

NOTICE
OF
MEETING

RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

will meet on

WEDNESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2021

At 6.15 pm

by

VIRTUAL MEETING - ONLINE ACCESS ON [RBWM YOUTUBE](#)

TO: MEMBERS OF THE RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

COUNCILLORS MAUREEN HUNT (CHAIRMAN), GARY MUIR (VICE-CHAIRMAN),
SAMANTHA RAYNER, DAVID CANNON, CLIVE BASKERVILLE, PHIL HASELER,
MANDY BRAR AND WISDOM DA COSTA

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

COUNCILLORS GURPREET BHANGRA, GERRY CLARK, KAREN DAVIES,
SHAMSUL SHELM, SAYONARA LUXTON, CHRISTINE BATESON, NEIL KNOWLES
AND SIMON WERNER

Karen Shepherd – Head of Governance - Issued: 26th March 2021

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 Panel Administrator **Mark Beeley** 01628 796345 / mark.beeley@rbwm.gov.uk

Recording of Meetings – In line with the council's commitment to transparency the Part I (public) section of the virtual meeting will be streamed live and recorded via Zoom. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video, you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain. If you have any questions regarding the council's policy, please speak to Democratic Services or Legal representative at the meeting.

AGENDA

PART I

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive any apologies for absence.	-
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest.	3 - 4
3.	<u>MINUTES</u> To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4 th March 2019.	5 - 8
4.	<u>PUBLIC FOOTPATH 53 BRAY - TEMPORARY DIVERSION ORDER</u> To consider the Temporary Diversion Order.	9 - 14
5.	<u>MILESTONES STATEMENT 2021/22</u> To consider the Milestones Statement for 2021/22.	15 - 56
6.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u> To consider any other business.	-

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS IN MEETINGS

Disclosure at Meetings

If a Member has not disclosed an interest in their Register of Interests, they **must make** the declaration of interest at the beginning of the meeting, or as soon as they are aware that they have a DPI or Prejudicial Interest. If a Member has already disclosed the interest in their Register of Interests they are still required to disclose this in the meeting if it relates to the matter being discussed.

A member with a DPI or Prejudicial Interest **may make representations at the start of the item but must not take part in the discussion or vote at a meeting.** The speaking time allocated for Members to make representations is at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting. In order to avoid any accusations of taking part in the discussion or vote, after speaking, Members should move away from the panel table to a public area or, if they wish, leave the room. If the interest declared has not been entered on to a Members' Register of Interests, they must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing within the next 28 days following the meeting.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) (relating to the Member or their partner) include:

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit made in respect of any expenses occurred in carrying out member duties or election expenses.
- Any contract under which goods and services are to be provided/works to be executed which has not been fully discharged.
- Any beneficial interest in land within the area of the relevant authority.
- Any 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.

Any Member who is unsure if their interest falls within any of the above legal definitions should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

A Member with a DPI should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations on the item: ***'I declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Prejudicial Interests

Any interest which a reasonable, fair minded and informed member of the public would reasonably believe is so significant that it harms or impairs the Member's ability to judge the public interest in the item, i.e. a Member's decision making is influenced by their interest so that they are not able to impartially consider relevant issues.

A Member with a Prejudicial interest should state in the meeting: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Or, if making representations in the item: ***'I declare a Prejudicial Interest in item x because xxx. As soon as we come to that item, I will make representations, then I will leave the room/ move to the public area for the entire duration of the discussion and not take part in the vote.'***

Personal interests

Any other connection or association which a member of the public may reasonably think may influence a Member when making a decision on council matters.

Members with a Personal Interest should state at the meeting: ***'I wish to declare a Personal Interest in item x because xxx'. As this is a Personal Interest only, I will take part in the discussion and vote on the matter.***

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Agenda Item 3

RIGHTS OF WAY & HIGHWAY LICENSING PANEL

MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2019

PRESENT: Councillors Maureen Hunt (Chairman), Lynda Yong (Vice-Chairman), Clive Bullock, Judith Diment, Mohammed Ilyas, Samantha Rayner and Simon Werner

Officers: Anthony Hurst, Jackie Rivers and Nabihah Hassan-Farooq.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

MINUTES

That the Part I minutes of the Panel held on the 10th September 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

PATH PROGRESS REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2018- FEBRUARY 2019

** (The Chair amended the order of agenda items to consider item 5 first due to technical difficulties with the agreement of the Panel.)*

Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager (RBWM) outlined that the report would seek to update the Panel on the progress made with Public Rights of Way issues during the period from August 2018 to February 2019. Members were informed that the total number of outstanding reported problems on the Public Rights of Way had risen from 9 to 8 during the reporting period. The Panel were told that there had been an enforcement issue at Eton bridleway as outlined in the report which was now resolved. Members were informed that the enforcement action had taken place within the required time but that there had been some difficulty with the landowner carrying out the work. Members were told that landowners had sent photos to officers after commencing and completing work and that this had been helpful in reducing the amount of resource time for officers when checking works had been completed. Members were reminded that officers were willing to work with landowners with improvement and enforcement matters, and that where an extension request was made that this was considered on its own merit, on a case by case basis. The Panel were informed that there were 6 outstanding enforcement cases on the 31st January 2019 and that there had been 32 enforcement problems which had been reported across the period. Members queried the outstanding issues and it was noted that the outstanding issues related to, Bray FP1 (off Ascot Road), Horton BR 4 (off Foundry Lane), Old Windsor FP3 (Thames Path), Sunninghill FP5 (off Cheapside Road), Sunninghill FP 18 (Marston Way), Sunninghill FP 36 (off High Street), Wraysbury FP 6 (Douglas Lane) and Eton FP 19 (South Field). Councillor Werner queried which authority would be responsible for resurfacing and it was confirmed that any rights of way resurfacing issues would remain with RBWM.

Members were told that in on the 15th July 2016 that Orders were made to add fourteen footpaths at Thamesfield to the definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. A number of objections had been received to all of the Orders and a Local Public inquiry was held from the 1st-4th May 2018. It was noted that the Inspector who had conducted the Inquiry published his decision on the 19th July 2018 and that thirteen of the fourteen Orders were confirmed as made and that one Order was not confirmed. The Panel were told that the public

footpath signs had been installed at the entrances to the footpaths from the surrounding road network and that all thirteen footpaths were now open and in use. It was highlighted that these thirteen footpaths added approximately 2.9km (1.8miles) to the public rights of way network in the borough.

Members were updated that a new bridge across “The Cut” linking Maidenhead Road to the Green Way at Braywick Park was opened on the 17th September 2018. Members were reminded that the bridge had been named in memory of Margaret Bowdery, former President of the East Berkshire Ramblers in recognition of her contributions to improving and protecting public rights of way and access to the countryside in the Royal Borough. Members were informed that the Rt Honorable Theresa May had been in attendance at the opening and that a plaque had been placed at the inauguration. Members commended the commitment of officers in the planning and development of this bridge along with the exemplary materials used.

Members were also told that RBWM had recently purchased an area of farmland off of Lower Cookham Road/Sutton Road which was to be named “Battlemead Common”. It was intended that a new footpath would be opened in March 2019 to complete a missing link in the Millennium Walk which would run from the Thames at Hurley to the Thames north of Boulter's Lock. This route was intended to be used as part of the annual “Maidenhead Boundary Walk” which takes place each October. Members were grateful for the addition of this land to the public rights of way catalogue and felt that this was a great addition to the borough. It was highlighted that there would be 28 boundary stones within the land and that work was being done to place these into position (where they had been dislodged) to allow walkers to follow this path. The Chair queried whether there would be a new car park as part of this acquisition and planning of land and it was confirmed that there would be a car park but that the details were being finalised. Council Werner queried whether this land should be protected and it was discussed that there was very limited opportunity to build upon this land due to flood plain issues. It was also noted that there would be very little other protection offered with this classification to the land if it was to be “protected”. The Chair queried whether the routes proposed would include bridleways and it was confirmed that the paths would be specifically designed for walkers, and it was unlikely that there would be dedicated cyclist or bridleway paths.

The Panel were informed that the Public Rights of Way Team had worked with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA), Ways into Work (WiW) and Centrica to carry out practical work upon the public rights of way in the borough over the past 6 months. Members were told that 165 hours of condition survey work had been carried out over September 2018- January 2019. In total it was reported that a total of £6,715.50 had been saved by the contributions and volunteering work. Members commended the work of the volunteers and their work and it was suggested that a vote of thanks be written to all involved.

ACTION- That the Chair write a letter of thanks to TCV, BCA, WiW and Centrica for their volunteering work and contributions.

Members were also informed that an advert had been recently placed in the newsletter, ‘ in and around the Royal Borough’ for the current Local Access Forum(LAF) vacancies. Members were encouraged to circulate this information to their networks and alert officers if they were aware of any suitable candidates. The Panel were introduced to Jackie River, who would be supporting the LAF moving forward.

DRAFT MILESTONES STATEMENT 2019/2020

Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager outlined the above titled report. Panel Members were informed that the report sought to gain approval for the “Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2019-2020” which outlined the

Council's objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the upcoming year and available resources for delivering this service.

Members of the Panel were told that a consultation had been held with the Local Access Forum (LAF) and that they had endorsed the targets as outlined within the report. It was highlighted that Parish Councils had also been included, and notably Hurley and Cookham Parish Councillors had been supportive of the targets. Councillor Werner queried how priorities in relation to resurfacing were created and it was confirmed that there was a stringent criteria applied which included, complaints received, costs, level of use and the capital works budget. Members were informed that there was £2,000 allocated per project and that there were ten major resurfacing projects that currently exceeded this budget. Members queried whether larger projects were avoided due to costs and it was confirmed that for any large projects that a capital bid would be confidently applied for. Councillor Hunt queried whether the WM1 target should be decreased from 95% to 91% and it was confirmed that the 95% had been achieved in the past and that this particular target had been based on recommendations made by Ramblers and that this was a realistic and achievable target. Councillor Werner queried whether stretch targets should be introduced and it was commented by members that this would be an inaccurate display of volunteer work and contributions. Members were updated that in relation to target WP2 that 1 new updated ROW map would be produced. It was outlined that work had begun in co-production with Eton Wick & Wraysbury Parish Council to produce this updated publication.

Councillor Ilyas queried whether all of the footpaths as laid out in the Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026 had been considered as future projects and it was confirmed that there were some long-term aspirational projects listed and that any updates were listed in bold within the appendix. It was discussed that some of the listed updates had been completed.

ACTION- That Anthony Hurst, update Appendix 7 to amend any completed updated and site specific projects within the Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026.

Councillor Hunt queried how many cold case files were currently on the RBWM database and it was confirmed that at present there were 50 outstanding cold case cases, but that there was no pressure or need to prioritise these projects at this time. Councillor Yong queried that there were some site specific updates which were not on the definitive map and listed, for example St George's Lane. It was noted that some sites were not public rights of way and had lost this classification. Councillor Yong also queried a footpath which had been blocked Heatherwood Hospital which linked to the nearby train station and queried whether work could be carried out to re-open this for commuters. It was highlighted that this could be suggested as part of the development proposal for Heatherwood hospital and that further details of this were available through the Heatherwood; housing site proposal planning application.

At the conclusion of the update, Members thanked the public rights of way team for their work on the Milestone's Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2019-2020.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY; That the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel approved the Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2019/2020.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future dates to be scheduled and to be circulated by Democratic Services.

The meeting, which began at 6.33 pm, finished at 7.34 pm

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....

Report Title:	Public Footpath 53 Bray; Temporary Diversion Order
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
Officer reporting:	Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager
Meeting and Date:	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel 7 th April 2021
Responsible Officer(s):	Chris Joyce, Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth
Wards affected:	All



REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks the Panel's approval to publish a temporary footpath diversion order for Footpath 53 Bray. Planning permission was granted in July 2020 (pa number 18/03167) for the extraction of sand and gravel from land to the south of Windsor Road, Bray, and restoration of the site to agriculture. Public Footpath 53 Bray crosses the extraction site, and the proposed temporary diversion order would re-route part of this footpath for the duration of the works, and restore the footpath on its original line upon completion of the restoration works, in addition to creating two new footpath links as permanent public rights of way.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel approves the making of a Temporary Footpath Diversion Order for Footpath 53 Bray, under S257 and S261 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and that the Order be confirmed as an unopposed Order if no objections are received in response to statutory consultations. If objections are received, the matter will be brought back to the Panel for further consideration. The diversion is shown in Appendix 1 to this report.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
Approve the making of the Temporary Diversion Order This is the recommended option	A suitable alternative route will be provided for the duration of the works. This will include the provision of two new footpath links. Upon completion of the extraction and restoration works, the original route of Footpath 53 will be re-opened, and the two new links will be dedicated as public rights of way.

Option	Comments
Do not approve the making of the Temporary Diversion Order	
This option is not recommended	

The application site

Planning permission was granted in July 2020 for the extraction of sand and gravel from the site. This planning permission limits the period of extraction and site restoration to no more than 10 years. Part of Footpath 53 Bray crosses the application site, and it would not be possible for this section of the footpath to remain open during the extraction works .

The temporary diversion

The temporary diversion route utilises parts of two existing public footpaths (Footpaths 51b and 54 Bray), and in addition two new footpath links are to be provided, as shown in the plans at Appendix 1. The two new footpath links will have a width of 2.0 metres and will be surfaced with gravel. Upon completion of extraction and restoration of the site, the original route of Footpath 53 will be re-opened, and the two new links will be dedicated as public footpaths. This will provide a new circular walk, and would form a significant enhancement of the public rights of way network in this area.

3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

Table 2: Key Implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Diversion Order made	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Dependent on commencement of works

4. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 All costs associated with the temporary diversion, including administration and advertising costs and physical works to construct the new footpaths, will be met in full by the applicants, and therefore there will be no costs to the Council.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Under sections 257 and 261 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Council may make a temporary footpath diversion order if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in order to enable authorised mineral development to be carried out. The temporary diversion of part of Footpath 53 Bray is required to enable the authorised development to be carried out.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Table 3: Impact of risk and mitigation

Risk	Level of uncontrolled risk	Controls	Level of controlled risk
There would be a risk that public access improvements would not be secured if an appropriate Diversion Order is not put in place	Medium	The Diversion Order will ensure that public rights are protected, and an enhanced public rights of way network is provided upon restoration of the site	Low

7. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 7.1 Equalities; an 'Equality Impact Assessment screening form' has been completed in relation to this report, and the screening assessment did not identify any negative impacts.
- 7.2 Climate change/sustainability; effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car.
- 7.3 Data Protection/GDPR; no impacts arising from this report.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The local ward members, Bray Parish Council, the Local Access Forum, and the East Berks Ramblers have been consulted on the proposed temporary diversion, and no objections have been received. Following publication of a footpath diversion order there is a statutory consultation process, and any objections received during the consultation period and not subsequently withdrawn will be reported back to the Panel.

9. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Subject to no objections being received in response to the formal consultation, it is anticipated that the temporary diversion order will be made and confirmed during 2021.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1; diversion application plan

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

12. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
Chris Joyce	Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth	08.03.21	18.03.21
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Chair	22.03.21	Briefing 24.03.21


REPORT HISTORY


Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
Panel Decision	No	No

Report Author: Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager, 07775-818622

The map illustrates the proposed footpath arrangement in a rural area. Key features include:

- Proposed Footpaths Arrangement:** A yellow box in the top left corner.
- Original Route of FP53:** Shown as a solid black line.
- Diverted Route of FP53:** Shown as a dashed black line.
- FP53B:** A label for a specific section of the diverted route.
- FP54:** A label for a specific section of the diverted route.
- A308 (Windsor Road):** A major road running diagonally across the top right.
- Down Place Farm:** A label for a farm area in the top right.
- Down Place Lodge:** A label for a lodge area in the top right.
- Track:** A label for a track area in the bottom left.
- 24.5m:** A dimension line indicating the width of the diverted route.


 Existing Routes of Surrounding
Public Rights of Way (see
annotation for ID)


 New Sections of FP53

REV	AM'D	NOTES	DATE
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PleydellSmithyman

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DRAWING STATUS	
PLANNING	
PROJECT	
Water Oakley Quarry	
CLIENT	
Summerlease Ltd	
TITLE	
Plan to Illustrate Proposed Diverted Route of FP53	
DATE	SCALE
F1.2011	1:2,500 @ A3
DRAWN	CHECKED
L.S.B.	L.C. (Summerlease)
DRAW NO.	
M16.162.D.040	

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Report Title:	Public Rights of Way ‘Milestones Statement 2021/22’
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	No
Officer reporting:	Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager
Meeting and Date:	Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel 7 th April 2021
Responsible Officer(s):	Chris Joyce, Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth
Wards affected:	All



REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks the Panel’s approval for the ‘*Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2020/21*’ attached at Appendix 1, which sets out the Council’s objectives, priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year, and the resources available for delivering this service.

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel approves the ‘*Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2021/22*’ attached at Appendix 1.

2. REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Options

Table 1: Options arising from this report

Option	Comments
Approve the ‘Milestones Statement 2021/22’ This is the recommended option	The approved Milestones Statement will ensure that the Council’s Public Rights of Way team will have a clear set of objectives, priorities, and targets for the coming year.
Do not approve the ‘Milestones Statement 2021/22’ This option is not recommended.	

KEY IMPLICATIONS

Table 2: Key Implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Approval of Milestones Statement 2020/21	n/a	April 2021	n/a	n/a	2021/22

3. FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, setting clear targets for the Council's Public Rights of Way team and their partners ensures good value for money is achieved in delivering agreed objectives.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

6. POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 6.1 Equalities; an 'Equality Impact Assessment screening form' has been completed in relation to this report, and the screening assessment did not identify any negative impacts. The 'Milestones Statement' includes several targets aimed at improving access for people with disabilities or restricted mobility, the elderly and people with young children or pushchairs.
- 6.2 Climate change/sustainability; effective management of the public rights of way network has a positive impact on sustainable transport by encouraging alternative forms of transport to the car.
- 6.3 Data Protection/GDPR; none arising directly from this report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Borough's **Local Access Forum (LAF)** has been consulted on the targets, objectives and service standards set out in the draft Milestones Statement and have confirmed that they are happy to carry forward to 2021/22 the same annual

targets, objectives and service standards that were set for 2020/21. However, the LAF has recommended an interim review may be required, dependent on the outcome of the emerging RBWM Local Plan, and has suggested that neighbouring local authorities should be added to the list of 'interested parties' under the 'Partnership Working' heading in the priority objectives. The LAF will continue to work closely with the Public Rights of Way team in progressing the objectives set out in the Milestones Statement.

- 7.2 All Parish and Town Councils have been consulted on the targets, objectives and service standards set out in the draft Milestones Statement. Comments and suggestions have been received from Cookham, Datchet and Hurley Parish Councils (see Appendix 2); the public rights of way team will work with the Parish Councils to progress with these suggestions where feasible.

8. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

2021/22

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Milestones Statement 2021/22.

Appendix 2: Consultation responses from Parish Councils.

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

11. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
Chris Joyce	Head of Infrastructure, Sustainability and Economic Growth	08.03.21	18.03.21
Cllr Maureen Hunt	Panel Chair	22.03.21	Briefing 24.03.21

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	Urgency item?	To follow item?
Panel decision	No	No

Report Author: Anthony Hurst, Parks and Countryside Manager,
07775-818622

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Milestones Statement

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

2021-22

FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the 23rd annual Milestones Statement for the Royal Borough, marking 23 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 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 2021

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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 310 km (192 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 2020/21, several volunteer groups worked on public rights of way around the Borough:

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) carried out **13 workdays** with a total of **58** participant days.

Ways into Work (WiW) carried out **7 workdays** with a total of **43** participant days.

Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA) carried out **6 workdays** with a total of **65** participant days.

East Berks Ramblers carried out **406** hours of work on behalf of the Borough, mainly through undertaking condition surveys.

Based upon our current commercial rates for path works the value of the volunteer works listed above is **£9,723**

1.5 Resources

The Council's 'Parks and Countryside Team' manage the public rights of way network; 3 members of the team work specifically on public rights of way, totaling 1.7 full time equivalents (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

2020/21	2021/22
£60,000	£60,000

This works budget funds the annual vegetation clearance contract of programmed works, as well as reactive works such as clearance of fallen trees and branches from public rights of way, replacement of missing or damaged signs, surface repairs, removal of fly-tipping etc.

There is also a **capital budget** of **£40,000** for public rights of way work in 2021/22. This will be used for path improvement projects across the borough.

Table 1: Lengths of Rights of Way by Parish, March 2021

Parish	Length (km)					
	Footpath	Bridleway	Byway	Restricted Byway	Total km	% of network
Bisham	13.146	2.524	-	2.228	17.898	5.75
Bray	36.803	9.999	2.184	0.564	49.550	15.93
Cookham	34.294	1.980	0.469	0.405	37.148	11.94
Cox Green	8.395	1.399	-	-	9.794	3.15
Datchet	4.761	-	-	-	4.761	1.53
Eton	18.396	3.561	-	-	21.957	7.06
Horton	1.200	1.254	-	-	2.454	0.79
Hurley	31.608	6.115	-	6.909	44.632	14.35
Maidenhead	29.796	0.439	-	2.596	32.831	10.56
Old Windsor	4.574	-	-	-	4.574	1.47
Shottesbrooke	3.240	-	-	1.612	4.852	1.56
Sunningdale	3.554	1.666	0.337	-	5.557	1.79
Sunninghill	11.244	-	3.592	1.299	16.135	5.19
Waltham St Lawrence	17.728	-	-	7.209	24.937	8.02
White Waltham	11.011	0.530	0.342	4.165	16.048	5.16
Windsor	4.339	1.994	1.644	0.259	8.236	2.65
Wraysbury	9.648	-	-	-	9.648	3.10
Total (km)	243.737	31.461	8.568	27.246	311.012	100.00
%	78%	10%	3%	9%		

OBJECTIVES

Priorities for 2021/22

- 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)
- Changes to the network: seek improvements in association with development and other proposals.
- 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.

Milestones Targets for 2021/22

Well Maintained

WM 1: To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is based on the former 'Best Value Performance Indicator' for public rights of way). Target for 2020/21 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 above targets are 'subject to funding', and subject to change should the need arise. This will ensure flexibility considering changing circumstances, for example to take advantage of opportunities that may arise during the course of the year, discussions with landowners, funding sources for specific projects etc.*

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 Local Access Forum and the Disability and Inclusion Forum.

The Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan and annual Milestones Targets include a number of policies and proposals aimed at improving 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 Councils 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 and we have managed to continue with this despite the difficult conditions surrounding the pandemic.

During 2020/21 projects carried out by the PPI included rubbish removal and path tidying in Hurley, surface improvements in Cookham and Old Windsor, and work on a new Wraybury walks leaflet.

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.

In 2019 the Forum established two working groups to focus on significant hot topics to investigate in detail and feedback to the main Forum. These are: the Accessibility Working Group and the Horse Riding/Multi-User Working

Group. These groups continued to work with the public rights of way team throughout 2020.

The Forum publishes an annual report detailing its activities. Forum membership details, agendas, minutes, and annual reports are available on the Local Access Forum pages of the borough website:

<https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/transport-and-streets/rights-way/local-access-forums>

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, Cycling UK, Transport for London, and Natural England.

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

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

2.7 Equestrian initiatives

- Investigating possible upgrading of existing footpaths to bridleways, by negotiating with landowners and user groups, to improve road safety for horses and riders while considering 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 and the path continues to be well used by horse riders as well as walkers.

- Continuing to work with the Local Access Forum 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 landowners.
- Development and promotion of circular riding routes where appropriate, avoiding main roads and busy crossings where possible. This includes investigation into possible routes through and around Ashley Hill, Hurley about which we are currently in discussion with the landowner.
- Improvements to gates to make them more 'horse rider friendly'.

3 WELL MAINTAINED

3.1 *Maintenance and Enforcement*

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 14 of this Milestones Statement.

The table in **Appendix 9** includes a list of outstanding reported problems on public rights of way in the borough

3.2 *Noteworthy current issues*

- Improvements to the Thames Path National Trail
- Multi-user and horse-riding provision – to aid the most vulnerable road users
- Accessibility to open spaces for people with mobility issues.

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 15 of this Milestones Statement.

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. Subsequent changes are recorded by means of 'Definitive Map Modification Orders'.

The Definitive Map and Statement and can 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.

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

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

There are no outstanding applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO's)

A statement of priorities for dealing with applications for DMMOs 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 changes are in the public interest.

Planning applications are checked by planning officers who consult the Public Rights of Way team and also 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.

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 dealing with the emerging Borough Local Plan, 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.

These leaflets are currently being converted into a more web and printer-friendly version to make them easier for people to access online.

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://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/transport-and-streets/rights-way>

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

Public rights of way are also shown on the ‘Neighbourhood Maps’ on the borough website.

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/Performance indicator*

The following ‘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 2020/21 was **97%** (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 Parish/Town Council’s so that co-ordinated priorities can be adopted.

APPENDIX 1

Consultation on the Milestones Statement

The following organisations were consulted on the 2021/22 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

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 based on 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
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- 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.

APPENDIX 5

Definitive map modification order applications (claims) currently being investigated

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Current status
			From	To	
No current claims					No current claims

APPENDIX 6

Achievement of Milestones Targets 2020/21 (March 2021)

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 2019-20: 95%</i>	<i>[note surveys undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers]</i> 97%
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 51 (off Fifield Road)	Winter cut back
	Bray FP 53 (off Oakley Green Road)	Winter cut back
	Bray Bridleway 72 (Monkey Island Lane)	Surface improvement
	Bray Byway 68 (Jobs Lane)	Surface repairs
	Hurley Restricted Byway 54 (Knowl Hill)	Surface improvements
	Hurley Restricted Byway 2 (Thames Path)	Himalyan Balsam clearance
	Hurley Restricted Byway 57 (off Bath Road)	Surface improvement
	Maidenhead Restricted Byway 72 (Nightingale Lane)	Surface improvements
	Maidenhead Restricted Byway 70 (Malders Lane)	Surface improvements
	Old Windsor FP1 (Ham Lane)	Surface improvement
		Total: 10
WM3	<i>To repair or replace 7 bridges.</i>	
	Bray Footpath 25 (off Gaye's Lane)	Bridge repairs
	Bray Footpath 16 (off Blackbird Lane)	Bridge replacement
	Bray Footpath 24 (off Drift Road)	Bridge repair
	Bray Footpath 54 (off Oakley Green Road)	Bridge replacement
	Cookham FP 60 (Thames Path)	Bridge repair
	Cox Green Footpath 6 (Ockwells Farm)	Bridge repairs
	Sunninghill Footpath 4 (off Cheapside Road)	Bridge replacement
	White Waltham Footpath 18 (off Drift Road)	Bridge replacement
		Total: 8
WELL PUBLICISED		
WP1	<i>To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet</i>	Total: 1 Eton Town Council walks leaflet
WP2	<i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.</i>	Total: 0 <i>(Note: a Wraysbury walks leaflet is currently being prepared in partnership with Wraysbury Parish Council)</i>

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: 1 Green Lane to Forlease Road, including subway under new Stafferton Link road
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>	
Battlemead Common Permissive Path (off Sutton Road)	Self-closing gate and remove small corral
Bisham Footpath 34 (Stubbings drive)	Surface improvement
Cookham Footpath 34 (off Winter Hill)	Steps and handrail on steep slope
Cookham Footpath 50 (off School Lane)	Removal of remains of old iron fencing which were trip hazards
Cookham Byway 68 (Jobs Lane)	Surface improvements
Hurley Footpath 33 (off Bath Road)	Large size mobility kissing gate replaced old style gate
Hurley Footpath 17 (Prospect Hill)	Removal of remains of old iron fencing which were trip hazards
Maidenhead Footpath 31 (off Hindhay Lane)	Stile changed to gate
Sunninghill Byway 17 (Burleigh Lane)	Surface and drainage improvement
Windsor Bridleway 2 (Roses Lane)	Surface repairs
	Total: 10

APPENDIX 7

Site specific projects in “Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026

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 2019 update: new section of streamside footpath has been 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/horse margin connecting the end of Hurley Lane with the eastern end of Bradenham Lane using existing highway land alongside the A404 northbound carriageway: <i>(March 2020 update: route opened in Dec 2019, in conjunction with Highways England)</i>
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 landowners, Temple Golf Club)</i>
12	Create a link between Bisham Bridleway 22 and the A404 tunnel at Dungrove Hill Lane

	<i>(March 2014 update: the landowner has declined a proposal to create this new link: however, if circumstances change this project could be re-opened)</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 regarding 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>(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 (b) from Magna Carta Island to north bank (c) from Wraysbury riverside to Old Windsor (d) from Ham Island to Sunnymeads

	<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.</p> <p><i>(March 2014 update): Discussions are being held with the landowners about the proposed new footpath.</i></p> <p><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> <p><i>(March 2020 update: new footpath created across “Battlemead Common” to complete missing link)</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><i>(March 2020 update: new footpath created across “Battlemead Common” to complete missing link)</i></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 riverbank from the landing steps opposite Thames Hotel to Bridge Gardens</p> <p><i>(March 2010 update: the footpath opposite the Thames Hotel was extended in 2007, however a gap of approximately 30m remains in order to complete the link to Bridge Gardens)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2011 update: funding options for completing the remaining section of missing link are being explored in discussion with the Ramblers)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: Path Creation Agreement secured, and new roadside footpath opened north of Bridge Gardens)</i></p>
27	<p>A footbridge from Boulter's Island to east bank of the Thames, which would link the Thames Path and Jubilee River, and the walks in Taplow</p> <p><i>(March 2013 update: a new footbridge across the Thames at Boulter's Lock is included in a Draft Development Brief for the Mill Lane, Taplow site produced by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2015 update: new footbridge design agreed, subject to redevelopment proposal on east side of the river being approved by South Bucks District Council)</i></p> <p><i>(March 2019 update: new footbridge opened from Ray Mill Island/Boulter's Lock to Taplow Riverside)</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 2019 update: new bridge and footpath-cycle way opened September 2018, named "Margaret's Bridge" in memory of Margaret Bowdery MBE)</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	Create a continuous streamside footpath around "The Maidenhead Ring", including the Moor Cut and The Green Way, in association with the Maidenhead Waterways project
31	Upgrading Thames Path to allow cyclists to share route

Bray, Windsor and Eton

32	An extension of the Green Way from Hibbert Road in Braywick to the River Thames at Summerleaze Bridge to provide a traffic free route for walkers, cyclists and disabled users.
33	Promote a circular route around Bray village, and around the old Biffa pits

34	Improve bridleway links between Eton, Dorney and Bray working with Bucks County Council and other neighbouring authorities.
35	A riverside path should be created in parallel to the Thames Path on the opposite side of the river
36	A route from Bray to Windsor, past Bray Film Studios
37	Create a circular route around Eton and the Boveney area for mobility restricted users <i>(March 2012 update): surface improvements carried out to paths in this area in conjunction with access to Eton-Dorney Lake for the 2012 Olympics, facilitating use by mobility restricted users.</i>
38	Expand the multi-user routes in Eton to surrounding areas and link with other bridleway routes. <i>(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 riverbank)</i>
44	Thames side paths: (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,

	<p>depending on the working arrangements with the landowner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) footpath from Datchet Footpath 7 southwest around the Queen Mother Reservoir, over the Horton Road (B376) to the railway line (b) footpath from Datchet Footpath 5 running southeast on the northern side of the railway line to Datchet Footpath 6 (c) footpath along northern side of the Thames from Albert Bridge linking with Datchet Footpath 6 (d) footpath from Welley Road, Wraysbury along southern side of the railway line to Wraysbury Footpath 6 (e) footpath from Park Avenue, Wraysbury to Kingswood Creek (f) footpath from northern end of Douglas Lane (at termination of Wraysbury Footpath 6) to The Green (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 (h) footpath running from Horton Footpath 3 around northern part of lakes to Stanwell Road (i) footpath from Station Road, Wraysbury, to Stanwell Road running along the western bank of the Colne Brook. (j) footpath from Hythe End Lane to southern end of Ferry Lane (Wraysbury Footpath 3) (k) bridleway from Embankment to Magna Carta Lane in Wraysbury (l) bridleway from Horton Road, alongside the Queen Mother Reservoir to Majors Farm Road (B370) (m) Footpath from Kingswood Creek to Old Ferry Drive (n) Footpath from Stanwell Road, northeast along Mill Lane, running east along the Colne Brook.
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> <i>(March 2015 update: surface improvements at St Georges Lane and Wells Lane)</i></p>
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48	Extend Sunningdale Footpath 13 through to Sunninghill <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>
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 Allen's 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 dale Golf Course
113	Record the existing path between the A30 and the RBWM Car Park
114	Record the existing path around RBWM car park at Sunningdale
115	Record the existing path between Priory Road and Richmond Road
116	Record the existing path between Ridgemount Road and Priory Road to the level crossing
117	Record the existing path between Cedar Drive and Sunningdale Footpath 13
118	Record the existing path through Broomhall Recreation Ground
119	Record the existing paths linking from Hamilton and Greenways Drives to London Road A30
120	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Old Sunningdale via Silwood Rd to Sunninghill via Larch Avenue

121	Record the existing path through Sunningdale Park from Silwood Rd to Sunninghill or Sunningdale
122	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (west) to Coworth Rd
123	Record the existing path from Dale Lodge Rd via Leacroft (east) to Coworth Rd

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 currently.

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 & Dedworth 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.

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.

Note: some the above ‘housing’ sites have since been removed from the latest version of the Borough Local Plan.

APPENDIX 9

Outstanding recorded problems on public rights of way

Parish/Path number	Issue	Date reported
Bray Footpath 27 (off Gays Lane)	rotten bridge	16.12.20
Bray Footpath 57 (off Oakley Green Road)	rotten stile	16.12.20
Bray Footpath 61 (off Oakley Green Road)	flooded /muddy surface	25.02.21
Cookham Footpath 54 (Thames Path)	cycling issues	11.02.21
Horton Footpath 3 (off Park Lane)	quadbike use	05.03.21
Hurley Restricted Byway 57 (off Burchett's Green Lane)	potholes	22.01.21
Maidenhead Restricted Byway 20 (Melders Lane)	parking issues	16.11.20
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 10 (off Twyford Road)	broken staggered barrier	16.02.21
Windsor Bridleway 1b (off Wolf Lane)	possible encroachment issue	27.02.21

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Public Rights of Way Team
Place Directorate
Town Hall, St Ives Road
Maidenhead
Berks SL6 1RF**

If you require information in an alternative format, please contact the Public Rights of Way team at: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Appendix 2: Consultation responses from Parish Councils

Cookham Parish Council:

Production of Public Rights of Way leaflet: we suggest that the paper leaflet is supplemented by an online mapping app.

Battlemead Common: we note that there are statements that refer to Battlemead Common and so we request that Cookham Parish Council is kept informed of any issues that are on or close to this common.

Datchet Parish Council

MILESTONES TARGETS – DATCHET PARISH COUNCIL

WELL MAINTAINED

WM1 easy to use

- **Path 5. Footpath over railway**

A recent Datchet Neighbourhood Plan survey of residents' views indicated that this footbridge is in need of improvement. It is slippery when wet, poorly lit and the tread heights are uneven. Recommendations from residents included better lighting, and general maintenance issues.

For full details of responses, see: www.datchetneighbourhoodplan.org/getting-around-survey.html

- **Path 8. Thames Path to Albert Bridge**

The area around Albert Bridge would benefit from a litter pick.

WM2 Surface improvements and vegetation clearance

- **Paths 8 and 9. Thames Paths**

At this time of year, the paths are clear of overhanging vegetation although in the summer months, particularly on path 9, the nettles grow tall and encroach on the footpath, impeding access to single file. This occurs most noticeably where the paths are not supplemented by aggregate.

Both paths are affected by seasonal flooding and as a result are often very muddy and slippery during the winter months. This makes the paths difficult to use especially where there is an incline. The use of aggregate has helped but this has only been laid in some areas. There are other sections which would benefit from the use of aggregate.

There are wooden bridges on sections of path 9.

- The fencing on both sides of the bridge near the Datchet entrance to the path is broken, but could be easily repaired.
- The 'bridge' on the path between the Datchet entrance and the gauging station is beginning to rot severely. There are tall nails protruding at one end which could be a trip hazard. The side facing the river is most rotten.

- The bridge closest to Victoria Bridge appears to be in good condition although overgrown with vegetation.

- **Path 3. Golf Course**

The section closest to Datchet is frequently muddy and impassable. It is often closed, and walkers are directed to use other routes. Following the recent floods and rain, a new bypass path has been trodden around the muddiest areas of this section, damaging the surrounding vegetation. This section would benefit from surface improvements.

The section through the golf course is not clearly marked which causes friction with the golf club as walkers tend to stray onto the course. (In comparison, the Thames Path is indicated with several waymarker posts.) There is a very muddy section midway along the path, close to the houseboats which would also benefit from surface improvements.

Beside the wooden footbridge at Black Potts, on the east side of the Jubilee River between the golf course and Pococks Lane, a new section of path/roadway has been built along the bank of the Jubilee River (presumably for works access). There is no indication that walkers using this path will have to exit onto Pococks Lane either by climbing over a locked gate or squeezing through a gap in the fence. The official route is down a narrow path alongside the water treatment centre fence. This is often overgrown and muddy. Consideration should be given to making the new pathway the official access.

WELL PUBLICISED

WP1 To produce new Parish rights of way leaflet

- **Datchet leaflet**

It would be highly beneficial to produce an updated Parish rights of way leaflet which takes into account the permissive paths in North Datchet (including those through the Registered Park and Gardens at the listed Ditton House) and access to NCN61 and public footpaths along the northern boundary of Datchet and Slough. This will also be relevant when the bridge over the motorway (**path 7**) reopens after M4 Smart Motorway work, and when gravel extraction at the Cemex site on Riding Court Road has finished and the site has been restored to a wetlands area with permissive paths.

IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

AC1 New strategic paths

- **New Path - North Datchet**

As part of the restoration work to the Cemex site, access to the permissive paths will be some distance from the village centre. This will link up with NCN61 and footpaths in North Datchet including those at Ditton House and Gardens. However, there is potential to improve footpath access through this site from a point closer to the village centre, e.g. closer to Riding Court Farm. This would also be relevant for routes to school. Many Datchet children go to school in Slough. Ideally this should be considered before restoration work begins. There is currently a planning application pending for this site, 20/03179/VAR.

AC2 Physical access improvements

- **Path 10 stepped access to path 3 golf course**

There is an official signposted access to Path 3 from Windsor Road (not the entrance road for access to the houseboats). This has very uneven and steep wooden steps down from the road into a ditch and back up onto the golf course. These are difficult to use, partially rotted and very uneven.

- **Path 8 Thames Path**

The Datchet entrance to this path has a small, easily missed waymarker sign to indicate that cycling is not permitted. The Albert Bridge section does not have a similar sign. This path is used by cyclists. It is quite narrow in sections, particularly where it runs parallel to Southlea Road and from Southlea Road to the river, making it difficult for cyclists to overtake pedestrians. This path would benefit from clearer marking.

Hurley Parish Council

Hurley Parish Council supports the aims and ambitions laid out in the Milestones Statement.

Councillors continue to be grateful for the work RBWM does to ensure that the local footpath network functions well.

Councillors have requested that the following matters be alerted to you.

FP17 (the track up to High Wood) is mentioned for removal of old iron posts which are a trip hazard. However also over the winter the handrail up the left-hand side of this path where it is steepest has completely rotted and is in need of replacement. Over the last few weeks, it has been icy and muddy and really dangerous going up and down this stretch of footpath. In addition to replacement of the handrail, it would also be very good to have a few rural type steps put in at the steepest part, as this is a problem which has always been there and now with more people exercising locally this area is getting very eroded and hazardous.

Footpath north of Star Lane residential road in Knowl Hill. There is a cycle track that forks left, just after the residential “street” ends. The footpath that continues on to Warren Row is being misused by cyclists. Could the signage possibly be improved, at the Knowl Hill and Warren Row ends, to discourage.

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