

NOTICE
OF
MEETING
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

will meet on

THURSDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2021

at

6.30 pm

In the

**GREY ROOMS - YORK HOUSE, WINDSOR AND ON [RBWM](#)
[YOUTUBE](#)**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Karen Shepherd
Head of Governance
Issued: 24th November 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 1

ITEM	SUBJECT	TIME	PERSON	PAGE NO
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Introductions	20 mins	Chairman	-
	a) Declarations of Interest	-	All	3 - 4
	b) Approval of Minutes - 5th July 2021	-	Mark Beeley	5 - 12
	c) Matters arising from the last meeting	-	Jacqui Wheeler	13 - 16
2.	Membership Update	2 mins	Chairman/ Jacqui Wheeler	Verbal Report
3.	Sub Groups Verbal Reports	15 mins	Sub Groups	-
	a) Multi-User Sub Group	-	Anne Woodward/ Trisha Mentzel	17 - 20
	b) Accessibility Working Group	-	Lisa Hughes/ Steve Gillions	Verbal Report
	c) Cycling Action Group	-	Susy Shearer	To Follow
4.	Consultation Response - Active Travel /LCWIP	10 mins	Chairman	21 - 30
5.	Draft LAF Annual Report	5 mins	Jacqui Wheeler	31 - 40
6.	Diversion Application Cookham FP17 & part FP59	2 mins	Jacqui Wheeler	41 - 44
7.	Corporate Plan Update	10 mins	Jacqui Wheeler	Verbal Report
8.	Borough Local Plan - Next Steps	5 mins	Jacqui Wheeler	45 - 46
9.	Horizon Scanning – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milestones 2022-23 Consultation in Feb 2022 • Planning Consultations with LAF • Volunteers Updates 	5 mins	Jacqui Wheeler	Verbal Report
10.	Date of Next Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC June/July 2022 	-	Chairman	-

MEMBERS' GUIDE TO DECLARING INTERESTS AT 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 Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) or Other Registerable 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.

Any Member with concerns about the nature of their interest should consult the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

Non-participation in case of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your DPIs (summary below, further details set out in Table 1 of the Members' Code of Conduct) you must disclose the interest, **not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room** unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a DPI.

Where you have a DPI on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet Member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

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 (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her 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 council.*
- *Any licence to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.*
- *Any tenancy where the landlord is the council, and the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest in the securities of.*
- *Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:*
 - a) that body has a place of business or land in the area of the council, 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.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Other Registerable Interests (summary below and as set out in Table 2 of the Members Code of Conduct), you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (as agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other Registerable Interests (relating to the Member or their partner):

You have an interest in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority*
- b) any body*
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature*
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or*

one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

Disclosure of Non- Registerable Interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a DPI) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. **You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting** but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer) you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a friend, relative, close associate; or
- c. a body included in those you need to disclose under DPIs as set out in Table 1 of the Members' code of Conduct

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied.

Where a matter **affects** your financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise **must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation**. If it is a 'sensitive interest' (agreed in advance by the Monitoring Officer, you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Other declarations

Members may wish to declare at the beginning of the meeting any other information they feel should be in the public domain in relation to an item on the agenda; such Member statements will be included in the minutes for transparency.

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

5 July 2021

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Interest area
Geoff Priest	Hurley Parish Council
Lisa Hughes	User - Walker
Councillor Maureen Hunt	RBWM
Councillor Julian Sharpe	RBWM
Anne Woodward	User – Horse Rider
Alan Keene	Bisham Parish Council
Steve Gillions	User - Walker
James Copas	User - Walker
Susy Shearer	User - Cyclist
Trisha Mentzel	User – Horse Rider
Mark Howard	User – Walker
Jacqui Wheeler (LAF Secretary)	RBWM
Mark Beeley (Clerk)	RBWM
Shilpa Manek (Meeting Host)	RBWM

OBSERVERS

Councillor Gurpreet Bhangra
Councillor Mandy Brar
Councillor David Coppinger
Councillor Gurch Singh

APOLOGIES

Name

Councillor Phil Haseler

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
5 July 2021
MINUTES

ACTION

1 **Nomination and election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Lisa Hughes nominated Geoff Priest for the position of Chairman, which was seconded by Councillor Hunt.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Geoff Priest was elected as the Chairman of the Local Access Forum for the next two years, until July 2023.

Susy Shearer nominated Lisa Hughes for the position of Vice Chairman, which was seconded by Anne Woodward.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Lisa Hughes was elected as Vice Chairman of the Local Access Forum for the next two years, until July 2023.

2 **Welcome, Apologies and Introductions**

The Chairman, Geoff Priest, welcomed those present to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor Haseler.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **Approval of Minutes - 30th November 2020**

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2020 were approved as a true record, providing the following amendment was made:

- Spelling of 'Driftwood' corrected to 'Thrift Wood'.

5 **St Cloud's Way Development planning consultation**

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the order of agenda items was changed.

Ben Dawson, from Curtins, gave a presentation on the project. He explained that there were three points; the missing links alignment, the removal of the footbridge and the creation of a crossing on the A4. The missing links was part of a wider strategy and there was a requirement to create a missing links route through the site. After consideration on various proposals, it was decided that a clear east to west route would be created. The route would be shared use, with a separate pedestrian route to the south, but would not be open to general traffic. The route would not be straight and this was to ensure that cycling speed was acceptable for the number of pedestrians that would be using the route.

The council suggested looking at an alternative route, which was behind 'Block B' of the development. However, there was a level difference on this route and it would therefore require things like ramps. The route was also not very overlooked which was important from a safety aspect. The council and the

project centre agreed that the route should therefore be in the public realm area through the middle of the development.

Considering the pedestrian route to Maidenhead town centre, a number of improvements had been suggested for the underpass including CCTV, general camera coverage upgrades and the introduction of a domed mirror. The developers had been looking at a crossing on St Clouds Way, which would take advantage of the existing traffic lights outside the Hines Meadow car park. Pictures were shown of what the crossing could look like and also of what the road looked like in its current form. The council had no issues with the removal of the current footbridge. A data survey had been conducted and there was a significant drop in usage since the leisure centre closed. In 2018, around 6,000 people a day were using the bridge, but this had dropped to 193 in 2021. Thames Valley Police had expressed concern about the lack of natural surveillance on the footbridge, especially as the footbridge terminated in the car park.

Councillor Coppinger said that he was pleased to see the progression of this project as he had a number of concerns about the area in its current form. There had been concern about how residents would be able to access the town centre, particularly at night. The underpass improvements looked good and the crossing on St Clouds Way was a positive step towards the future. Councillor Coppinger said that it would also benefit worshippers at the mosque who would have easier access, the crossing would meet the needs of the local community.

Lisa Hughes noted that the route would be shared between cyclists and pedestrians. She asked what the dimensions of the route were and whether entrances to buildings had an impact on this.

Ben Dawson said that the shared route was 3.5m wide at its minimum. The pedestrian only route was 2m wide. Entrances were 1.5m wide and opened inwards so did not impact on the path.

Lisa Hughes said that 94% of the entrances would be accessible, which had been stated on the planning application. She expressed concern about users that would be cycling at a high speed along the route, a shared cycle path should not be hazardous to pedestrians. Lisa Hughes also believed that there had been little consideration given to those with a visual impairment due to the paving surface and the lighting of the route.

Councillor Brar said that she was supportive of the missing links project. She asked how the usage between cyclists and pedestrians would be managed and if there was enough space for all users of the route.

Ben Dawson said that a key concern was the conflict between the users of the route. If the path was straight, it would encourage cyclists to travel at speed. A road safety audit would be undertaken which would highlight conflicts and would investigate if mitigation could be required.

Susy Shearer had noted in the presentation that there would be a 'share with care' sign, which she thought was a useful addition. She suggested that it would be useful to have it displayed at a number of places along the route, along with 'pedestrian only' signage for the other route. Susy Shearer asked how the developers planned to get the message across to all users of the route.

Ben Dawson said that it would be clear where cyclists would go, as the

pedestrian route would be separate and would not be linked to the shared route. Further signage could be introduced if it was needed.

Jacqui Wheeler asked if there were any staggered barriers in the design.

Ben Dawson confirmed that there were no staggered barriers on the route, but there were some bollards.

Councillor Sharpe said that he was concerned for the safety of pedestrians and hoped that barriers would be introduced as a safety measure.

Councillor Singh commented on the junction where the crossing was proposed to be built, it was a busy junction and was on the exit coming out of Sainsburys. He said that there had been traffic issues on the junction in the past. He asked if the road going under the crossing had been considered.

Ben Dawson said that to have the road go under the crossing would require significant infrastructure changes. Discussions were still ongoing with the council on what the crossing would look like.

Councillor Singh asked if the north to south route through the site would be removed. He expressed concern about the route behind Block B not having level access.

Ben Dawson confirmed that the route was still in place, the developers wanted to keep the existing routes open. It was clarified that the route behind Block B was an option that was not being considered, due to the different access levels.

6 Matters arising from the last meeting

Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer, said that discussions were continuing to try and have a joint Local Access Forum (LAF) Chairs meeting with other neighbouring authorities. She asked the Chairman if there had been any progress on recruiting a member from the Berkshire College of Agriculture.

The Chairman said that he had not yet asked because the Forum had not had an in person meeting.

Lisa Hughes said that she had spoken to Elaine Keating, Youth Engagement Officer at Achieving for Children, and who helped to run the Girls Policy Forum. They had expressed an interest in joining the LAF.

The Chairman welcomed this news and said that he was happy to speak to any young person that was interested in joining the Forum.

Jacqui Wheeler said that the next meeting of the Battlemead Common steering group would be on 3rd August 2021.

7 Membership Update

The Chairman welcomed Mark Howard to the meeting, who had recently joined as a member. He said that a member of the British Horse Society might join the Forum soon too.

Susy Shearer said that she hoped there would be another cycling representative who would be interested in joining the LAF.

8 **Milestone Statement/Targets Ongoing Consultation**

Jacqui Wheeler explained that LAF members could feed into the statement at any point over the course of the year. Datchet Parish Council had made a number of comments which had been noted. Jacqui Wheeler showed the Forum some photos of the volunteering which had been taking place.

Steve Gillions commented on Hurley footpath 17 and said that it was very steep and should therefore be given priority. The central section of the Greenway could also be worked on to help people with disabilities and was something that could be fed into the volunteering programme.

Jacqui Wheeler said that work to put in ramps on the sections of the Greenway which had been suggested had now been completed.

Councillor Brar asked if a gate had been installed on Bisham footpath 21.

Jacqui Wheeler said that she would take the question away and get back to Councillor Brar after the meeting.

ACTION – Jacqui Wheeler to see if gate had been installed on footpath 21 and report back to Councillor Brar.

Anne Woodward said that a lot of users ignored footpath signs, for example there was a significant amount of cycling on the River Thames path. She asked how the LAF could help to solve this problem.

The Chairman said that a path near Star Lane had been lost due to the quarry work, which meant cyclists were forced to use other paths.

Mark Howard said that increasing the number of checks or making the path accessible for both pedestrians and cyclists were two options. Making it more accessible for both groups was more practicable.

Susy Shearer agreed with this comment and said that educating cyclists was also important.

Councillor Hunt said that the footpath in Hurley could be reinstated through the site, as had been agreed with the planning permission which had been granted when the right of way was lost.

9 **Thriftwood Horse Riding Permissive Access Route**

Jacqui Wheeler said that the local councillors for the area, Councillor Haseler and Councillor McWilliams, had agreed permissive access for horse riding on the route. Jacqui Wheeler had walked through the route with Jason Mills, who was RBWM Countryside Manager. He was happy with the permissive access which had been outlined. Some areas of the route would be rewilded.

Jason Mills said that he had made a presentation to the LAF in 2017 about the plans. There were two significant areas of woodland on the site. The red route was currently outlined on the map but this may have to be relocated to accommodate wilding. There was hope that a wetlands plan would be implemented at the site, which would be a significant feature. The Cut would be repurposed and then would be allowed to follow its historic channel. Water would then go into the areas that had been marked on the map, making it more manageable.

Jacqui Wheeler said that there was no intention at the moment to change the

existing natural surface to accommodate horse riding. It was important to get the communication and signage right on the route.

Anne Woodward thanked the officers involved for looking at this route, it was a welcome addition. She had recently walked through Bisham Woods and there were blue way markers to show the path, this could also be implemented at Thriftwood.

10 All Subgroup Meeting 16th June 2021: Action Plan

The Chairman said that the sub group had met to identify paths that needed to be upgraded and allow more user groups to access them. Discussions at the group had also included how to involve more people in the process.

Steve Gillions said that everyone on the working group was keen to make it happen and improve safety for all users. There was a focus on areas where an agreement could be reached.

Susy Shearer said that Willows Path connecting to Dedworth Road was a very important path in the area as it connected the north and south. She looked forward to progressing this.

Jacqui Wheeler suggested that Friday evenings from 6pm or 6.30pm would be suitable for a future meeting at the Braywick Nature Centre, she asked members to let her know what would be best.

Councillor Sharpe expressed concern about representation across the borough. He asked what projects had been undertaken in the south of the borough. It should be a Forum for the whole borough.

Steve Gillions said that he was happy to consider any suggestions. The Chairman said that all areas of the borough were considered.

Councillor Singh said that there was a lot of knowledge in the LAF and it was good to take the views of the Forum into consideration when considering future planning applications.

The Chairman said that the Forum had been part of the draft local plan and had created a working group. The Forum was able to submit its views and be part of the plan. The Chairman explained that the Forum did not receive much at the pre-planning stage but they would be interested in considering more going forward.

Susy Shearer said that the cycling action group wanted to join up the whole borough and they welcomed new ideas.

Steve Gillions left the meeting.

11 Horizon Scanning - LCWIP Consultation, Corporate Plan, Planning Consultations with LAF

Jacqui Wheeler said that dates of upcoming consultations had been included so that LAF members were aware. The RBWM Corporate Plan will be forwarded to the Chairman and Vice Chairman in the first instance to decide how the Forum should respond. The vulnerable road user consultation would be taking place in August/September 2021. There was also discussion about what to do regarding how the LAF is consulted on planning applications. Jacqui Wheeler had sent Sian Saadeh in the RBWM Planning team the LAF position statement to see what her opinion was on the report. There were a couple of

other sites that were being planned and the LAF could have a look at these in future meetings.

The Chairman said that the corporate plan was also about housing development and the amount of affordable housing and it was important to consider resources for new housing.

Anne Woodward said that the vulnerable road users consultation did not include horse riders.

Susy Shearer said that the cycling and walking infrastructure plan was starting to emerge.

Lisa Hughes asked councillors what they had seen of the vulnerable users consultation.

Councillor Hunt said that it was important that the council took on board where vulnerable users needed to get to and adapt accordingly.

Councillor Sharpe said that he not been involved with the consultation. Councillor Sharpe had noted that on the RBWM petitions website there was a petition to ensure full and proper access to all footpaths across the borough. Some footpaths were in a bad condition and it was important that officers were aware so that they could be improved.

Jacqui Wheeler asked if anyone had any details of footpaths which needed to be looked at to email the Public Rights of Way team on PROW@rbwm.gov.uk.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Members of the Forum noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 2nd December 2021.

The meeting, which started at 6.15 pm, ended at 8.10 pm.

This page is intentionally left blank

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 2nd DECEMBER 2021

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Local Access Forum about the progress made on actions and issues arising from the Forum meeting held on 5th July 2021.

Key:

Completed items

In progress

Incomplete

Action owners:

GP	Geoff Priest (Chair)	AH	Anthony Hurst (Parks and Countryside Team Leader)
SW	Sharon Wootten (Public Rights of Way Officer)	JW	Jacqui Wheeler (Secretary of the LAF)
LH	Lisa Hughes (Vice Chair)	MB	Mark Beeley (Democratic Svcs)

Agenda Item 1(d): Matters Arising

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
6.1	Next 2020 Joint LAF Chairs meeting proposed by Graham Pockett Parks and Countryside Development Manager of Bracknell Forest Council Hampshire CAF and Surrey CAF are both interested in attending a new meeting	GP/JW	Bracknell and Surrey have responded. There is enthusiasm for re-starting the LAF Chair meetings at Bracknell who have suggested using Zoom. JW to continue liaising to facilitate a meeting in the new year. No further news on this but need a renewed effort to arrange.
6.2	BCA had been identified as an organisation from which younger LAF members might be recruited.	GP/JW	GP has spoken with BCA – membership Item 2
6.3	Contact Youth Engagement Officer at Achieving for Children to recruit younger LAF member	GP/LH	GP/LH to update under membership item 2
6.4	Battlemead Common Update	JW/AH	It was approved at Full Cabinet on 30 th Sept that the Causeway path would be open from April 2022 after screen planting and fencing in autumn/winter 2021. New wetlands creation in East Field would be taken forward.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 02 December 2021
AGENDA ITEM 1(d)

Agenda Item 8: Ongoing Milestones Statement/ Targets Consultation

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
8.1	Ongoing consultation for Milestone Statement and Targets	JW/AH	See summary report in papers following.

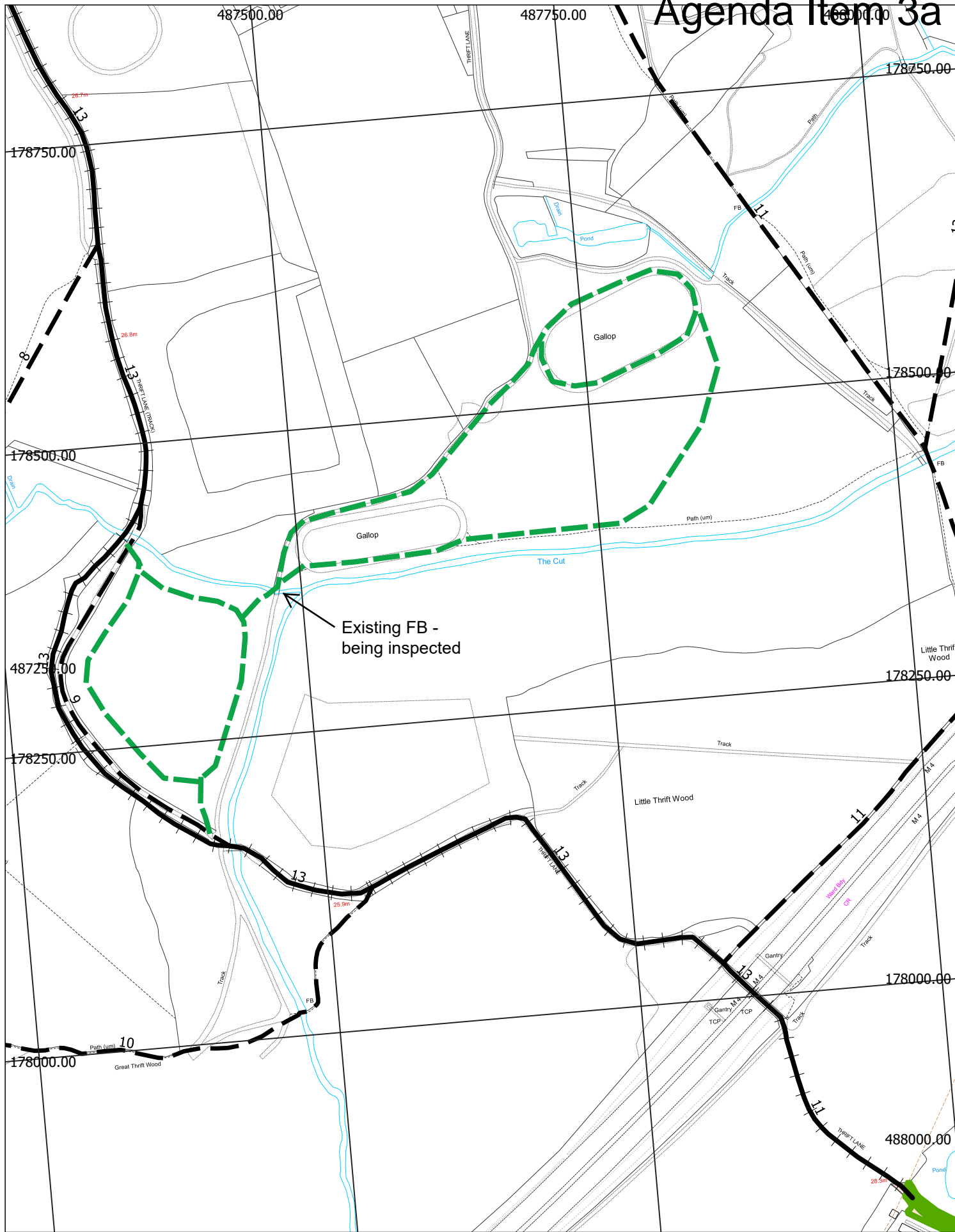
Public Rights of Way Milestones 2021-22: monthly summary (running total)

		Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 31 st 2022
2020-21 Achieved	Target 2021-22												
98%	95% easy to use	-	-	89%	-	-	-	-	-				
10	10 major surface or clearance jobs	-	3	5	5	5	6	6	7				
8	7 bridge repairs or replacements	-	3	5	5	5	8	8	9				
0	1 new Parish leaflet	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	1				
1	1 new prom. info. (assist others)	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
1	1 new path created	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1				
10	10 access improvements	-	1	4	4	4	5	6	8				

Public Rights of Way Milestones Targets 2021-22	
UPDATED: 15/11/21	
WELL MAINTAINED	
WM1 <i>To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public (former Best Value Performance Indicator 178). Target for 2019-20: 95%</i>	<i>[note surveys undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers]</i> Spring survey result: 89.2%
WM2 <i>To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)</i>	
Hurley FP57	Surface repairs
Hodge Lane	Pothole repairs
Cookham FP55	Removal of old metal fencing from path
Bray FP61	Removal of trip hazards
Hurley RB 57	Surface improvements
Maid FP 16 (TCV)	Surface improvements
Maid FP9 Thames Path	Surface improvements
	Total: 7
WM3 <i>To repair or replace 7 bridges.</i>	
Margaret's Bridge	Bridge repairs
WALT FP31	Bridge repairs
Datchet FP9	Bridge repairs
Waltham St Lawrence RB 30 – Pool Lane	Bridge repairs
Cookham FP48	Repairs to decking
Bray FP72	Bridge repairs
Bray FP57	Bridge replacement
Waltham St Lawrence FP 38	Bridge repairs
Bray FP16	Bridge replacement
	Total: 9
WELL PUBLICISED	
WP1 <i>To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet</i>	Total: 1
Wraysbury leaflet	

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 02 December 2021
AGENDA ITEM 1(d)

WP2 <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.</i>	Total: 1
Eton Town Council – Walk leaflet	
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
<i>Possible horse-riding access at Thriftwood extension</i>	
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>	
Bisham FP21	Safety signage
Maidenhead FP6	Bridge repair access improvement
Bray FP72	Bridge repair access improvement
Maidenhead FP48 & the Greenway (crossing into North Town Moor)	Ramps at both ends of bridge and cobbles
Datchet FP10	Repair of the sleeper steps
The Green Way through Braywick Nature Reserve (TCV) links to and from Maid FP80	Repair steps and handrails
Hurley FP17	Repair handrail & steps
Waltham St Lawrence FP34	Bridge replacement
	Total: 8



Public Rights of Way
Drawn by: Jacqui Wheeler

Stage 1 - draft permissive bridleway route north of the Cut at Thriftwood extension/Ockwells

Date: 04/11/2021
Scale: 1:4000

THRIFTWOOD EXTENSION AT OCKWELLS PARK FOR PERMISSIVE BRIDLEWAY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the forum on investigations into an alternative route for permissive bridleway at Thriftwood.

2. PHOTOS TAKEN DURING INSPECTION ON 8th NOVEMBER 2021





This page is intentionally left blank

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

RBWM Local Access Forum

The RBWM Local Access Forum, a statutory body set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to seek consensus across its membership of different user types, land management and disability access to provide advice to organisations in this area about improvements for “active travel” (walking, cycling and horse riding ie; non-motorised modes).

Active Travel Consultation submission:

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum (LAF) supports the need for RBWM to produce a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Representing all the vulnerable road user groups, ie. pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and horse-carriage drivers, the LAF considers that the LCWIP must clearly state the intention that equestrian needs are included in the network planning process. (Ref: LCWIP Technical Guidance for LAs 2017)

The LAF considers that the LCWIP needs to include the principle of “inclusive access” as a core foundation stone so that any new schemes take into account the needs of people with disabilities/mobility issues.

Furthermore, the LAF feels that continual engagement with local user groups like the Windsor & Maidenhead Cycling Action Group and LAF itself along with Parish Councils and Town Forums in non-parished areas is essential to gain the local knowledge and passion required to achieve successful schemes. Rather than simply being a shopping list of ready-made schemes, the view is that these need to be backed up with underlying accessibility principles and standards suitable for all localities across the Borough.

The LAF would like to see schemes brought forward within the LCWIP for each parish as well as the unparished areas in the borough identifying missing links (to improve connectivity and cohesion in existing and new infrastructure) and creating new safer multi-use routes where possible; also working to educate all road users through campaigns aimed at both vulnerable road users to “**Share the Space**” and equally at drivers that they need to “Share the Space” too and **SLOW DOWN**. The LAF advocates that a general speed limit reduction policy is required on Quiet Lanes and at junctions and crossing points where this would be favourable to vulnerable road users.

The existing off-road network (Public rights of way / NCN / public open space / green routes) has so much potential for traffic-free multi-use routes as The Green Way which also links to the National Cycle Network and the Jubilee River from Maidenhead to Eton via Eton Wick and Dorney attest. This potential needs to be recognised, improvements explored within the LCWIP and connections made with the List of site-specific projects in the Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026.

<p>The RBWM Local Access Forum formally requests to be directly engaged, along with the Windsor & Maidenhead Cycling Action Group and Disability & Inclusion Forum, in helping draft the LCWIP.</p>
--

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

LAF Working Groups –

Current working groups within the LAF membership are looking at the following themes: Multi-user routes, Accessibility, and Cycling through liaison with the Windsor & Maidenhead Cycling Action Group (incl Ascot and the Sunnings). The working groups have come together for two workshops this year in June and Sept to find common ground and identify proposals – as listed below in Appendix 1.

Accessibility Working Group (AWG)

This group was set up to advise on the accessibility (for people with disabilities) of popular walking routes and those with high amenity value within the borough. Recommendations from this working group were officially included within the objectives of the Milestone Statement and Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2020-21.

See **Appendix 2** for their submission to this Active Travel Consultation.

Multi-User Routes Working Group (Equestrian)

Over the last year and a half, the Multi-User (Equestrian) working group has been assessing the network across the borough to highlight the lack of safe horse-riding provision and suggest improvements.

Jesse Norman MP, Parliamentary Under –Secretary of State for Transport in House of Commons debate on Road Safety, 5 November 2018: stated: - **“We should be clear that the cycling and walking strategy may have that name but is absolutely targeted at vulnerable road users, including horse-riders.....** Horse riders are vulnerable road users—there is no doubt about that, and there never has been—and they have been included in the work we are doing. “

Unless horse riders/carriage drivers are specifically mentioned, then there is high risk of new routes being created on the fringes of urban areas, that do not include horse riding/carriage driving access. This opportunity should be taken to incorporate all vulnerable road users, not just walkers and cyclists. Existing bridleways can be multi-user routes and with some forethought to the design, there can be space and surfacing suitable or all. Existing highway verges need to be explored as potential horse margins sitting alongside shared use cycleways or creating a whole new multi-user route.

See **Appendix 3** for Reports from the Multi-User Routes Working Group which include improvements for walking, cycling and horse-riding routes across the borough.

Common themes identified between working groups

Purpose.

Optimise the walking and cycling network for all users, including those with different ability levels and to make some initial practical suggestions to upgrade to,

- A multiuser route
- Cyclist to equine use
- Walker to Cyclist use
- Improve walker and cycling access for users with disabilities.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

Principles

- The current network is comprehensive, but we should look to cover active management and development as well as maintenance. Targets for improvement should focus on:
- Safety issues, especially those caused by increased traffic volumes and speeds
- Linking/completing networks
- Joint use where appropriate and practicable, eg width, path surface and camber, signage, safety, seasonal impact on natural surfaces
- New/rerouted paths and connectivity arising from development
- Encourage engagement with Neighbouring boroughs to establish cross boundary routes

Issues

- Different user groups need to understand each other's issues and priorities and agree where we can most productively work together.
- Some improvements could be made outside of the PROW network e.g., better use of the highways margin.
- Tensions between potentially conflicting issues will need to be settled e.g. pedestrian and cycling access vs protecting wildlife and the environment
- Not everything will be possible at once: priorities will need to be agreed
- We need to avoid the risk of focussing on piecemeal individual improvements whilst not addressing longer term/underlying issues e.g., path specification.
- Other organisations e.g., Maidenhead Civic Society, other civic and neighbourhood plan groups, will have views.

APPENDIX 1 - Active Travel Consultation

Suggestions for Infrastructure Improvements for the LCWIP

- The promoted Bridleway circuits at Knowl Hill and Cookham provide useful multi-use provision but have been highlighted as needing review for safety reasons.
- Horse riding access on Ockwell's Park extension - Little Thriftwood (currently under consideration by RBWM Parks & Countryside Team)
- Ruscombe and Waltham St Lawrence cross boundary bridleway proposal – upgrade Walt FP9 to bridleway and work with Wokingham Borough Council to create safer multi-use route
- Windsor Bridleway 4 (The Willows Path) Dedworth Road to Ruddles Way – existing Bridleway a key N/S shared-use path: create E/W multi-use paths/routes linking to new development (AL21); safer crossings at Dedworth Rd, Maidenhead Rd, A308
- Ashley Hill Forest – potential for permissive multi-user route
- Cookham Cycleway Project – proposal to create circular cycleway around Cookham linking to school and local amenities.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

- Long Lane – reduce speed limit as narrow lane to improve safety for walkers, cyclists and horse riders – investigate possible additional width.
- Terry’s Lane – reduce speed limit to improve safety for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.
- Switchback Road North – suggested horse margin within highway verge adjacent to existing shared use cycleway – providing a safe off-road route between Cookham and Maidenhead.
- Improve safe links between Windsor Great Park (Blacknest Gate) and Chobham Common
- A308 Windsor Road from Monkey Island Lane to Ruddles Way roundabout – reduce speed limit / widen footway (shared use foot and cycle path).
- Green Way Corridor - create off-road riding routes on the land owned by Summerleaze
- Drift Road – reduce speed limit and provide horse margin to link bridleways and provide connections to the multi-user routes south towards the Binfield Bridleway circuit
- Bisham FP23 upgrade to multi-user route to allow safer horse-riding access to Maidenhead Thicket from BCA area.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

APPENDIX 2 - Active Travel Consultation

Submission from the Local Access Forum Accessibility Working Group

1. Background

1.1. The LAF Accessibility Working Group was established to produce recommendations aimed at improving access to and usage of the Royal Borough's Public Rights of Way network by people with disabilities. Our overall objective is to 'level up' accessibility. This *Walks for All* initiative, which is ongoing, involves

- producing generic and specific recommendations for the improvement of footpaths and access to them
- suggesting how footpath design standards and practice could be improved to increase accessibility
- surveying sections of the PROW network to identify those areas particularly suited to people with disabilities

Our intention is to design hard copy and on-line maps and publicity material to publicise accessible paths and encourage their use.

1.2. Our approach was to identify a small number of areas that we considered to have high potential for use by all. Each area had to be based on an accessible hub of parking and public transport and to contain a network of PROW's on which we could develop a range of walks to suit various levels of ability. Each area was to be surveyed to assess its potential. Any simple improvements that would improve access such as better path surfaces; surface levelling; improved seating were reported to the Royal Borough for action. We then prepared walk descriptions and sketch maps giving information of particular relevance to disabled users, such as parking facilities; public transport connections; seating and rest areas; toilet facilities; refreshment facilities.

1.3. The locations we are working on are

- Battlemead Common
- The Green Way
- Boulter's Lock and Ray Mill Island
- Cockmarsh
- Ockwells Park

The first three have been surveyed and draft maps produced.

2. Overall approach

2.1. We feel it fundamental to any programme for cycling and walking infrastructure improvement that it does not inadvertently exclude people on grounds of their ability. We also feel that the maximum benefit needs to be obtained from what is already in place and which has the potential to dramatically improve participation levels at relatively low cost.

2.2. We feel that a policy-led approach to developing a forward plan for improvement

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: prow@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

and enhancement to the PROW network, comprising as it does footpaths, bridleways and byways, will result in better use of resources; improved access for a wide range of users; and improved resilience within the network itself. Piecemeal projects alone will not be sufficient.

2.3. We understand that the Active Travel initiative is intended to contain improvements over the next ten years, covering the short, medium and long term. We believe that any successful and effective programme, if it is to be owned by those who respond to the consultation, needs to be based on a sound and transparent process that has regular and meaningful input from the public and end users.

3. Proposals

3.1. Since our interest is confined to the existing PROW network and any additional PROWs that may be added (although we expect these to be relatively few) do not seek significant capital funding but rather a number of annual ring-fenced budgets. We recommend that

- More locations are added to our existing schedule (Local Access Forum members to action in conjunction with the Disability & Inclusion Forum, special interest groups and ward councillors)
- That all PROWs be surveyed to assess the potential for minor works and improvements that would improve access by those with disabilities (extension of existing twice yearly path surveys)
- An annual programme of PROW improvements aimed specifically at disabled users should be introduced (ring fenced budget)
- That all new statutory and permissive rights of way (footways, footpaths, byways, bridleways and cycle tracks with a right of way on foot) should be required to allow inclusive access (include in scheme costing)
- That funding for appropriate surfacing and ‘user separation’ be identified before any proposals for shared paths are implemented
- That paper and on line maps for *Walks for All* as noted in 1.1 be commissioned and produced (ring fenced/project budget)

3.2. Discussions have already been held with the PROW team about footpath design and surface standards. These should be formally adopted.

3.3. Initiatives such as Active Travel tend to be iterative in nature, with suggestions from one area leading to further suggestions in others. The consultation document appears to be silent on the issue of further consultation. We would want assurance that there will be ongoing consultation and dialogue before any plans are finalised, with stakeholders and others having the opportunity to comment, add further input and contribute to the desired outcomes and their measurement.

Steve Gillions, Lisa Hughes

Local Access Forum Accessibility Working Group

September 2021

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

APPENDIX 3 - Active Travel Consultation Multi-Use (Equestrian) Working Group March report presented at LAF June 2020

Key Findings

Motor vehicles presented the highest safety related issues on-road, with respondents reporting worsening of behaviour over last 24 months.
Riding off-road dog attacks and owners/walkers were the biggest hazard, with dogs often not under full control.
Most incidents go unreported.
Increases in urbanisation and the related traffic, means that the Cookham and Knowl Hill routes are no longer the safe haven for equestrians that they were intended to be. The same goes for on-road linkages to bridleways across the Borough.
Only 22% of PROW in the Borough are accessible for equestrians.
Equestrians do not use roads by choice, they would prefer local safe off-road riding.
Transporting horses to off-road facilities that offer permits, such as Windsor Great Park and BCA, or further afield to more rural locations, is not possible for 35% who do not have transport and not feasible, in terms of time and effort to do so on a regular basis, for the remaining 65%.

Recommendations

Education programme for vehicles, cyclists, dog owners and riders, so that how we can harmoniously share multi-use access. This could include signage in known hotspots. Licencing or accreditation of commercial dog walkers, to encourage greater responsibility around horses.

Continue to work with RBWM PROW to investigate improvements to Cookham and Knowl Hill circuits to increase both safety and usage by creating additional multi-use paths, linkages, off-road riding access e.g. Ashley Hill Forest, provision of parking and safe road crossings.

Invite more volunteers for sub-group to fully investigate safety improvements in all areas of the Borough, particularly for Windsor and Ascot.

Review speed limits and improve signage in Cookham and Cookham Dean, Lee Lane, Burchett's Green Lane, Warren Row Road, Terry's Lane, Mileys Road, Twyford Road. Consideration could also be given to the 'Quiet Lane' initiative by CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England).

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

Identify which highway verges, cycleways, open spaces owned by RBWM which could be opened to multi-use, in order to separate horses from motor traffic.

Planning and developments in the Borough to consider impact on horse routes and incorporate multi-use access, rather than cycling only.

Create a dialogue with local landowners regarding the potential subsidies available through the new Agriculture Bill, as a conduit to opening up access to field headlands and upgrading footpaths/cycleways to multi-use, in order to create safe linkages and additional off-road routes.

Educate local riders to report maintenance issues to RBWM PROW

As a follow up to the June LAF, the group have now created additional reports to cover more areas of the Borough.

The objective is to raise the awareness of the safety issues faced by equestrians and how, in an ideal world, these risks could be reduced. There are some suggestions, within the control of RBWM e.g. highway margins, access to council owned land, speed limits, traffic safety measures. However, the majority require the support of landowners to upgrade existing footpaths to bridleways, or access to field margins, by potentially accessing grants available under the Agriculture Bill, to open land for wider leisure use. Landowners, so far, have not shown a great willingness to do so, but for the betterment of the community as a whole, their co-operation is sought.

Supplementary reports;

1. Cookham
2. Fifield and Holyport
3. Knowl Hill, Walthams & Maidenhead Thicket
4. Ascot

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

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

Secretariat: Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1RF

Email: pro@rbwm.gov.uk

Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

To: Tim Golabek – RBWM Service Lead, Transport and Infrastructure
Councillor Gerry Clark – RBWM Lead Member, Transport and Infrastructure

Active Travel Consultation and development of an LCWIP for the RBWM

The RBWM Local Access Forum has joined with the Windsor & Maidenhead Cycling Action Group in writing this letter as we feel very strongly that the engagement process for the development of the LCWIP needs to be extended to involve local representative stakeholders in reviewing, refining and helping finalise the draft document.

Such inclusive participation was a key element in developing the RBWM Cycling Action Plan 2018-28 and on which a number of fundamental aspects of the LCWIP will be based. A small Task & Finish Group made up of local resident and Councillor members of the RBWM Cycle Forum was set up at the request of the Council specifically to review the CAP. This enabled nuanced insights and crucial information to be included and ensure the integrity of this policy document prior to its going through requisite overview & scrutiny and Cabinet Adoption.

As the Chairs of these two organisations, we would like assurance from you that there will be further formal opportunities, such as a task and finish process involving our members, prior to the LCWIP being finalised.

It has become clear during the process of meeting and discussing the Active Travel / LCWIP consultation over the summer and early autumn that the Council will miss a very significant opportunity to access specific local knowledge and expertise available in the Borough without further participation of local user group members and statutory bodies such as the Local Access Forum, Cycling Action Group and Disability & Inclusion Forum in the critical latter stages of drafting the LCWIP.

Engagement opportunities with Councillors and residents so far have been very valuable, but this should not be the end of the story. Enabling direct involvement of a small group of key stakeholders including user group representatives and Councillors through a “task and finish” process had been previously shown to be invaluable in completing a comparable policy document. This kind of contribution will be equally vital to ensure the LCWIP has been developed as robustly as possible, is genuinely reflective of local conditions and needs, and has the support of stakeholders engaging with these matters over a significant period of time.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Priest,
Chair, RBWM Local Access Forum

Derek Wilson,
Chair, Windsor & Maidenhead Cycling Action Group

1st October 2021

UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH THE RBWM LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the forum on progress with the RBWM Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Transport and Infrastructure team received nearly 1000 replies to the Active Travel/LCWIP engagement, and they have given the following update to the Forum.

The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is currently being written. We have reviewed all the comments and suggestions made by stakeholders and along with data from yourselves, the previous Cycling Action Plan and the Propensity to Cycle Tool. We have developed key walking routes and key cycling routes which will inform investment in the future. In addition to this we have gathered further data sources on collisions, deliverability of routes, proximity to development sites, current severance of communities to assess and create a prioritisation table for the Council to deliver.

In terms of the Local Access Forum comments, we have acknowledged these and many of these are included within the Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan. Due to prioritisation process you will see some differences for each route in terms of delivery timescales. It is also worth noting, that to obtain funding from Central Government proposals will need to meet Local Transport Note 1/20 requirements for cycling. These are very ambitious requirements, and it could further mean that once more detailed investigation occurs tweaks could have to be made to alignments or designs.

Kind regards

Tim

Tim Golabek
Service Lead – Transport and Infrastructure

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2020 – 2021



Activities of the forum

Milestones Statement, and targets for the coming year

The forum was consulted on the Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Report 2021-22 and recommended that the targets and priorities are retained for the coming year. However, the Forum requested that there is more two-way communication throughout the year on progress towards these targets and the opportunity for members to feed into these with further suggestions.

Working Groups Together

The RBWM Local Access Forum successfully set up a working group at the end of 2019 to look at improving equestrian access through raising awareness of the issues and via identifying opportunities for new multi-user provision. This group and the existing Accessibility Working group along with new members representing cycling via the Windsor and Maidenhead Cycling Action Group have begun working together to find ways to influence the Council's Transport team's production of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to benefit **all** vulnerable road user groups.

The Multi-User Working Group have produced several reports based on data gathering amongst local livery stables highlighting problems faced by horse riders as vulnerable road users and have been working at identifying deliverable improvements as well as aspirational ones.

Links have been made and new members recruited to the Forum from the local Cycling Group during 2021. The Accessibility Working Group has continued to run access audits on its prioritized Access for All walks with the aim to tackle problems encountered and drive for sustained efforts across the board to improve standards.

Partnership working for Battlemead Common – Public Open Space and Wildlife Conservation

As a member of the Friends of Battlemead Common Group the forum was well placed to advocate for access and accessibility to help the Friends work towards a balance between the needs of public access and those of wildlife conservation. Over the last year and a half the Forum has received continuous reports on this subject, helping the Friends Group move forward towards a compromise with a final decision now being reached on managing the site for all.

Multi-user routes and Horse-Riding improvements

Set up in November 2019 this subgroup has gathered momentum throughout 2020 -21 building on its first report with multiple investigations into new provision and suggestions for improvements to the network that could be a help to all vulnerable road users. One such project being taken forward is for a permissive bridleway at a council owned countryside park at Cox Green, Maidenhead. It is hoped this will act as good practice to encourage other local landowners to allow equestrian access onto their land.

Volunteer Works

After a period of inactivity during the pandemic and required social distancing, volunteer works have begun again in earnest during the early part of 2021. A report taken to the Forum on 5th July 2021 detailed completed and planned tasks for 2021 including major vegetation clearance, reed pulling, step construction and waymarking to name but a few. These tasks are increasingly valuable to provide help in sustaining and improving our local rights of way network as well as local parks which performed such a vital function during the pandemic helping people's health and wellbeing. The Forum continues to receive reports and support all volunteer activities.

Recruitment and Promotion

Unfortunately, three members resigned during the last year and a half, two as a direct consequence of the pandemic, however two new members have also joined, one representing cycling and the other as a liaison with one parish council. The Forum recognises that there is a need to maintain the balance of interests and is keen to recruit cycling members and those representing land management/ownership. The Forum remains committed to encouraging younger members to be involved and though delayed due to Covid, is in contact with the local college of agriculture to bring this about.

Links with other local, regional and national groups

Though enthusiasm is still present to restart the joint chairs meetings in the region and to expand it to include other areas LAF's such as Surrey, a date to meet has not yet been agreed. The Forum feels this is an important objective for the coming year to foster information sharing, solidarity, bench marking and partnership working on cross boundary and shared issues. The pandemic, reductions in authority resources and officer time under pressure remain challenges.

Other issues that the forum has discussed during 2020-2021:

- Volunteer works
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Emerging Local Plan
- Building relationship with the Cycling Action Group

Looking forward

Re-starting the joint chairs meeting to develop dialogue between LAF's in the region
Accessibility Working Group – recommendations to be taken forward

Horse riding and multi –user provision working group in conjunction with Cycling Group
Promotion to and encouragement of younger membership/involvement.

Meetings of the Forum

The Local Access Forum meetings for 2020 - 2021 were as follows:

Formal meetings: 30th June 2020
 30th November 2020
 5th July 2021 (NB: this meeting falls outside the scope of this report)

Membership of the Forum

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

Name	Representing	Other interests
Geoff Priest (Chair)	Open countryside, access for younger users	Hurley Parish Council
Lisa Hughes (vice chair)	Disability access	Disability & Inclusion Forum
Cllr. Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor	Chair of Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel
Cllr. Phil Haseler	RBWM Councillor	n/a
Cllr Julian Sharpe	RBWM Councillor	n/a
James Copas	Land and estate management	n/a
Steve Gillions	Walking	East Berks Ramblers
Mark Howard	Walking	Cookham Parish
Alan Keene	Land and estate management	Bisham Parish Council, countryside, rights of way, farming and land management,
Trisha Mentzel	Horse riding	Wildlife
Lynn Penfold	Wildlife Conservation	Access to the Countryside
Susy Shearer	Cycling and walking	Green Infrastructure and Open Spaces
Anne Woodward	Horse riding	Road safety for vulnerable users

Finances

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

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

How to get involved

For more information about the Local Access Forum and how you can get involved, visit the Local Access Forum web pages at [Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead \(rbwm.gov.uk\)](https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/local-access-forums), or contact Jacqui Wheeler, Parks & Countryside Access Officer on (01628) 796289 or email jacqui.wheeler@rbwm.gov.uk or prow@rbwm.gov.uk

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2020 to March 2021

Name of LAF	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Name of LAF Chair	Geoff Priest (from 11.06.2018)
Name of LAF Secretary	Jacqui Wheeler (from 18.02.19)

Total number of LAF members	13
Number of members representing users of public rights of way or access land	6
Number of members representing owners and occupiers of access land or land over which PROW subsist	3
Number of members representing other interests	4

1. LAF achievements? (Please give examples to illustrate how your LAF has improved public access to land for the purpose of open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area)

The RBWM Local Access Forum successfully set up a working group to look at improving equestrian access through raising awareness of the issues and via identifying opportunities for new multi-user provision. This group and the Accessibility Working group along with new members representing cycling via the Windsor and Maidenhead Cycling Action Group have begun working together to find ways to influence the Council's Transport team's production of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan to benefit all vulnerable road user groups. The Multi-User Working Group have produced several reports based on data gathering amongst local livery stables highlighting problems faced by horse riders as vulnerable road users and have been working at identifying deliverable improvements as well as aspirational ones.

Links have been made and new members recruited to the Forum from the local Cycling Group. The Accessibility Working Group has continued to run access audits on its prioritized Access for All walks with the aim to tackle problems encountered and drive for sustained efforts across the board to improve standards.

The LAF became engaged in a steering group for a major new public open space, known as Battlemead Common which has highlighted the discourse between public access and wildlife conservation and forced compromise on both sides to enable a balance to be achieved.

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2020 to March 2021

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

Same as last year - Reduced resources in terms of officer time/ workload/ budget/ Council support.

Same as last year - No clear guidance or support from Defra or Natural England.

Pushing the access agenda within the need for sustainability.

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

Creating online Walks For All leaflets

Better provision for horse riders in conjunction with multi-user provision

Building communication links with parishes and communications within different team of the appointing authority

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

We would seek improved lines of communication from Natural England, Defra and the DfT for national and regional consultations.

LAF activity in 2020/21

Number of full LAF meetings held	2	Number of sub-group meetings held	2
Number of working groups led by others	0	Number of training days provided by the Appointing Authority	0

Partners the LAF worked with during 2020/21 (click on a box or type 'x')

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

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

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2020 to March 2021

	Consultations	Advice
Green Infrastructure strategies	-	-
Public Space Protection Orders (including gating orders)	-	-
Transport (LTP, traffic management, rail, DfT, Highways Agency)	-	1
Water / Coast (slipways, flood defence, EA, shoreline)	-	-
Public open space (protection orders, commons, village greens)	-	-
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	-	1
Planning applications	-	1
Housing development schemes	-	-
Local development frameworks and planning strategies	-	1
PROW creation, diversion or closure - number of each	2	1
Right of Way Improvement Plan review	-	-
Route improvements (to PROW and other multi-user/cycling/horse-riding/walking routes)	-	5
Promotion of access, open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area	1	1
Definitive map and recording PROW	-	-
Parish Council or other grant schemes	-	-
Disabled access / access for people with mobility issues?	-	1
Vehicular access and issues relating to motorised use of PROW	-	-
Nature conservation (including SSSIs)	-	-
Land use and planning matters (e.g. informal advice on land development)	1	1
Greenspace including Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves	1	1
Open Access land restrictions	-	-
Coastal Access/National Trails	-	-
NNR dedication	-	-

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2020 to March 2021

Agri-environment scheme issues (HLS and new Countryside Stewardship) e.g. expiring permissive access agreements, effects of land management options on public access etc.	-	1
Forestry and woodland	-	1

Any other LAF activity (please specify)

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

The Forestry Commission advised they would be unable to upgrade paths within Ashley Hill Forest to formalize equestrian access despite best efforts of the LAF and letter from the local MP.

6. Please provide any comments from your Appointing Authority

The LAF has managed to maintain a high level of input towards its aims and has responded to consultations via the Fast Response Team despite the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, only one meeting was rescheduled and members have embraced the virtual meetings format.

7. Comments from LAF Chair

The support and guidance of the RBWM Parks and Countryside Access officer and colleagues to myself and the LAF has been excellent during the trying times of the pandemic, this with limited resources. The members of the three working groups continued to give freely of their time and produced excellent reports identifying suggested areas of improvement for the Boroughs consideration. All the LAF members embraced the virtual meeting format with some lively input by members and external presentations by council officers and their consultant's. I fully support the need for better communication with DEFRA, Natural England and DfT.

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

Local Access Forum Annual Review Form

April 2020 to March 2021

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

These are already stated in the preceding items.

9. Any other comments

-

This page is intentionally left blank

DIVERSION APPLICATION COOKHAM FP17 – UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the forum on the application received to divert Cookham FP17 and FP59 and the next steps.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel met on 18th October 2021 and decided to go ahead with making Diversion Orders for Cookham 17 and 59 contrary to the recommendation to refuse the application. The panel report and minutes of the meeting can be viewed here:

[Minutes details on public web site](#)

The next stage in the process will be that Diversion Orders will be drafted and a statutory consultation undertaken which will include installation of Notices on site at each end of the sections of footpath proposed to be diverted, and a Notice will also be published in the Maidenhead Advertiser.

Once the Diversion Orders have been published and the statutory consultation completed, a further report will then need to be submitted to the Rights of Way & Highways Licensing Panel, for them to consider any objections/representations received in response to the statutory consultation. The Panel will then need to decide whether to refer the Orders to the Secretary of State, who will then arrange a public inquiry to determine whether the Orders are confirmed. The Council will be unable to confirm the Orders itself if there are any objections received during the statutory consultation period.

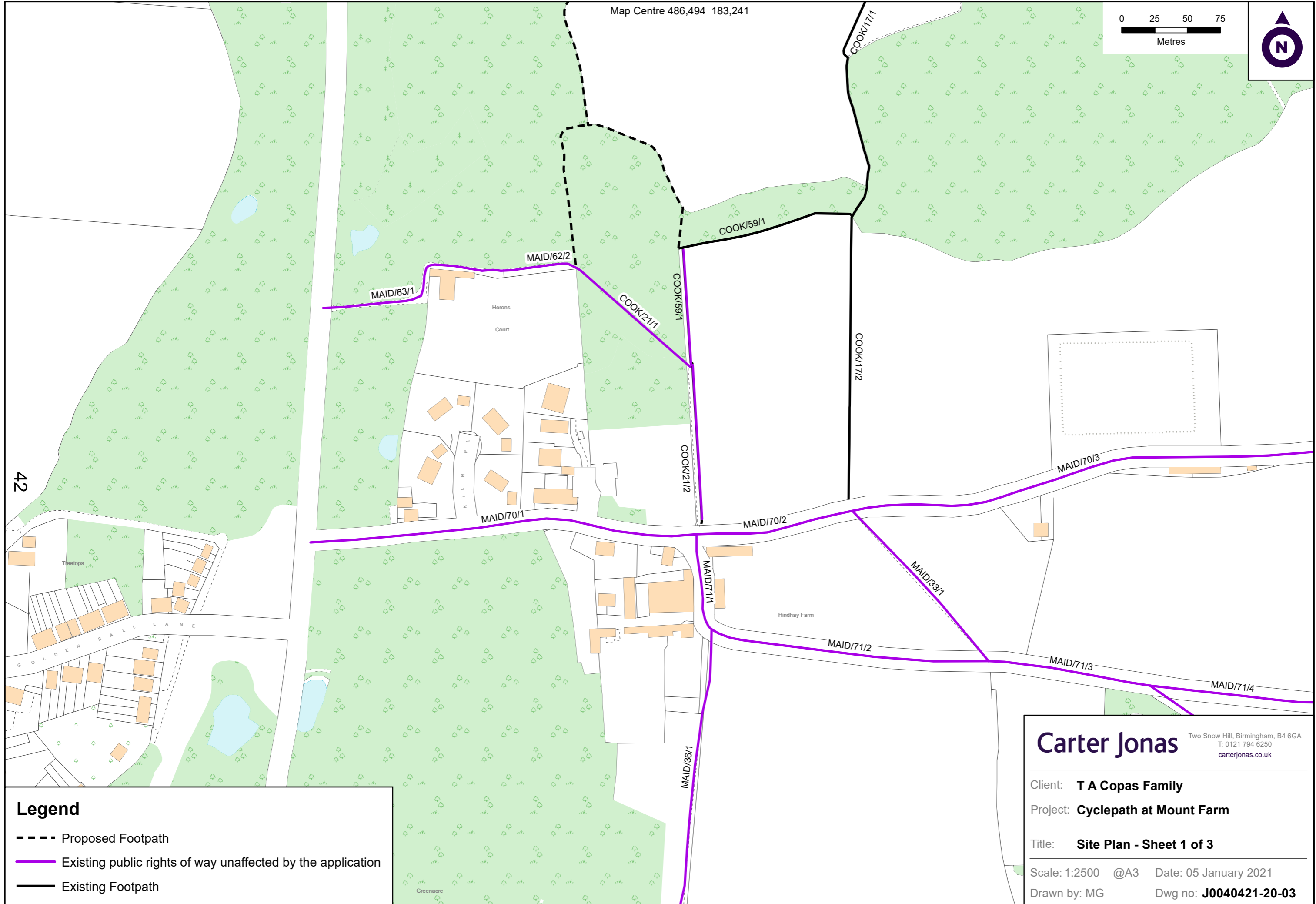
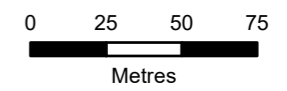
All those respondents who submitted comments to the pre-order consultations have been advised of the decision to go ahead with making a Diversion Order, which will be subject to public consultation, and that they will have an opportunity to either re-submit their comments unchanged or add further comments if they wish once the formal Diversion Order consultation is published.

The Local Access Forum submitted comments to the pre-order making consultation and there will be a further opportunity to discuss afresh and make further comments.

Copies of the Diversion Orders and the consultation Notices will be sent out in due course and is currently expected to be sometime during January 2022.

Maps showing the Diversion proposal are included for ease of discussion on the following pages.

Map Centre 486,494 183,241



Legend

- Proposed Footpath
- Existing public rights of way unaffected by the application
- Existing Footpath

Carter Jonas Two Snow Hill, Birmingham, B4 6GA
T: 0121 794 6250
carterjonas.co.uk

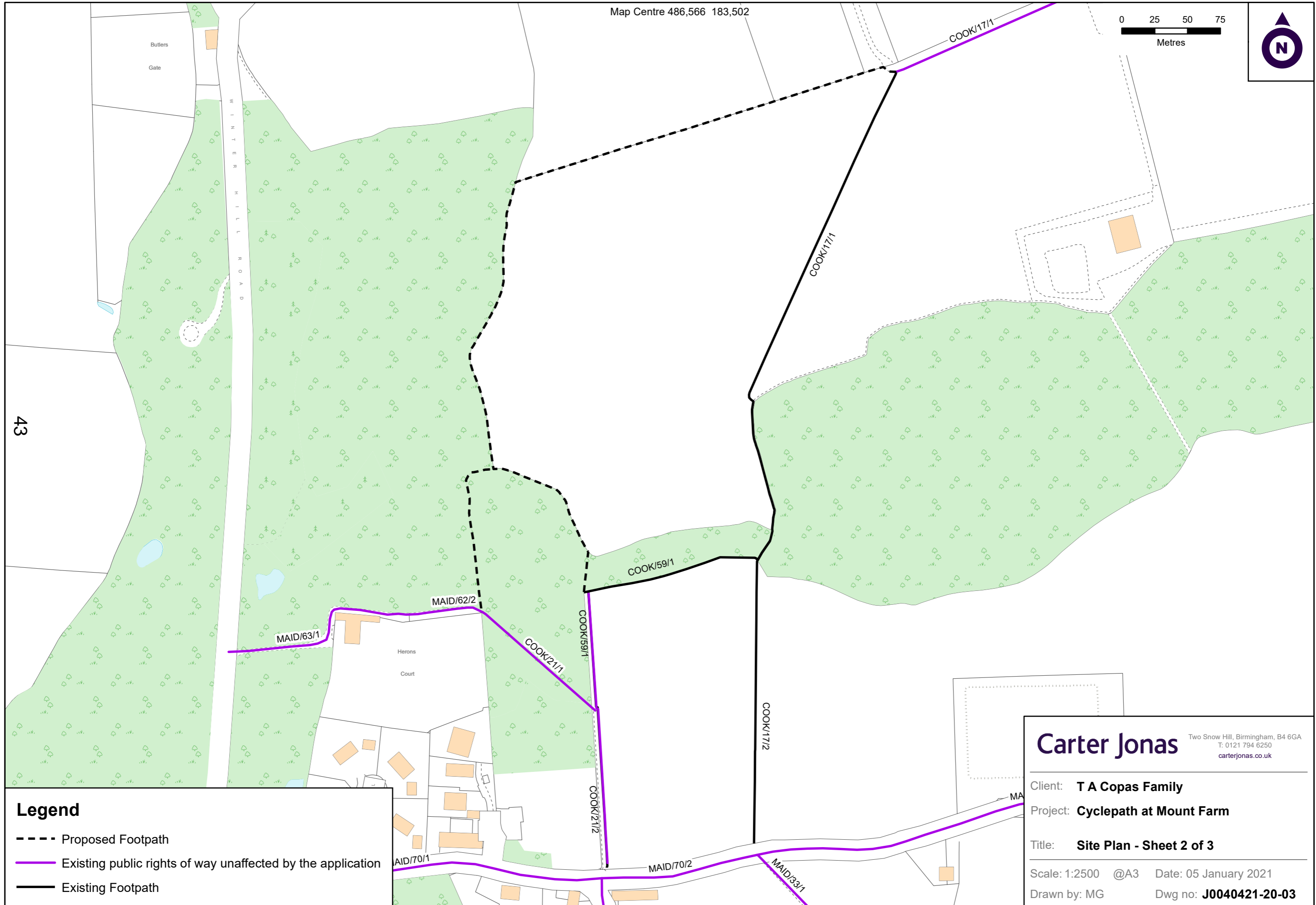
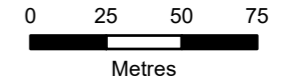
Client: **T A Copas Family**

Project: **Cyclepath at Mount Farm**

Title: **Site Plan - Sheet 1 of 3**

Scale: 1:2500 @A3 Date: 05 January 2021

Drawn by: MG Dwg no: **J0040421-20-03**



43

Legend

- Proposed Footpath
- Existing public rights of way unaffected by the application
- Existing Footpath

Carter Jonas Two Snow Hill, Birmingham, B4 6GA
T: 0121 794 6250
carterjonas.co.uk

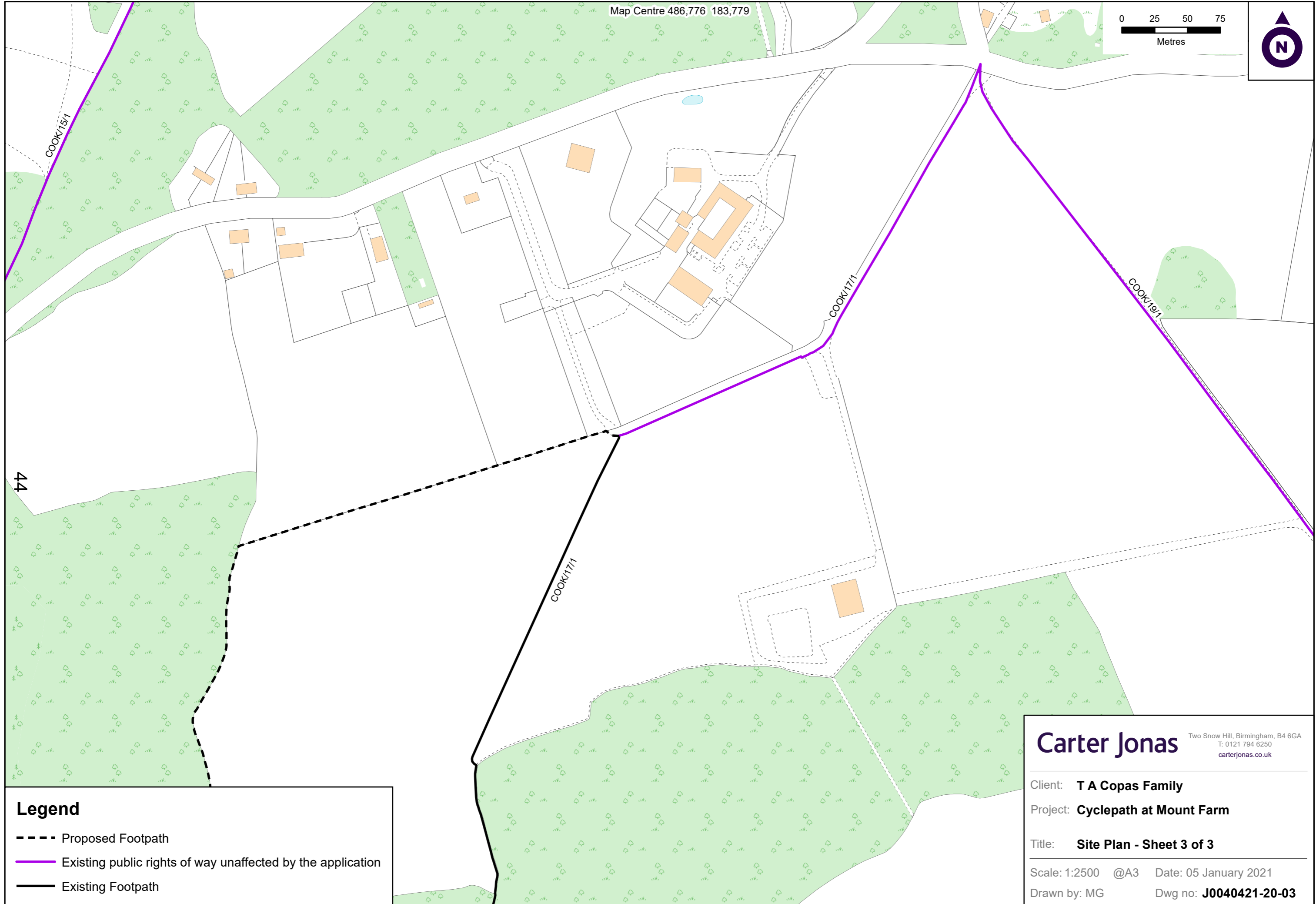
Client: **T A Copas Family**

Project: **Cyclepath at Mount Farm**

Title: **Site Plan - Sheet 2 of 3**

Scale: 1:2500 @A3 Date: 05 January 2021

Drawn by: MG Dwg no: **J0040421-20-03**



Legend

- Proposed Footpath
- Existing public rights of way unaffected by the application
- Existing Footpath

Carter Jonas Two Snow Hill, Birmingham, B4 6GA
T: 0121 794 6250
carterjonas.co.uk

Client: **T A Copas Family**

Project: **Cyclepath at Mount Farm**

Title: **Site Plan - Sheet 3 of 3**

Scale: 1:2500 @A3 Date: 05 January 2021

Drawn by: MG Dwg no: **J0040421-20-03**

BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN – NEXT STEPS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the forum on the next steps for the Borough Local Plan and opportunity for future engagement about the Golf Club extended site in Maidenhead.

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN – A DECADE IN THE MAKING!

The Borough Local Plan (BLP) provides framework to guide future development of RBWM to 2033.

Benefits to having an up to date adopted Local Plan.

- More control and certainty at planning application stage
- Protects communities from speculative planning applications
- Delivery of new Corporate Plan objectives including family homes, affordable housing & infrastructure.
- Supports Council's placemaking & climate change ambitions and help deliver regeneration and jobs

Next Steps

- Inspector will consider the Main Modification (MM) comments from the consultation/engagement events during Summer 2021 & decide whether she needs further information or hearings
- Inspector will issue final report on Examination likely by 2nd December - expected to recommend adoption of BLP with MMs.
- Report will be taken to Full Council, most likely in December 2021, recommending adoption of the BLP.
- BLP will then have full weight for planning decisions and replace existing plans.
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to be produced to provide further guidance eg; affordable housing, Sustainability/Climate Change and South West Maidenhead.

LAF INVOLVEMENT GOING FORWARD!

Pre- application designs have not yet been received for the Golf Club extended site, however a "South West Maidenhead Placemaking SPD" is being produced as required by Policy QP1b of the BLP.

There will be some stakeholder/public engagement events early next year, after the BLP is adopted. These events are likely to take place in late January and early February 2022. The Planning Policy team have confirmed that the RBWM Local Access Forum has been added to the draft list of attendees and will be invited to these engagement events.