiona Hewer congratulated the National Trust for their work on making improvements to include a butterfly park at the Maidenhead Thicket, which had seen more than 20 different species of butterfly being sighted. **Andrew Fletcher** said that National Trust had done a lot of excellent work to improve the permissive bridleways. He said he would arrange for Sharon Wootten to contact **Ian Wilson** regarding making bridleways more suitable for horse riders, as she had previously been involved in a project of this nature.

The Forum was told that a target had been set to produce a series of promotional leaflets for the pathways and bridleways around the Maidenhead and Cookham Commons.

Regarding the Winter Hill car park, **Cllr Beer** asked if it would be possible to install a barrier across it with entry for key card holders. **Andrew Fletcher** said an extension to the lower car park was being considered, which would negate the need for a barrier. However the proposal put forward by **Cllr Beer** would also be taken into consideration.

5 **Planning Position Statements**

Andrew Fletcher introduced the item and explained that the idea for the Planning Position Statements was not to review the rationale for specific development sites being chosen, but to make recommendations of what access requirements would be needed. A Working Group had been set up on behalf of the Forum and had met three times.

Andrew Fletcher explained that the PPS would be given to developers at the pre-application stage, in order to make it easier for a developer to incorporate the recommended access requirements into their application. It was explained that it was harder for a developer to make fundamental changes to an application once it had passed the pre-application stage. **Andrew Fletcher** explained that, subject to approval, the PPS would be sent to the Planning and Highways Team as guidance to be formally adopted.

Regarding the HA22 site on page 70 of the agenda, **Cllr Hunt** stated that the Neighbourhood Plan group in The Walthams had requested that the land be

classified as Open Space; however it had been designated as Open Countryside in the draft Borough Local Plan. **Andrew Fletcher** stated that the Forum Working Group raised the point that any development on the site would lead to a loss of accessible countryside and that compensatory land would need to be sought by any developer looking to use the site. Regarding why the site had been included in the draft Borough Local Plan, **Andrew Fletcher** said he was unsure why it was included and that he would seek clarification and more details from Victoria Gibson.

It was noted that the supporting information included within the agenda was a draft, as this was what was available when the agenda was published. Members agreed in principle to approving the PPS document. It was agreed that **Andy Carswell** would circulate the revised document to members via email for them to approve.

❖ **Action (AC): To circulate the revised document for approval.**

6 Progress Towards Existing Public Rights of Way Targets

Andrew Fletcher stated that the targets for 2018 would be set in January or February following a consultation with the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel. He provided the Forum with an update on the key progress towards meeting 2017's targets, and outlined them as follows:

- 29 issues had been closed since April 2017.
- There were nine outstanding issues to be resolved, compared to 18 at this stage last year. One of these issues would be settled within the next 14 days.
- One new pathway, leading from Ascot High Street to the station, had been created and proved popular with users. Extra funding had been obtained to install LED lighting along the path.
- The number of stiles had been reduced; however the process of removing them was not simple and required the permission of the landowner. Often the landowner would not want them removed as they, for example, prevented motorcycle access to a particular site.
- 99 per cent of paths were easy to use, ahead of the target of 95 per cent.
- Three out of the ten targeted surface or clearance jobs had been completed.
- Four out of the five targeted bridge repair or replacement jobs had been completed.
- Three access improvements had been carried out, with the target being 15.
- A target for creating one new pathway had been set. Plans were in place for two to be created by the end of the year.
- There was a target to create one new piece of promotional material and one Parish leaflet; currently none had been created.

Andrew Fletcher stated that in terms of meeting targets the Royal Borough was exceptional, explaining that some councils have a backlog of cases going back some years.

❖ **Action (AF): To send a copy of the presentation with the statistics to Forum members.**

❖ **Action (AF): To update the statistics when the consultation on targets for 2018 takes place**

Cllr Beer asked how many of the Parishes had already had leaflets created.

Andrew Fletcher said he thought most of them had but would clarify.

❖ **Action (AF): To confirm which Parishes have a Footpath Leaflet.**

Ian Wilson asked for confirmation of the locations of the two new footpaths. **Andrew Fletcher** said he would seek confirmation.

❖ **Action (AF): To confirm the locations of the two new footpaths.**

7 **LAF Monitoring Items**

Andrew Fletcher circulated a document to members outlining the status of projects that were being monitored by the Forum.

Eton-Dorney Multi User Route

Andrew Fletcher explained that this project was focusing on improvements to make it possible for horse riders to ride from between Eton and Taplow and had been developed in conjunction with Slough Borough Council and Buckinghamshire County Council. However it could not be taken any further as the Environment Agency, as landowner on a particular section, had raised questions about who would take responsibility for liability in the event of a user being injured. The land in question fell under Buckinghamshire County Council's control but they were not willing to accept the liability, meaning that the project could no longer progress.

Cllr Beer asked if there was sufficient headroom for horse riders along the entirety of the route. **Andrew Fletcher** explained that where there were problems, blocks were put in place instructing riders to dismount and walk with their horses.

Forlease Road to Green Lane

Andrew Fletcher explained that this was intended to run underneath the Stafferton Link as part of new landscaping works being carried out. It was explained that RBWM owns the land in question so there were no legal obstacles to overcome. It was anticipated that the project would be completed next year.

Deregulation Bill

There were no updates to inform the Forum about.

Volunteer works

Andrew Fletcher explained that 21 volunteer task days had been carried out since June as part of the Ways Into Work programme; 11 had been arranged with the Berkshire College of Agriculture and one with the Conservation Volunteers. A further task day with the Conservation Volunteers was scheduled for the day after the meeting.

M4 smart motorway

Andrew Fletcher explained that RBWM had requested changes to the height of the parapet fence at Marsh Lane bridge in order to improve safety for horse riders, even though it was outside of the Borough boundary. The maximum height allowed under the development restrictions in place was 1.5m, shorter than the 1.8m recommended for equestrian usage. However it had been

agreed that the bridge's foundations would be constructed in such a way that the fence height could be raised to 1.8m and not impact on the development restrictions.

8 Feedback from Meetings and Conferences

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting as **Peter Thorn** was not present and therefore not able to provide members with feedback from LAF Chairs' meetings.

9 Date of Next Meeting

Members were informed that the calendar of meetings for the forthcoming year had not yet been agreed, and that the dates of the next Forum meetings would be circulated as soon as possible.

The meeting, which started at 6.30 pm, ended at 8.02 pm.

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RBWM Local Access Forum

13

Accessibility of Public Rights of Way for People with Disabilities

Lisa Hughes
Sept 2017 with 2018 updates

Agenda Item 7

RBWM LAF PRow Accessibility

- ▶ Equality Act 2010 and its application to Public Rights of Way
- ▶ Disabilities and Impairments
- ▶ Barriers to greenspaces for people with disabilities
- ▶ Elements of PRow that can impact accessibility
- ▶ “Standards” for PRow accessibility
- ▶ What Next ?

Equality Act 2010



Equality Act 2010

- ▶ Replaced the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA)
- ▶ As well as... Equal Pay Act 1970, Sex Discrimination Act 1975, Race Relations Act 1976, Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003, Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 and the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006.
- ▶ Key areas relating to disability that have changed in the Equality Act
 - ▶ Definition of disability
 - ▶ Associative discrimination
 - ▶ Discrimination arising from disability
 - ▶ Indirect discrimination
 - ▶ Reasonable adjustments
 - ▶ Public bodies have more duties

Equality Act 2010 continued

- ▶ Public authorities must make reasonable adjustments to ensure that a disabled person is not put at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with persons who are not disabled.
- ▶ Section 149 imposes a duty, known as the “public sector equality duty”, on public bodies to have due regard to three specified matters when exercising their functions :
 - ▶ eliminating conduct that is prohibited by the Act;
 - ▶ advancing equality of opportunity between people who have a disability and people who do not; and
 - ▶ fostering good relations between people who have a disability and people who do not.
- ▶ As well as the public bodies listed in Schedule 19, the section also imposes the public sector equality duty on others that exercise public functions, but only in respect of their public functions.

Equality Act 2010 continued

- ▶ Subsection (6) makes clear that complying with the duty might mean treating some people more favourably than others, where doing so is allowed by the Act.
 - ▶ This includes treating people who have a disability more favourably than people who do not.
- ▶ The discrimination provisions are subject to certain exceptions, which contain an element of reasonableness.
- ▶ All of this applies only to functions within the authority's powers and will not apply where a public authority is exercising a statutory power and has no discretion as to whether or how to exercise that power, or no discretion as to how to perform its duties,
 - ▶ for example: adding an existing right of way with its existing limitations to the definitive map and statement

Equality Act 2010 : Defra Guidance to Local Authorities (Excerpts)

B.1 The DDA ... has now been repealed and its provisions broadly replicated in the Equality Act 2010.

- ▶ There are numerous references to “the public” or “persons” in rights of way legislation; these terms will encompass those members of the public with a disability and the Equality Act therefore applies to all public rights of way.
- ▶ Section 146(1) of the Highways Act 1980 for instance requires a landowner to maintain a gate or stile to a standard that prevents unreasonable interference with the rights of the persons using the way.

B.2 The Equality Act applies to those who are “service-providers”, to those who “exercise public functions” and to every “public authority”.

- ▶ All functions of rights of way departments must therefore consider that the provisions of the Act apply to their service.

Equality Act 2010 : Defra Guidance to Local Authorities (Excerpts)

B.3 It is important to understand the full scope of the term “disability” in relation to the legislation.

- ▶ For the purposes of the Equality Act the definition provided is that a person has a disability if he or she has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

B.11 The Equality Act applies to a highway authority’s provision of public rights of way services.

Equality Impact Assessments

- ▶ An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is an analysis of a proposed organisational policy, or a change to an existing one, which assesses whether the policy has a disparate impact on persons with protected characteristics.
- ▶ They are carried out primarily by public authorities to assist compliance with equality duties.
- ▶ The practice of carrying out EIAs is widespread.
 - ▶ They have been described as “a valuable tool to encourage service managers to consider the equality issues within their service and to act upon the findings of the assessments”
- ▶ An example of a relevant EIA produced by West Berkshire Council is included in the Appendices

Equality Impact Assessments

Guidance from the Equalities and Human Rights Commission :

- ▶ Assessing the impact on equality of proposed changes to policies, procedures and practices is ... a positive opportunity for public authorities to ensure they make better decisions based on robust evidence.
- 22 ▶ It helps the public body to demonstrate compliance with its PSED :
 - ▶ Ensures a written record of the equality considerations that were taken into account
 - ▶ Ensures the decision-making includes a consideration of the actions that would help to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts on particular protected groups.
 - ▶ Make decisions based on evidence
 - ▶ Make the decision-making process more transparent.

Disabilities and Impairments

Models of Disability

- ▶ **The Medical Model** : Sees the disabled person's impairment or health condition as 'the problem'.
 - ▶ The focus is therefore on 'fixing' or 'curing' the individual.
- ▶ **The Social Model** : Based on the principle that disabled people do not face disadvantage because of their disabilities, but experience discrimination because of the way we organise society.
 - ▶ This includes failure to make public services accessible, failure to remove barriers of assumption, stereotype and prejudice, and failure to outlaw unfair treatment in our daily lives.
 - ▶ The social model looks beyond a person's disability to all the relevant factors that affect their ability to be a full and equal participant in society

Types of Impairment

Impairment	Examples
Vision	Light and movement perception, field of vision, distortion of vision, eye movement, light sensitivity, distance perception
Hearing	Most common form is age-related hearing loss
Mobility	Stroke, Arthritis, Spinal Cord injury, Cerebral Palsy, MS
Dexterity	Arthritis, Tremor
Social or Behavioural	Autism, Attention deficit disorder, Asperger's syndrome
Learning, understanding or concentrating	Dementia, Downs
Memory	Dementia, Stroke
Mental Health	Depression, Anxiety
Stamina / Breathing / Fatigue	COPD, MS, Cystic Fibrosis



26 Barriers to greenspaces for people
with disabilities

Barriers to green spaces encountered by people with impairments

Psychological

- ▶ Going into a sparsely populated green space can increase the sense of vulnerability to harassment, anti-social behaviour or crime
- ▶ People with mental health conditions, behavioural or cognitive impairments experience relatively high levels of disability-related harassment
- ▶ Some people with disabilities may find it harder to cope with situations because they cannot see or hear very well, are unsteady on their feet or use wheelchairs.
- ▶ People may also feel unwelcome if the site looks neglected or badly managed.

Information

- ▶ Provision of information - where they can go, what facilities and activities to expect there

Summary of information formats is included in the Appendices

Barriers to green spaces encountered by people with impairments

Resources

- ▶ Additional equipment required to access greenspaces
- ▶ Financial : Transport costs, car parking charges, entrance fees, etc
- ▶ Support : Needing a companion at the greenspace

Physical : Getting to the greenspace

- ▶ People without access to a car may have difficulty if no suitable public transport is available.
- ▶ There may be busy or dangerous roads acting as a barrier to greenspace.

Physical : At the greenspace

- ▶ we will focus on this...

Physical barriers at the site

Man Made

- ▶ Access Controls : gates, stiles, barriers
- ▶ Path materials and condition
- ▶ Seats
- ▶ Car Parking
- ▶ Toilets
- ▶ Signs

Natural

- ▶ Terrain
- ▶ Vegetation
- ▶ Gradients
- ▶ Erosion
- ▶ Weather
- ▶ Water

Elements of PRowWs that can impact accessibility

PRoW characteristics that may affect its accessibility for People with Disabilities

31

- ▶ Path surfaces
- ▶ Surface changes
- ▶ Path widths
- ▶ Vertical clearance
- ▶ Permissive width restrictions
- ▶ Barriers
- ▶ Surface breaks
- ▶ Ramp gradient
- ▶ Height rise of ramp between landings
- ▶ Cross slope
- ▶ Passing places
- ▶ Resting places
- ▶ Signage

Accessibility Standards



Accessibility Standards

There are no statutory or mandatory standards relating to PRow accessibility ... but there are good sources of information and guidance

- ▶ **BS 8300-1:2018** Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment.
 - ▶ This is a new British Standard that replaces BS 8300:2009*
 - ▶ It would be very useful to purchase this document
- ▶ **Inclusive Mobility 2005**
 - ▶ Produced by the Department for Transport
 - ▶ Gives guidance of dimensions (width, length, turning space) needed by various types of mobility support
- ▶ In the 1990s some disabled groups and charities developed what could be described as the Gold Standard for the various parameters on different types of footpaths.
 - ▶ Standards developed by Fieldfare Trust are shown in the appendices of this presentation

Minimum Widths Required by Various Types of Pedestrians

Pedestrian Type	Minimum Widths
Pedestrian	700mm
Pedestrian with walking stick	750mm
Pedestrian with crutches or walking frame	900mm
Pedestrian with guide dog or long cane	1100mm
Pedestrian guided by another pedestrian	1200mm
Wheelchair user guided by a pedestrian	1500mm

Dimensions of typical wheelchairs & mobility scooters

35

Chair Type	Dimensions of wheelchair & user (mm)			Turning space (mm for a 90° turn)	
	Length	Width	Clearance Required	Length	Width
Attended Propelled	1750	656	856	1200-1800	1200-1800
Self-Propelled	1183	702	902	1345	1450
Electric Wheelchair	1328	706	906	1600	1625
Mobility Scooter	1402	685	850	1400-2500	1300-2500

Based on p9, Inclusive Mobility (Department for Transport, 2005) and section C3 of BS 8300:2009 (British Standards Institute, 2009)

Hazards for Visually-Impaired People

- ▶ Where there is an obstruction at a level between ground and 1000mm height, this will lie outside of many people's field of vision and thus risks forming a trip hazard.
- ▶ An obstacle with a gap from ground level of more than 400mm may be a hazard to visually-impaired people who use a cane, as the cane may not strike the obstacle.
 - ▶ In such instances, the problem can be addressed by altering the obstacle so as to present a tapping rail within the sweep of the cane.
 - ▶ Alternatively, the provision of a tapping rail, at least 150mm deep and no more than 200mm clear of ground level can assist people in detecting the obstacle
- ▶ All access controls should be clearly colour contrasted from their surroundings.

What Next ?



Suggested actions for RBWM LAF

- ▶ Form working group to produce recommendations on accessibility improvements
 - ▶ With reference to BS8300-1 : 2018 and other sources, propose the accessibility standards to be used
 - ▶ Identify key PRow in the Borough that could be reasonably expected to be accessible for many people with disabilities
 - ▶ Audit the characteristics of those PRow against the proposed standards
 - ▶ Report back to the LAF

Appendices

Fieldfare Trust “Standards” for PRow Accessibility

- ▶ Path Surface
 - ▶ Surface must be hard and firm
 - ▶ Very few loose stones (none bigger than 10mm)
- ▶ Surface Changes
 - ▶ Pot holes, cobbles or slabs, changes in path surfaces, and at the start of ramps and gates
 - ▶ Max high gain 5mm
- ▶ Path Width
 - ▶ 1200mm minimum width.

Fieldfare Trust “Standards” for PRow Accessibility

- ▶ Vertical clearance
 - ▶ A tunnel clear of overhanging or encroaching vegetation and other obstructions should be a minimum of 1200mm wide and 2100 high.
 - ▶ **Inclusive Mobility 2005** advises “Where trees overhang a footway it is advisable to cut them back to at least 3000mm clear height to allow room for regrowth. “
- ▶ Permissive Width Restrictions
 - ▶ 815mm minimum width for no more than 300mm along the length of path
 - ▶ 1000mm width for no more than 1600mm along the length of the path.
- ▶ Barriers
 - ▶ No stiles, steps, fences, hedges etc., blocking the path.
- ▶ Surface Breaks in path surface (boardwalks, grates, grilles etc.)
 - ▶ no more than 12mm measured in the direction of travel along the path

Fieldfare Trust “Standards” for PRow Accessibility

- ▶ Ramp Gradients
 - ▶ Maximum of 1:12
- ▶ Rise of ramps
 - ▶ Where the place is steeper than 1:20 a level resting place should be provided.
 - ▶ The maximum height rise between landings is 830mm
- ▶ Cross Slope
 - ▶ 1:45 maximum

Maximum distance between landings	
Gradient	Max Distance between Landings
1:18	14.94
1:16	13.28
1:14	11.62
1:12	9.9

Fieldfare Trust “Standards” for PRow Accessibility

▶ Passing Place

- ▶ There should be a passing place every 100 metres along the path.
- ▶ The minimum width of the path should be 1500mm for 2000mm along the length of the path

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▶ Resting Places

- ▶ There should be a resting point every 200m along the path.
- ▶ Each resting point should have a seat or perch which is placed on surfaced, level ground.
- ▶ Resting points should be set back from the path and, in addition to the path width, be at least 1200mm wide and 1500mm long.

▶ Signage

- ▶ should be clear, concise and where possible to include a tactile element

West Berkshire Council EIA

- ▶ Double click on the document to open the full file

Equality Impact Assessment

Name of item being assessed:	Public Rights of Way (PROW) Case Programmes
Version and release date of item (if applicable):	March 2014
Owner of item being assessed:	Elaine Cox
Name of assessor:	Elaine Cox
Date of assessment:	10 March 2014

1. What are the main aims of the item? (What does the item try to achieve?)
Improvement of the public rights of way network and ensuring ease of use.

2. What are the results of your research?
Note which groups may be affected by the item. Consider how they may be affected and what sources of information have been used to determine this. (Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
Older people	Inaccessible structures, e.g. stiles, and uneven PROW surfaces, exist on the PROW network. Some PROW may therefore be difficult to negotiate.	Work planning involves EIA and often consultation with local people, parish councils and the Local Access Forum
Physically disabled/ pregnancy and maternity	Inaccessible structures, e.g. stiles, and uneven PROW surfaces, exist on the PROW network. For the blind or partially-sighted, there may be trouble reading promotional information.	Work planning involves EIA and often consultation with local people, parish councils and the Local Access Forum
Race	For those who are unable to read English, some PROW signs and literature may be unclear.	Work planning involves EIA and often consultation with local people, parish councils and the Local Access Forum

Further comments relating to the item: Those managing the public rights of way (PROW) network are legally obliged to ensure that all PROW are maintained in a suitable condition for those who wish to use them. There is a network of 700 miles of

Accessible Information Formats

	Visual	Learning & Literacy	Hearing	Co-ordination
Audio or Audio Description	X	X		X
Telephone	X			X
Large Print	X			X
⁴⁵ Makaton		X	X	
Subtitles			X	
Braille or Moon	X			
Easy Read or Easy Access		X		
British Sign Language			X	
Textphone			X	
SMS			X	

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LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 11 JUNE 2018

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT AND PROFORMA- DRAFT

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 considers and approves the publication of the Local Access Forum Annual Report 2017-2018.

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 its 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 will be tabled at the meeting. The forum is invited to review this form and add any comments that it would like to make.

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ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT
2017 – 2018

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Activities of the forum

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 2018-2019 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 2018 and formed the basis of the targets for the coming year.

Opportunities with identified large development sites

The forum discussed future developments that were on the horizon in the Borough, in particular large developments planned at Maidenhead Golf Course and potential opportunities for access improvements. In 2017-18 LAF working group meeting was held to discuss the sites in borough local plan. A planning position statement has since been drafted and approved by LAF. It has been sent to the planning department at RBWM as well.

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 continues to monitor the progress of this scheme as it progresses through the necessary planning stages to seek these improvements.

Detail design is in progress, further discussions can be done when detailed design is submitted.

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 with the Environment Agency. Bucks have declined to proceed with this further due to issues which this would raise with claims and insurance.

The Forum also considered reports regarding horse riding access to Ashley Hill and approaches have been made to the Forestry Commission on the forum's recommendation to request horse riding access as Ashley Hill. Sharon Wootton from RBWM will look into it further.

Disabled Access and Public Rights of Way

The forum discussed disabled access issues on public rights of way, in particular how to gather access information at the same time as the normal path inspections, and a trial system has in put in place to capture this information. Borough is committed to creating accessible public spaces and any new works done will be looking into creating disabled access.

Volunteer Works

The forum continued to monitor the volunteer works that are carried out on the public rights of way network, and wrote to all local groups to thank them for their efforts.

Fostering closer engagement with Parish Councils

The forum formed a working party to examine ways to foster closer engagement with Parish Councils, and suggested that initially Parish Council should be kept more involved with the activities of the Local Access Forum by extending invites to Parish Councils for joint site visits and sharing the minutes of the LAF.

In addition to this the group suggested that Parish Councils may be able to help resolve issues in their area due to their local knowledge and contacts. The Parish Councils added to the LAF circulation list.

Links with other local, regional and national groups

The forum has remained active over the past year in improving and maintaining 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.

RBWM hosted the LAF Chairs meeting in 2017-2018 on 21st Sep 2017. Bracknell forest hosted the 2018 LAF Chairs meeting in Jan 2018. Peter Thorn was in attendance.

Janice Bridger of Mid & West Berks had suggested Wokingham as the venue for the next meeting.

Other issues that the forum has discussed during 2017-2018:

- Volunteer works
- Millennium Walk
- Access and Brexit
- National Trust Right of Way plan

Looking forward

To be decided at 11th June 2018 meeting

Meetings of the Forum

The Local Access Forum meetings for 2017-2018 were as follows:

Formal meetings

- 14th June 2017
- 1th November 2017

Informal meetings

- 21st September 2017 – LAF Working Group meeting to discuss large scale developments in borough local plan.
- 21st September 2017 – LAF Chairs meeting.
- 18th October 2017 - LAF Working Group meeting to discuss large scale developments in borough local plan.
- 23rd Jan 2018 – Local LAF Chairs meeting

Membership of the Forum

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

Name	Representing	Other interests
Cllr. Malcolm Beer	Walking / Cycling	Walking; Cycling; Caravanning;; 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
Christine Gadd	Rights of Way; Walking; Cycling	
Steve Gillions	Walking	East Berks Ramblers
Lisa Hughes	Disability access	
Cllr. Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor	Chair of Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel
Tom Jarvis	Land and estate management	Crown Estate
Alan Keene	Land and estate management	Bisham Parish Council, countryside, rights of way, farming and land management,
Cllr. Asghar Majeed	RBWM Councillor	
Geoff Priest	Open countryside, access for younger users	Hurley Parish Council
Katie Sarsfield	Rights of way	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
TBC	Land and Estate Management	National Trust

Finances

			Total Cost (£)
Meeting expenses			
	Meeting refreshments	200	
			200
Members' Expenses:			
	Dependent Care	-	-
	Travel / Mileage	-	-
	Other Expenses	-	-
Grand Total			200

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 https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200938/local_access_forums , or contact Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer on (01628) 796122 or email andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk or prow@rbwm.gov.uk

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

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	

1. LAF achievements? (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)

2. What are the main challenges affecting your LAF's ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year?

3. What are your top three priorities for the year ahead?

4. Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities?

LAF activity in 2014/15

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	

Partners the LAF worked with during 2014/15 (click on a box or type 'x')

Local Nature Partnerships		Local Enterprise Partnerships	
Health and Wellbeing Boards		LEADER funding Local Action Groups	

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

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
Green Infrastructure strategies		
Public Space Protection Orders (including gating orders)		
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)		
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)		
Public open space (protection orders, commons, village greens)		
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders		
Planning applications		
Housing development schemes		
Local development frameworks and planning strategies		
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each		
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		
Definitive map and recording PROW		
Parish Council or other grant schemes		
Disabled access / access for people with mobility issues?		
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW		
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)		
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)		
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves		
Open Access land restrictions		
Coastal Access/National Trails		
NNR dedication		

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2016 to March 2017

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)

5. Summarise any feedback received from section 94(4) bodies¹

6. Please provide any comments from your Appointing Authority

7. Comments from LAF Chair

8. Any important information to bring to the attention of Natural England

9. Any other comments

¹ 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.

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Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Milestones Targets 2018-19

UPDATED: 5th June 2018	
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 2017-18: 95%</i>	<i>[note: surveys to be undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers</i>
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>	
Cookham Footpath 61 (off Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Datchet Footpath 9 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Hurley Footpath 1 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Hurley Bridleway 15 (Hodgedale Lane)	Vegetation clearance works
Hurley Horse Margin (Henley Road)	Vegetation clearance works
	Total : 5
WM3 <i>To repair or replace 7 bridges.</i>	
Sunninghill Footpath 13 (off Cookham Road)	Repairs to bridge approaches
	Total : 1
WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 <i>To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet</i>	Total : 0
WP2 <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.</i>	Total: 0
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 as/when opportunities arise.</i>	Total: 0

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Public Rights of Way Milestones Targets 2018-19

AC2 <i>To make 10 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>	
Cox Green Footpath 11 (Thrift Lane-Thrift Wood)	Kissing Gate removed
Hurley Footpath 1 (Thames Path)	One stile replaced with gap
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 41 (off Brook Lane)	One stile replaced with gap
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 41 (off Brook Lane)	One stile replaced with Kissing Gate
	Total: 4

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Milestones Statement

*and Public Rights of Way
Management and Improvement
Plan review*

2018-19

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the 20th annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 20 years since this Council, as Highway Authority, became responsible for the management and maintenance of the borough's public rights of way in 1998.

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 2018

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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 Management and Improvement Plan 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 2017/18, a number of volunteer groups worked on public rights of way around the Borough:

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) carried out **6 work days** with a total of **56** participant days.

Ways in Work (WiW) carried out **32 work days** with a total of **190** participant days.

Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) carried out **47 work days** with a total of **285** participant days.

St Mary's School, Ascot carried out **3** work day with a total of **35** participants

Volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers undertook **326 hours** of work, including path surveys and practical works.

Based upon our current commercial rates for path works the value of the volunteer works listed above is **£7,852.34**

Youth Offenders Team

The Youth Offenders Team carried out two projects on public rights of way during the year: graffiti removal works at a bridleway that passes through an underpass beneath the Royal Windsor Way in Eton, and vegetation clearance works at Primrose Lane, a bridleway in Bray.

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 team 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

2017/18	2018/19
£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)

2017/18	2018/19
£20,000	£20,000

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)

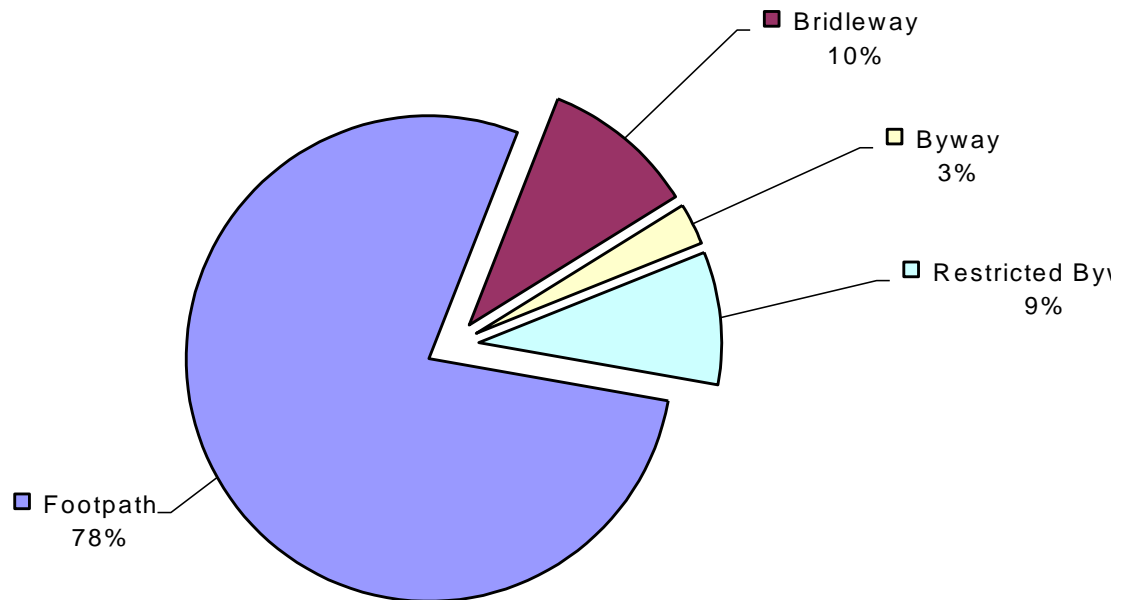
2017/18	2018/19
£40,000	£40,000

The Council has maintenance responsibility for 183 bridges and 5 boardwalks on footpaths and bridleways on public rights of way in the borough. These bridges are inspected on a rolling programme, and remedial safety works identified. In some cases this work is reactive, in response to bridge damage caused by flooding or general wear and tear.

Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, March 2018

Parish	Length (km)				Total km	% of network	
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway			
Bisham	13.146	2.524	-	2.228	17.898	5.81	%
Bray	36.803	9.999	2.184	0.564	49.550	16.09	%
Cookham	34.138	1.980	0.469	0.405	36.992	12.01	%
Cox Green	8.395	1.399	-	-	9.794	3.18	%
Datchet	4.761	-	-	-	4.761	1.55	%
Eton	18.396	3.561	-	-	21.957	7.13	%
Horton	1.200	1.254	-	-	2.454	0.80	%
Hurley	31.608	6.115	-	6.909	44.632	14.49	%
Maidenhead	29.717	0.439	-	2.596	32.752	10.63	%
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	1.80	%
Sunninghill	11.244	-	3.592	1.299	16.135	5.24	%
Waltham St Lawrence	17.728	-	-	7.209	24.937	8.10	%
White Waltham	11.011	0.530	0.342	4.165	16.048	5.21	%
Windsor	4.339	1.994	1.644	0.259	8.236	2.67	%
Wraysbury	6.876	-	-	-	6.876	2.23	%
Total (km)	240.730	31.461	8.568	27.246	308.005	100.00	%

Path status across the network



2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 Priorities for 2018/19

- 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. [*e.g with reference to the Borough Local Plan Position Statements submitted by the Local Access Forum; see Appendix 8*]
- Improvements: seek improvements and additions to the network to enhance connectivity for horse riders, cyclists and people with restricted mobility.
- *Explore opportunities to extend, create or promote 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 and encouraging the establishment of permitted routes.

- 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 2018/19

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 2017/18 is **95%**.

WM 2: To carry out major surface improvements/vegetation clearance on **10** public rights of way.

WM 3: To repair or replace 7 bridges.

Well Publicised

WP 1: To produce **1** new Parish rights of way leaflet.

WP 2: To assist others to produce effective promotional material: a minimum of **1** new or updated 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, as/when opportunities arise.

AC2: To make **10** 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.

***Note:** the targets set out above are interchangeable and subject to change should the need arise, to ensure flexibility in light of changing circumstances or to take advantage of opportunities that may arise during the course of the year.*

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

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.

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 2017/18:

- Volunteering in RBWM
- The Milestones Targets for 2017/18
- Planning and consultations / Planning position statements

- Access and Brexit
- Development of Multi-User Routes
- Improvement to access at Ashley Hill, Hurley
- National Trust Rights of Way Plan

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 all Highway Authorities along the route of the Trail, as well as the River Thames Society, the Environment Agency, the Ramblers, Sustrans, Cycling UK, Transport for London, and Natural England.

Volunteers organised by the Thames Path Partnership regularly monitor the condition of the Trail, and also undertake practical maintenance works. Information about the Trail can be found on the following website:

<http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thames-path>

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 been reduced from **13 to 9** 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

	Outstanding at 31st Mar 2017	Reported 1st April 2017 to 31 st Mar 18	Closed 1st April 2017 to 31 st Mar 18	Total Outstanding at 31 st Mar 18	Issues outstanding over 5 years
ENFORCEMENT					
Ploughing and lack of marking	0	5	5	0	0
Obstruction by crops	0	7	7	0	0
Fence encroachment	2	0	2	0	0
Fence obstruction	0	0	0	0	0
Building obstruction	0	0	0	0	0
Other obstructions	1	3	4	0	0
Stiles	0	0	0	0	0
Gates	1	1	2	0	0
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised vehicular use	1	3	4	0	0
Electric fencing	0	2	2	0	0
Misleading notices	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	0	2	2	0	0
Other Enforcement Problems	2	2	2	2	0
TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:	7	25	30	2	0
MAINTENANCE					
Vegetation	0	6	6	0	0
Rutting	0	0	0	0	0
Drainage	2	1	2	1	0
Fallen trees	0	9	9	0	0
Erosion	2	13	13	2	1
Tree problems	0	4	4	0	0
Bridges	1	17	18	0	0
Safety barriers	0	1	1	0	0
Steps	0	1	1	0	0
Roadside signposting	0	9	9	0	0
Signposting at path junctions	0	1	1	0	0
Waymarking	1	1	2	0	0
Rubbish/ waste	0	3	3	0	0
Other Maintenance Problems	0	10	10	0	0
TOTAL MAINTENANCE:	6	76	79	3	1
TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	13	101	109	5	1

* 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 is one outstanding 'multiple' path claim currently being investigated (Thamesfield in

Wraysbury) see 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 current Local Plan states that: "***The Borough Council will safeguard and enhance the public rights of way network and recreational cycle routes***"

Following a recommendation from the Local Access Forum, "Planning Position Statements" have been passed to the Council's Planning team, as set out in **Appendix 8**.

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 can be accessed directly at

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

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 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 2017/18 was **96.5%** (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 2017/18 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

The Crown Estate

Royal East Berks Agricultural Association

National Trust

National Farmers Union

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

We will 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 Pittcroft Trust is available on request from the public rights of way team.

We will 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.

We will use our powers:

- To enforce removal of any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) in accordance with the

Council's Ploughing and Cropping procedure below, and give consideration to all available statutory powers including prosecutions where appropriate.

Ploughing and cropping procedure:

1. Make first contact with farmer via telephone and email (with a read-receipt) to explain the report or issue. This telephone call and email should agree the date with the farmer for the resolution of the issue based upon the statutory 14 day deadline. Explain that if the works are not done by this deadline the issue will be reported to the Rural Payments Agency.
2. Take the 14 day deadline from the date that the farmer is first contacted by the Council. Where necessary, agree an extension of this deadline for up to 28 days, for example where ground conditions do not allow proper reinstatement within the normal 14 day period.
3. Request the farmer to contact RBWM when the reinstatement works have been done, if possible providing photographic evidence. If the agreed deadline has not been met, the breach of regulations should then be reported to the Rural Payments Agency.
4. If the path has not been cleared and the path reinstated by the stated deadline the Council to arrange for a contractor to clear the path and reinstate the surface (as required) and the cost of these works is re-charged to the farmer. This issue is then closed.

We will 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	
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various access points at/around Thamesfield	Various access points at/around Thamesfield	Fourteen 'Definitive Map Modification Orders' were made in July 2016: objections have been received to all fourteen Orders and the Orders will be subject to a Public Inquiry scheduled to start on 1 st May 2018

APPENDIX 6

Achievement of Milestones Targets 2017/18

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 2017-18: 95%</i>	<i>[note: surveys to be undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers]</i> 96%
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>	
Bray FP 39 (off Stompitts Road)	Major vegetation clearance
Bray FP 66 (Ashmore Lane)	Major vegetation clearance
Bray Byway 67 (Hog Oak Lane)	Surfacing works and anti-vehicle bollards installed
Cookham FP 7 (off Dean Lane)	Major vegetation clearance
Cookham RB 12 (off Popes Lane)	Major vegetation clearance
Cox Green RB 14 (Snowball Hill)	Surfacing works
Eton FP 1 (Thames Path)	Surfacing works
Hurley FP 8 (Link to Thames Path)	Major vegetation clearance
Hurley FP 28 (off Honey Lane)	Surfacing works
Hurley RB 54 (off Knowl Hill Common)	Anti-vehicle barrier installed
Maidenhead FP 2b (off Forlease Road)	Surfacing works
	Total : 11
WM3 <i>To repair or replace 5 bridges.</i>	
Bray FP 26 (off Gays Lane)	Bridge repaired
Bray FP 54 (off A308 Windsor Road)	Bridge repaired
Bray FP 72 (The Causeway)	Handrail replaced
Cox Green FP 6 (Lillebrooke Manor)	Handrail repair
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Bridge replaced
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Bridge repaired
Cookham FP 72 (under Cookham Bridge)	Decking repairs
Maidenhead FP 13 (off Blackamoor Lane)	Deckboard replacements
Sunninghill FP 13 (off Victoria Road)	Bridge refurbished
Waltham St Lawrence FP 34 (off Hungerford Lane)	1 bridge replaced, 1 bridge repaired
Waltham St Lawrence FP 38 (off Downfield Lane)	2 bridges replaced
	Total : 13
WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 <i>To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet</i>	Total : 0

WP2 <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.</i>	White Waltham Map Board Total: 1
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 as/when opportunities arise.</i>	New section of footpath along 'The Cut', at Ockwells Park/Thriftwood Total: 1
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 FP 26 (off Gays Lane)	Stile replaced with kissing gate
Bray BR 29 (Primrose Lane)	Surface works to improve accessibility
Bray FP 72 (off Hibbert Road)	Surface works to ease access for disability buggy
Cookham FP 48 (off Strande Lane)	Stile replaced with kissing gate
Maidenhead FP 1 (off Church Road)	Surface works to ease access for disability buggy
Maidenhead FP 13 (off Summerleaze Road)	Gate replaced with gap
Maidenhead FP 45 (off Newlands Drive)	Surface improvement at staggered barrier for mobility scooter access
Maidenhead FP 45 (off Newlands Drive)	Surface improvement between the Thicket and Newlands Drive
NCR 50 (North Maidenhead)	2 keyhole barriers replaced with easy-access barriers 1 keyhole barrier removed
Sunninghill BW 21 (Hodge Lane)	Large tarmac patch to improve accessibility
Sunningdale FP 9 (off Halfpenny Lane)	Surface improvement for mobility scooter access
Waltham St Lawrence FP 23 (off Shurlock Road)	2 stiles replaced with kissing gates
Waltham St Lawrence FP 26 (off The Street)	Surfacing through kissing gate enclosure to improve access
Wraysbury FP 9 (off St. Andrews Close)	Surface improvements to improve accessibility
	Total: 17

APPENDIX 7

Updates on site specific projects in “Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026 (new updates in bold)”

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 <i>(March 2018 update: new section of streamside footpath has be included within layout of Ockwells Park/Thriftwood, Cox Green)</i> (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	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> <i>(March 2018 update: feasibility studying being prepared in conjunction with Highways England)</i>
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11	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>
12	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>
13	Upgrade Bisham Footpath 19 (Michael's Path) to a bridleway and divert the path to adjoin the disused Henley Road. <i>(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
14	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, however they are keeping the junction performance under review to identify whether small scale improvements can be made.)</i>
15	Extend the southern end of Bisham Bridleway 22 to connect with Dungrove Hill Lane
16	Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 17 to a Bridleway
17	Upgrade Bisham Footpath 23 to a bridleway, to link Burchetts Green to Stubbings and Maidenhead Thicket <i>(March 2018 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to upgrade this footpath, however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i>
18	Create a cycling route between Hurley and Temple (a) Create a route adjacent to Bisham Footpath 21 to allow cycle use (b) Upgrade part of Bisham Footpath 21 and Hurley Footpath 9 to allow cycle use and link with Mill Lane
19	Improve the surface of Bisham Restricted Byway 11 and Bisham Bridleway 12 <i>(December 2015 update: consulting with Natural England over works specification)</i> <i>(March 2017 update: surface improvements completed)</i>
20	Route from Mill Lane to Odney Road, Cookham – perhaps across Odney Common <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>
21	Access improvements at Cookham Lock to provide high degree of accessibility to the site.
22	Upgrade Kennel Lane (Cookham Footpath 22) to a bridleway <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>
23	Crossings over the Thames: (a) from Hythe End to south bank avoiding M25

	<p>(b) from Magna Carta Island to north bank</p> <p>(c) from Wraysbury riverside to Old Windsor</p> <p>(d) from Ham Island to Sunnymeads</p> <p>(e) from Datchet centre to Home Park</p> <p>(f) from north side of Eton to south bank</p> <p>(g) from Windsor near Slough railway bridge to north bank</p> <p>(h) from west side of Windsor (A308) to north bank</p> <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 Boulters 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> <p><i>(March 2018 update: new footbridge is being constructed in association with Mill Lane development, expected to open in early 2019 when development on Taplow side of the river is completed)</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> <p><i>(March 2018 update: funding secured, bridge and footpath-cycle way being designed, estimated opening early summer 2018)</i></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	<p>Upgrading Thames Path to allow cyclists to share route</p>

Bray, Windsor and Eton

32	<p>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.</p>
33	<p>Promote a circular route around Bray village, and also around the old Biffa pits</p>
34	<p>Improve bridleway links between Eton, Dorney and Bray working with Bucks County Council and other neighbouring authorities.</p>

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>(March 2017 update: Discussions with landowners to allow horse riding use of the Jubilee River cycleway. At present permission has not been granted due to concerns about path width and potential issues at M4 underpass)</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

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

	<p>Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line</p> <p>(b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6</p> <p>(d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of 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</p> <p><i>(December 2015 update: replacement of stepped footbridge west of Hurley Lock completed)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: surface improvements at St Georges Lane and Wells Lane)</i></p>
48	<p>Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill</p> <p><i>(March 2009 update: feasibility studies have indicated that this project is not viable, however if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</i></p>
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>(March 2017 update: Path Creation Order confirmed and path opened 1st February 2017)</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
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 <i>(March 2016 update: Sunningdale Parish Council to arrange surfacing works and footpath to be dedicated as a public right of way)</i>
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

APPENDIX 8

Planning Position Statements

Guiding Principles for Planning to improve local access

1. All new proposed development should refer and comply with the *Policy IF5 of Rights of Way and Access to the countryside* while designing new access routes and paths.
2. All access should be consistent with the Borough's *Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026*.
3. All access improvements, routes, locks and POS should be dedicated as highway or protected legally in some way.
4. Access new developments should aim to provide accessibility to all and improve accessibility for disabled or elderly people and families with pushchairs.
5. All new access structures should comply with BS5709:2006 for gaps, gates & stiles, and all new routes comply with *Environment Agency Access for All design guide* and RWBM ROWMIP.
6. On sites prone to flooding, paths need to be constructed with suitable permeable surface to ensure it can withstand and recover from a flood event.
7. If the path is a designated escape route it needs to be usable in the event of flooding and remain open at all times with suitable lighting for night time use.
8. When considering fencing a path /route it should allow visual permeability and open views to create safe access route .The fencing should suitably blend into the character of the space without being detrimental to the aesthetics.
9. Boundaries should not be designed to deliberately curtail any views.
10. Paths should be wide enough with green verges so that they do not become narrow alleys. Footpaths should be wide enough to allow the use as cycle paths.
11. Enhancements should be sought through CIL contributions

Specific Advice – Allocated Sites Policies Maps

1. Map Reference HA6

- a. Access to Braywick Leisure Centre and town centre used by walkers, cyclists and should be min 3m wide.
- b. Improve ways across Braywick road not just through the site and provide a dedicated pedestrian route to cross the road safely for school and residents on the other side of Braywick Leisure Centre.

2. Map Reference HA7 & HA 8

- a. Improve/ enhance existing PROW to offer residents at HA7 &, HA6 HA8 Cox Green etc access to Ockwells Park.
- b. Create a network of 'green ways' within these sites; this green network can be an activity network connecting Ockwells Park and Greenway.

3. Map Reference HA11

- a. Potential for permitted path to be dedicated ROW

4. Map Reference HA19

- a. Missing link added from lower Cookham Road to the Thames path.

5. Map Reference HA20

- a. Area is bounded by PORW. Development should aim to increased use as well as connectivity to Ockwells Park.
- b. PROW should be enhanced by the development.

6. Map Reference HA21

- a. Potential missing link – millennium walks and link across Railway Bridge.
- b. Improve access to Furze Platt School

7. Map Reference HA22

- a. This is open access land and development here would lead to loss to accessible countryside and compensatory land would be required. However this is not being accessed and used at the moment.

8. Map Reference HA23

- a. Protect and enhance bridleway.
- b. Access to river PROW over Summerleaze bridge
- c. Access to river at The Cut.

9. Map Reference HA25

- a. Access through the site to library, post office & park to help create better access to public amenities.

10. Map Reference HA26

- a. Crossing point across Vale Road to School & Deadworth Manor Open Space

11. Map Reference HA28

- a. Improve /Enhance safe access to New Thames Path
- b. Footbridge to Lock Island to create a unique circular walk for the residents of the development and public.
- c.

12. Map Reference HA29

- a. Access pedestrian/ cycle path to Ballet School.

13. Map Reference HA30

- a. Improvement to pedestrian path along Station Hill will create significant improvement to pedestrian access site.

- b. Full access from Sunninghill footpath 36 creating a gateway into Ascot Link, Station Hill & Sunninghill.
- c.

14. Map Reference HA31/32

- a. Improve access to school & cycle access to and into Ascot

15. Map Reference HA33

- a. Upgrading /Improving existing paths , new bridleway from Buckhurst Road to Sunninghill 5, potentially upgrading Sunninghill 5, thereby taking horses off London Road A329
- b. Scheme would link the great park from Ascot to Sunningdale.

16. Map Reference HA35

- a. Improve access to public amenity.
- b. Pedestrian and Cycle access through the site.

17. Map Reference HA38

- a. Pedestrian and cycle access from the site in to Windmill Road to improve access into the town centre and local facilities thereby easing pedestrian /cycle influx on Whyteladyes Lane.

18. Map Reference HA42

- a. Long term objective should be to provide access to reservoirs

19. Map Reference HA46

- a. Pedestrian /Cycle route through the site.

20. Map Reference HA48

- a. Retain & enhance entrance footpath.

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

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Communities Directorate
Communities and Highways
Parks and Countryside Team
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berks SL6 1RF**

If you require information in an alternative format please contact the Parks and Countryside Team on 01628-683800

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 11 JUNE 2018

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) Forlease Road to Green Lane

The creation of a path at this location is on hold pending new landscaping works in the area which will alter the route of the intended path. The path works and the landscape works will be undertaken at the sometime.

The weir works are held up due to EA specific requirements and the above mentioned landscaping works cannot begin before the weir works are complete. No date has been advised for beginning of the weir works as discussions with EA on going with RBWM.

(b) Volunteer works

The following volunteer work days have been conducted since November 2017 (as of 1st June 2018)

Ways into Work: 14 volunteer task days

Berkshire College of Agriculture: 12 volunteer task days

The Conservation Volunteers: 3 work days

St Marys School, Ascot: 2 work days

Total: 31 work days

Notional value of the works: £2084.64

(c) M4 smart motorway

Discussions are on-going 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. An agreement has been reached to construct the bridge with foundations suitable for a 1.8m high fence, and install a fence at the maximum 1.5m height. This is greater than the height currently existing at the bridge, and after the works have been completed the fence can be raised to the desired 1.8m outside of the development restrictions in place.

The detailed design drawings for the bridge are now awaited to ensure that these changes have been incorporated.

Still awaiting detailed design.

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LAF CHAIR MEETING – 24th January 2018

1.0 ATTENDANCE

Local Access Forum	Name
Bracknell Forest LCAF	Peter Radband (Chair) <i>[PR]</i> Graham Pockett <i>[GP]</i> Rose Wicks <i>(RW)</i>
Bucks LAF	Jonathan Clark <i>(JC)</i>
Mid & West Berks LCAF	Janice Bridger (Chair) <i>[JB]</i>
RBWM LAF	Peter Thorn (Chair) <i>[PT]</i>
Slough LAF	Jacqui Wheeler <i>[JW]</i>
Hampshire County Council HCAF	Petronella Natrass <i>(PN)</i>
Surrey Countryside Access Forum	Graham Butler (Vice Chair) <i>(GB)</i>

2.0 APOLOGIES FROM

Local Access Forum	Name
Oxfordshire County Council & Countryside Access Forum	Paul Harris
HCAF	Rachel Bryan
RBWM LAF	Ambika Chouhan <i>[AC]</i>

3.0 ACTIONS / NOTES FROM THE MEETING

Item	Action / Issue	Owner	Outcome
Review of outcomes and actions from last meeting			
3.1	Attend Environment Agency meeting	JW	John and Jacqui attended EA meeting in Oct re. Jubilee River. There is a 25 yr management plan. Left over money from 106 had to be spent on path improvements. Next meeting in March. Raise the issue with them again re. insurance liability and maintenance for multi-user paths. Need to pursue with EA. Comparison with horses on canal towpaths was mentioned.
3.2	Share Highways Agency fund details with members of group	AF	JB reported on £200,000 fund to compensate non-motorised users. Highways England are taking more notice of impact of motorway and trunk road works on rights of way. HE tend to want to urbanise paths when they get involved.
3.3	Sharing of LAF meeting hosting		JB suggested Dinton Pastures in Wokingham could be a suitable venue for next meeting
3.4	Future training		Restoring the record training sessions were held in Henley and Bicester.

			<p>The 2 training days were full to capacity. Very heavy going. Helps to really have an interest in the subject matter. Each authority is different with regards to unrecorded routes.</p> <p>This led on to wider discussion of subject:- 30 claims had been submitted to Hampshire. JB thought there was significant difference between the amount of unrecorded PRow in West Berks compared to north Hampshire. Ramblers would pass higher rights discovered on to BHS. RW mentioned the Restoring the Record book, 2nd edition sent to LAFs by Natural England. Slough and Bucks hadn't received one. There is a new group doing research in the area – Berkshire Lost Ways. JB commented on the per photo charges at Berkshire Records Office. Different records offices charge different amounts for taking photos of maps. Kew has a wide range of information available. Jonathan Clerk says he pays £60 per year for a group pass. Might be worth considering. GP pointed out that they've digitised enclosure maps now and they're available online.</p>
3.5	Check Landscape Institute for 'Sharing the post-Brexit landscape' publication	AC	Nothing with this title found
3.6	Horizon Scanning		<p>JW advised there was no update on the Slough Local plan</p> <p>JC advised PT (RBWM) to read the Recreation and Access Chapter of the consultation for the new proposed extension to Heathrow. LAF to contact LA to see if there's any funding for open access and recreation.</p> <p>Something that certain authorities should be aware of.</p>
3.7	Known joint issues and cross-boundary opportunities		<p>GP confirmed potential footpath to bridleway upgrade involved Finchampstead FP20 and Sandhurst FP12.</p> <p>Ambitious Greenways project referred to in Wokingham Borough. Developer</p>

			<p>contributions funded project. £1 million per year funding. Flexi-pave used. 7 year guarantee. GP to check if this links up with the new Greenway (clarification from GP on this point)</p> <p>Slough arm of Canal at Langley Park Meeting on 15th Feb. CRT have put in a bid for lottery money. Part of route is in Buckinghamshire. Council have put out an advertisement of dumping soil on the land, but no planning permission has been sought yet.</p> <p>JWi to provide Jonathan her contact from CRT (leading on it)</p> <p>JC feels there should be some money to LAs to deal with effects on access as part of the Heathrow extension.</p> <p>Dinton Pastures – in hand at present.</p> <p>RBWM – discussion about how important it is to involve RBWM LAF members at an early stage of development proposals. BFC concurred and said that this has been factored an action in their new approval RoWIP2.</p> <p>HCC – involvement in the Master Plan stage is ideal, but can be challenging to deliver, particularly for County Authorities. Hampshire has 11 planning authorities, so would have to filter what could be looked at. Surrey is looking at 4 possible garden villages, and consultation has to decide which one to go for.</p>
<p>4.0-Update on MBWLAF efforts on Access & Brexit -User group post Brexit access proposals</p>			
4.1			<p>JB Brexit could be an opportunity. There has been a meeting with MP Richard Benyon, and meeting with Reading West MP planned for Friday after this meeting. A principle point is that land managers should be paid to provide and maintain access. Farm subsidies are to remain as now for next 5 years.</p>
4.2			<p>Green Futures 25 year plan was published in January. JB had pulled out access relevant items, mainly about getting urban population out into the countryside. Support is needed from other LAFs. PT confirmed RBWM LAF had sent a letter to Michael Gove and would circulate a copy, and PN said two</p>

			LAFs in Hampshire are thinking about this currently. MWBLAF also meeting with Countryside Landowners Association (CLA).
4.3			LAFs are no longer co-ordinated nationally 2 nd March – Surrey Rural Economy Conference – Gove is coming to speak. Future of rural economies and potential impact of Brexit. GB to circulate details of the conference. Charge of £45 per delegate, plus VAT. New Countryside Stewardship rules have been published. None of the categories apply to access.
5.0 MWBLAF submission to the House of Lords review of the NERC Act			
5.1			MWBLAF made a submission to the NERC ACT Review (House of Lords select Committee). This is the Act that set up Natural England. Support from NE for LAFs has reduced. MWBLAF concluded that a new department / organisation is needed. Only 7 LAFs had submitted comments, which was disappointing. Access sessions were dominated by motorised vehicle interests.
6.0 Railway level crossing closures			
6.1			Postponed the dates of Suffolk/Essex Inquiry to close a number of crossings. In Surrey – they're closing the crossings but building bridges across. No objection as long as an appropriate (sensible) diversion has been put in place and there's no increased risk to the users. This needs to be closely reviewed with Network Rail as this wouldn't necessarily be their first priority. NR have closed 700+ crossings for safety reasons.
7.0 Future Training			
7.1			Repeating the IPROW delivered training, with a different topic area. Circulate for suggestions
8.0 Site visits			
			A talk by the Ridgeway Officer, Sarah Wright, on the projects that the ridgeway Partnership is undertaking will take place

			<p>on 21 Feb at 2pm at Reading Civic offices at the start of the next MWBLAF meeting – all welcome.</p> <p>Take Black Park off the list as there's no money for it currently.</p> <p>Buckleberry Common – look at damage to area by off-road vehicles to Byways.</p> <p>Mid and West Berks might arrange a site visit to review this.</p> <p>Hampshire looking at a tiered approach to Byways management. Testing user groups interest in this.</p> <p>Britwell to Burnham Beeches – more local issue to Slough. Local promotion and improving that route – JC advises to remove from the list. (route located in Bucks.)</p> <p>PR asked if it's worth adding the Transport Research Laboratory visit proposed by Bracknell Forest LCAF to the LAF Chairs meeting lists of visits.</p> <p>BFC to extend the invite, as it would be useful as an exemplar of what can be achieved.</p>
9.0 AOB			
			<p>GB advised about withdrawal of funding for National Trails.</p> <p>NE have guaranteed 50% of funding for 2018/19 budget.</p> <p>Hoping for further funding to available.</p> <p>NTs are now approaching charity organisation's who use the path to give a donation towards trail upkeep.</p>

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