Public Document Pack



NOTICE OF MEETING LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

will meet on

TUESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2022

at

6.30 pm

In the

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, MAIDENHEAD, ON RBWM YOUTUBE

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

COUNCILLOR MAUREEN HUNT, COUNCILLOR PHIL HASELER AND COUNCILLOR JULIAN SHARPE, & EXTERNAL MEMBERS

Karen Shepherd Head of Governance Issued: 28 November 2022

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 Laurence.Ellis@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

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10.	Horizon Scanning - Colne Valley Regional Park connections with RBWM?, LAF Annual Report, WCHAR Assessment consultation re: improvements to Bisham Roundabout on A404	Jacqui Wheeler	Verbal Report
11.	Date of the Next Meeting: TBC June/July 2023	Chairman	-

Agenda Item 1a

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:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
- (i) exercising functions of a public nature
- (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
- (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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, or a body included under Other Registerable Interests in Table 2 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 financial interest or well-being of a body included under Other Registerable Interests as set out in Table 2 (as set out above and in 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 (referred to in the paragraph above) affects the 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.

Agenda Item 1b

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

7 July 2022

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name

Geoff Priest Lisa Hughes

Councillor Phil Haseler Councillor Julian Sharpe

Alan Keene Mark Howard Claire Taylor Steve Gillions Susy Shearer Martin Richardson Trisha Mentzel Jacqui Wheeler Laurence Ellis Jason Mills

OBSERVERS

Annie Keene

Councillor John Baldwin

APOLOGIES

Name

Councillor Maureen Hunt James Copas Ceri Richardson

Interest area

Hurley Parish Council

User – Walker

RBWM

RBWM

Bisham Parish Council Cookham Parish Council

User – Cyclist and Biodiversity

User – Walker User – Cyclist

User - Cyclist

User – Horse Rider RBWM – LAF Secretary

RBWM – LAF Clerk

RBWM – Natural Environment Officer

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 7 July 2022 MINUTES

ACTION

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and asked those present at the meeting to introduce themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from James Copas, Ceri Richardson and Councillor Hunt.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interests received.

3 Approval of Minutes - 2nd December 2021

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2021 were approved as a true record, provided the following amendments were made:

- In Item 8 Cycling Action Group, it was corrected to say:
 - "The group had met four times since July 2021, principally to discuss the following topics:"
 - "Earlier in the year, a joint working party formed by Sunninghill & Ascot Parish and Sunningdale Parish Councils and led by Parish Councillors Ceri Richardson and David Biggs had studied cycling is-sues in that part of the borough and was contributing this feedback to the LCWIP process."
 - "planned <u>with Officers, Councillors and W&MCAG representatives</u> in order to discuss the matter <u>"in the round"</u>.
 - "WCH had been given outstanding support from Maidenhead Cycle Hub which included mechanic training, and was extremely grateful to receive a start-up grant from RBWM together with a grant from The Prince Philip Trust Fund."
 - "leaving from the Swan at 11:30am and open to anyone in RBWM. It was hoped that cycle "hubs" would eventually be developed in every part of the borough."
 - "Cycling security and safety matters included a presentation by Jeffrey Pick, the Police, Community Engagement and Resilience Officer for Windsor and Maidenhead Local Police Authority."
 The police had also held successful 'Bike Marking' sessions at the Windsor Cycle Hub and hoped to be able to continue to provide these sessions on a regular basis."
 - · "Cllr Sharpe expressed his appreciation for this report."
 - "Susy Shearer said that the routes were graded in terms of difficulty and generally ranged between 8 and 20 miles radius from the Swan."
- In Item 13 Borough Local Plan Next Steps, it was corrected to say: "She suggested it would be beneficial for the LAF to consider biodiversity and the natural environment in its work on local access issues."

4 Matters arising from the last meeting

Jacqui Wheeler, Parks and Countryside Access Officer, started the item by going through each action item in the agenda pack.

Progress continued on the Joint Local Access Forum (LAF) Chairs meeting and the permissive multi-use access at Thriftwood. However, Jacqui Wheeler suggested to further discuss these items later in the meeting as these items were in the agenda.

The results of the public consultation for Diversion Order were taken to Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 14th March 2022 where it was decided not to proceed with the Cookham 17 (part) and Cookham 59 (part) Diversion Orders.

For the Borough Local Plan, place-making sessions for the Southwestern Maidenhead Development took place where LAF members were invited.

Regarding the annual Milestone Statement Consultation, responses from parish councils and LAF members were received and listed in the agenda. Various items were brought up by LAF members. One of them was a request for improvements to surface and drainage at Uncle's Lane, Waltham St Lawrence. Works had been ordered to rectify this. Other issues were restricted access on public Footpath Sunninghill FP10 and routes in Ascot; both these were being investigated.

Steve Gillions gave an update for the Diversion Order to the Forum Members. Since formal consultation took place, the landowner had withdrawn the proposed permitted paths. The Chairman then gave some context to the Forum Members: when the application was put forward, the landowner had established a permitted path around the outer edges of their field onto which the cross-field path would be diverted with additional permitted cycling. However, after being refused by the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel, the landowner had removed permitted access to the field edge path.

(Trisha Mentzel entered the meeting at 18:40)

After pointing out that a public footpath was a right while a permitted footpath was based on the landowner's goodwill, Mark Howard asked how much public money was spent on the formal consultation for the Diversion Order. Neither the Chairman nor Jacqui Wheeler knew the precise cost, but Jacqui Wheeler stated she would investigate. She explained the process where there was an informal consultation and then the Licensing Panel decided to go against officer recommendation; then the formal legal consultation took place which then went back to the Licensing Panel.

Stating he was present at both Licensing Panel meetings, Councillor Baldwin explained that the landowner was committed to making the permitted pathway a public right of way, where it would have reverted and had the same status as the existing path across the field. He then stated that the second panel hearing was necessary because the law stated that if there was at least one objection, then there had to be a second consideration.

5 Membership Update

The Chairman announced that Lynn Penfold had resigned as a member of the Local Access Forum. He added that there had been successes in recruiting new members, though not all were able to make it to the meeting. He listed the new members: Benta Hickley from Horton Parish Council, Susan Nicholls from Wraysbury Parish Council, Ceri Richardson from Ascot Parish Council, Martin

Richardson and Claire Taylor from Eton Town Council.

Alan Keene asked how the new membership affected the balance of interests across the LAF. Jacqui Wheeler pointed to a page in the agenda which listed the new members LAF, where there was a total of 17 LAF members. There were two members with equestrian interest, two other members had landowner interests and one with accessibility interest. Jacqui Wheeler added that LAF could recruit more equestrian and landowner interest representatives to make LAF more balanced.

Jacqui Wheeler then discussed the training options. She asked the Forum Members what kind of training LAF members would find useful. She suggested that the training sessions could be three hours long on each day. She also pointed to the list of topics in the agenda for the Forum Members to consider which were useful for training. She also asked Forum Members if a workshop on the role of the LAF would be more useful.

The Chairman suggested he could circulate an email with list of topics for training as well as whether to have a workshop to LAF members, in which members would give feedback on the approach to the training.

As there was a lot of training to go through, Steve Gillions suggested that some of the factual content could be assembled offline and circulated to LAF members beforehand so that common issues could be discussed when LAF members gathered. The Chairman agreed that factual content should be circulated beforehand so that they could be discussed when LAF members gathered to do the training.

ACTION: The Chairman to email LAF members and receive feedback on training for new LAF members.

6 Sub-Groups Reports

Before discussing the items, the Chairman gave a brief explanation on the three subgroups to the new Forum Members.

The LAF then considered the updates from each group.

7 Multi-User Subgroup

Trisha Mentzel gave the update on the Multi-User Sub-Group. The most important update was the opening of horse access to Ocwells Park and Thriftwood. RBWM Council had laid some waymarkers to show horse riders the route. In addition, the Council had also made some minor modifications to the footbridge by adding a ramp and non-slip surfacing. They also added mounting blocks on either side of the bridge as the parapet was not high enough for horse riders; therefore, it was advised that horse riders dismount and lead their horse across.

Having visited the horse-riding route, Trisha Mentzel explained that the route can be difficult for horse riders to follow due to some of the paths having long grass. She also added that some of the paths had overhanging trees and bushes which was too low for horse riders. She then stated there was appreciation for the new route as horse-riders wished to avoid busy roads; She then gave some statistics on road incidents involving horse-riders.

Councillor Haseler reported that the number of complaints from local residents was low, and the Facebook post he uploaded was positive for the summer trial. Jacqui Wheeler also reported that there was positive feedback from parish

councils for the summer trial (which was planned to end in September 2022). However, based on comments from residents, more work needed to be done, namely putting up more signage at the beginning of Ockwells Park to inform residents of horse-riders as well as signage to inform horse-riders where they can and cannot ride.

8 Accessibility Working Group - Walks For All Project

Lisa Hughes reported that the public walking routes were publicised on the RBWM Together Website, with online maps being provided. Steve Gillions reported that he asked Ordnance Survey if their maps with Lake District symbols could be used; but hoped to sign up the Lake District National Park first regarding the use of their symbols. He hoped to extend public access across Berkshire. Lisa Hughes added that the Crown Estate were interested in the Accessibility Working Group to publicise their mapping and accessible walks.

The Chairman asked if anyone asked Lisa Hughes or Steve Gillions to look at other paths in other areas of the Borough. Steve Gillions replied that there were no other specific areas yet but he added that there was another path at Sunninghill mentioned by Councillor Sharpe in the last LAF meeting. Both Steve Gillions and Councillor Sharpe agreed to talk about it later.

Jacqui Wheeler asked if the Accessibility Working Group required another meeting with herself and Sharon to further work on the RBWM webpage. Lisa Hughes replied that it would be helpful. Jacqui Wheeler then said she would invite Lucy Stearn, the website administrator, to show Lisa Hughes what to do.

Jacqui Wheeler asked members if they would like an LAF webpage which links to the RBWM webpage. The Chairman liked the idea because it was difficult to find the LAF webpages on the general RBWM website.

ACTION: RBWM PRoW team to investigate the creation of an LAF webpage on the RBWM Together website.

9 Cycling Groups Updates

Susy Shearer conveyed that the Windsor Cycle Hub continued to make cycling accessible, positive and visible in the local community. The first Doctor Bike Session was to be held on 30th July 2022. The sessions were to be organised by Cycling UK and they were an opportunity for residents to have their bicycles repaired free of charge and with bike parts free up to the value of five or six pounds as well as repaired by qualified mechanics. The hope in the future was to have some kind of cycle hub in every part of the Borough to create connection points and raise the profile of cycling.

Martin Richardson informed the Forum Members that the Windsor & Maidenhead Cycling Action Group (W&MCAG) had expanded to cover walking and cycling. There was also a wider focus on encouraging active travel to align with the national government's central policy to promote active travel. W&MCAG also sought to collaborate with the Council to continue campaigning and educating the public on the benefits of active travel. Martin Richardson also informed that he had replaced Derrick Wilson as Chairman of the W&MCAG a few months ago.

The Chairman informed the Forum Members that the working subgroups had a meeting with Tim Golabek, the Service Lead for Transport and Infrastructure, in May 2022 which allowed the LAF to express their interests and concerns regarding any developing projects in the Borough.

10 Biodiversity Action Plan Progress

Jason Mils, Natural Environment Manager, gave a presentation which gave an overview of the Biodiversity Action Plan. He started off with the background whereby the new BAP where work on it began when the Council declared a climate and environment emergency in 2019.

The BAP included 6 different habitat action plans (HAPs): woodland, grassland, farmland, waterways, standing water and urban. There was a target of ensuring 30% of land in RBWM would be a space for nature by 2030 in line with the Council's Corporate Plan goal.

Referring to a Rural Forum meeting May 2022 which discussed the draft BAP and then recommended for it to be reconsidered by the Cabinet, Alane Keene asked if the proposed BAP was being reviewed. Jason Mills replied that it was a working progress whereby feedback and comments were being taken on board.

Susy Shearer asked how he would be working with the wild groups regarding the BAP. Jason Mills replied that the wild groups provided a lot of input in the BAP. He stated the Borough would continue to give input as they hold the knowledge on the area and wildlife.

Mark Howard asked Jason Mills to confirm if he had reached out to and engaged with the National Trust (the main landowner in Cookham). Jason Mills replied that he was meeting representatives of the National Trust in August 2022 and they would be visiting Battlemead to get overview of the area as well as the National Trust's view of it. Mark Howard then raised that flooding was an issue and concern in Cookham. Jason Mills would take that on board.

Councillor Sharpe asked he was doing any work with the parish councils. Jason Mills confirmed this, elaborating that parish council land would play a key part on promoting biodiversity. He stated they wanted as many people involved. Councillor Sharpe suggested that the work which Jason Mills had been doing should be put on the RBWM website so that the public could be familiar with it, commenting it was not explicitly shown on the website at the moment. Jason Mills took note of that.

In response to Lisa Hughes's comments about the wildlife garden schemes, which encouraged wildlife friendly gardening, Jason Mills asserted that gardens were very important, elaborating gardens made up more land than national parks in Britain. Therefore, they were a key part of nature recovery, especially in urban areas.

The Chairman asked if the development around Battlemead Common in preserving wildlife would be a template for other areas. Jason Mills believed so as the work around Battlemead had been largely a success and the Environment Team were monitoring it annually.

Referring to Councillor Sharpe's point on engaging with the public, the Chairman agreed that communication was key across the various entities, forums and the Borough.

While pleased that many actions within the proposed BAP were going ahead, Councillor Baldwin expressed concern that adopting the some of the actions from the BAP would lessen the urgency to actually adopt the whole BAP. He

stated it was required now because it underpins the adopted Local Borough Plan. He elaborated that without the BAP, Planning Officers would not have a benchmark document against which to assess the major planning developments that would be coming forward.

(Susy Shearer left the meeting at 19:43; Councillor Baldwin left the meeting at 19:44)

11 Quiet Lanes discussion & request for Coningsby Lane

The Chairman informed the LAF that a resident contacted the Forum on a particular Quiet Lane. He was uncertain of the LAF's responsibility with Quiet Lane as it was a road rather than a path; but Lisa Hughes wanted it to be added to the agenda.

Lisa Hughes explained to the LAF what a Quiet Lane was: a designation that a highways authority can give to a single-track road where there would be usually less than a thousand vehicles passing through per day. This would then allow a few vehicles, horse-riders, walkers and cyclists to share the road.

Jacqui Wheeler brought the Forum's attention to a copy of a report in the agenda which was presented to the Forum in 2015. The LAF decided to not pursue this report and decided to take the Quiet Lanes out of the milestone statement at the time. With the local resident approaching the LAF on Quiet Lanes and having visited the specific Quiet Lane that resident referred to, Jacqui Wheeler thought it would be useful for public rights awareness to investigate. She suggested that LAF conduct information gathering at the next Joint LAF Chairman meeting and find out if other local authorities were interested or had any successes in Quiet Lanes. Jacqui Wheeler also mentioned she had further communicated with the resident and explained to her the process and how it worked. She also added that it was essential for Quiet Lanes to have support from local community and Parish Councils.

Councillor Haseler asked for a further explanation of Quiet Lanes, namely how was the flow of vehicles managed. Lisa Hughes explained that Quiet Lanes essentially become a "shared use road". She further explained that it protects vulnerable road users on single-track roads by alerting drivers of other road users. Councillor Haseler commented that he would be open-minded to concept. Lisa Hughes suggested she and Jacqui could circulate the process of designating roads as Quiet Lanes.

Steve Gillions stated he was surprised that Quiet Lanes were opposed by the residents of Wiltshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire, and wondered why. The Chairman explained that was one reason why Jacqui Wheeler wanted to add Quiet Lanes to the agenda of the LAF Chairmen's meeting, alongside understanding how other local authorities managed Quiet Lanes.

Martin Richardson believed that Quiet Lanes sounded like powerful tools to remind drivers on narrow roads that they were sharing those roads with other, sometimes more vulnerable, users and that they should drive appropriately.

Alan Keene suggested that the LAF through Jacqui Wheeler approach the Parish Councils, explain to them Quiet Lanes and take on any suggestions from them.

Mark Howard asked if there was a middle ground with more signage and communication with drivers before designating a road as a Quiet Lane. The

Chairman replied he would see how other local authorities approach Quiet Lanes during LAF Joint Chairs meeting.

Jacqui Wheeler also stated she would send an email out to Parish Councils, explaining to them Quiet Lanes and ask them for any suggestions.

Councillor Sharpe stated that there needed to be caution as Quiet Lane could end up receiving a lot of people because many residents may investigate to see what it would be like.

The Chairman stated that based on the depth of discussion involved, the LAF would like to be involved in Quiet Lanes.

12 LCWIP consultation and update on progress - what should the LAF do next?

Jacqui Wheeler started the item by informing the LAF that the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) consultation occurred in April 2022. While the LCWIP has some support, there was dissatisfaction towards it, which was taken on-board by the Transport Team. Jacqui Wheeler believed the LCWIP went to Cabinet and was approved on 23rd June 2022.

Jacqui Wheeler then pointed out the schemes which were planned to be implemented in 2022, including:

- Junction improvement at A308/Mill Lane
- Stovell Road/Barry Avenue walk/cycle corridor
- Pedestrian crossing improvements in Datchet
- Walk/cycle improvements in Maidenhead town centre

She then explained that Doug Mellon from the Transport Team planned to visit in Stovell Road and Barry Avenue in late-July 2022 to promote engagement and generate ideas and discussion during the investigation process.

Lisa Hughes commented that the lack of inclusion of the needs for disabled people in the plan meant there was no consideration on the priorities for people with disabilities.

Mark Howard explained his groups' objective in reducing the amount of shortterm car journeys on certain roads to provide safer access for walkers and cyclists.

Councillor Haseler reassured Lisa Hughes that if there were any specific issues relating to people with disabilities, these could be resolved during the normal service of the Council in which it continuously provided. Lisa Hughes then asked whether this meant it was down to disabled individuals to identify accessibility issues rather than including their needs in the plan. Councillor Haseler responded that the LCWIP was live document and therefore was constantly reviewed and changed. Lisa Hughes replied that she did not understand how the list of schemes was prioritised. Councillor Haseler then briefly explained why each scheme was a priority. He then stated if there was another scheme that needed to be put forward, then it would then be reviewed and possibly prioritised over another scheme.

The Chairman explained that it was a live document which would allow, for example, Lisa Hughes and her group to make additions and then it would be up to the Council or highway authority to put it forward.

After Mark Howard stated it was important for the LAF to talk to the Planning

Team, the Chairman said the LAF would take that on-board.

13 LAF Chairs Meeting

Jacqui Wheeler explained to the Forum Members about the upcoming LAF chairs meeting, which was scheduled for 20th July 2022 and was to be virtual. The Forums that would be present were Bracknell Forest LCAF, Mid and West Berkshire LAF (which covers the Wokingham, West Berkshire and Reading areas), Surrey CAF and RBWM LAF. (CAF, Countryside Access Forum).

There had been suggestions to invite additional local access forums, namely Hampshire CAF, Oxfordshire CAF, Buckinghamshire LAF and Slough LAF (through this Forum was inactive). Jacqui Wheeler then asked the RBWM LAF member whether they supported the suggested Forums being invited to attend the LAF Chairs meetings.

Alan Keene welcomed the suggestion of inviting addition forums to the LAF Chairs meeting.

Jacqui Wheeler then explained that the purpose of the LAF Chairs meetings was to understand what was going in the wider region and to share information, ideas, issues and concerns.

The Chairman stated he would welcome the larger local authorities, like Hampshire, being invited into discussion in the LAF Chairs meetings and see how they were progressing as well as exchange ideas.

Councillor Sharpe commented it was absolutely essential for the RBWM LAF Chairman to get together with other forum chairs.

The Chairman stated that he and Jacqui Wheeler would send an email out to the RBWM LAF Members with a summary of what was discussed during the LAF Chairs meeting.

ACTION: The Chairman and Jacqui Wheeler to email the LAF with a summary on what was discussed during the upcoming LAF Chairs meeting on 20th July 2022.

Horizon Scanning - Upcoming Planning Consultations with LAF, Shared Use Campaign and Volunteers Updates

Jacqui Wheeler informed the Forum Members that she received an email regarding a public consultation on the draft Southwest Maidenhead Supplementary Planning document. Residents were encouraged to look at it and give their comments by 17th August 2022.

There were also various drop-in sessions which provided an opportunity for residents to give comments at the following locations and time:

- Maidenhead Library throughout July 2022, starting on 14th July 2022.
- Braywick Leisure Centre on 26th July.
- Online event via Microsoft Teams on 27th July.

Jacqui Wheeler informed the Forum that the designs were underway for public paths in AL-24 (Woodland Park Road Lillibrook Manor site).

Jacqui Wheeler then suggested issues which could be added to the next meeting's agenda were the 'Share the Space' and a 'Dog Control' campaign.

On the Volunteers Update, Jacqui Wheeler explained that there was difficulty in knowing how the RBWM grants scheme was working in 2022 or if any applications were received. She was waiting to hear back about this.

Ceri Richardson was supposed to give an update regarding the new 20mph speed limit, but she was not present at the meeting. As such, she provided this written update outside of the meeting:

Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council were planning to hold a public consultation with Sunningdale Parish Council on 20mph speed limits in both parishes. The two parishes had been working together to encourage more local people to walk and cycle, and to make it safer for them to do so. The purpose of the consultation was to determine the level of community support for the principle of introducing 20mph speed limits where appropriate. Both parish councils would review the results of the consultation and if results show strong support for the principle of 20mph speed limits, they would be in a position to persuade RBWM to work with them to develop specific proposals for individual streets or zones and implement them in a timely manner. The consultation document that had been approved by both parish councils had also been shared with the Borough Councillors covering the parishes of both Sunninghill and Ascot and Sunningdale. The timing of the consultation needed to be finalised but was likely to start mid-September and run for 4 weeks.

Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council was also working on producing a 'Walks in the Parish' style map as well as finger post/totem style signage in the Parish indicating distance and time to walk between locations.

Elaborating on the update, Councillor Sharpe stated that the police were generally not supportive of increasing 20mph zones because they believed traffic was moving at reasonable speed down those roads, based on the conversations he had with them.

Martin Richardson suggested it would be good to get a visual position on the extended 20mph zones before discussing safety improvements. He also stated that when he attended a Road Safety Summit the official word from the police was that they never object to speed limit changes. Councillor Sharpe responded that there needed to be a right balance with the police so that they were not put into a situation where they were not willing to enforce road offences.

To clarify, the Chairman explained the context of draft Local Plan. When the first draft version was published, the LAF did a detailed analysis of all the plots which affected the network of paths and bridleways. After this analytical report was submitted, the site numbers in the plan had changed while the sites did not change. This was then passed to the Planning Team.

15 Date of Next Meeting

Members of the Forum noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 6th December 2022.

The meeting, which started at 6.30 pm, ended at 8.35 pm.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 06 Dec 2022 AGENDA ITEM 1(c)

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 6th DECEMBER 2022

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 7th July 2022.

Key:

Completed items

In progress

Incomplete

Action owners:

GP	Geoff Priest (Chair)		Vacant Post (Parks and Countryside Team Leader)
SW	Sharon Wootten (Public Rights of Way Officer)	JW	Jacqui Wheeler (Parks & Countryside Access Officer/Secretary of the LAF)
LH	Lisa Hughes (Vice Chair)	MB	Laurence Ellis (Democratic Services)

Agenda Item 1(d): Matters Arising

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
1.1	MH asked how much was spent on the formal consultation for the Diversion Order Cook/17 and part 59	JW	No costs incurred by the council. All costs involved in making an application for a diversion order are covered by the applicant including legal and advertising costs. Typically, admin and legal costs can be £2000 excluding advertising costs.
1.2	Training for LAF members – GP consulted members on scope of potential training and received feedback.	GP/LH/JW	JW arranged for LH to undertake the Access & RoW Level 1 training course run by the BHS suggested by Trisha on 6 th Nov to see if suitable for all LAF members. LH to feedback .
1.3	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 – this action is on hold as BCA currently integrating with East Berkshire College.
1.4	Contact Youth Engagement Officer at Achieving for Children to recruit younger LAF member	GP/LH	LH to update under membership item 2.

Agenda Item 8: Subgroups - Accessibility Working Group

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
8.1	Create Walks For All online leaflets	AWG	Meeting held on 22 nd Aug 2022 with RBWM Together website admin to gain advice and training on building the webpages. Ongoing project
8.2	RBWM PRoW team to investigate the creation of an LAF webpage on the RBWM Together website	JW	Ongoing project when resources allow.

Agenda Item 11: Quiet Lanes

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
11.1	JW would send an email out to Parish Councils, explaining Quiet Lanes and asking them for views/suggestions	JW	Ongoing
11.2	Info gathering regarding quiet lanes at LAF Joint Chairs meeting	JW/GP	See LAF Chairs meeting notes from 20 th July 22 in meeting papers. Potential further info to be gathered from Sustrans and CPRE to be continued.

Agenda Item 13: LAF Chairs Meeting

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
13.1	LAF Chairs Meeting took place as a virtual meeting on 20 th July 2022. JW circulated notes from the meeting, and these are included in the papers for info.	JW/GP	The next virtual LAF Chairs meeting is due to take place on Weds 11 th January 2023.

LAF CHAIR MEETING NOTES - 20th July 2022

ATTENDANCE

Local Access Forum	Name
Bracknell Forest LCAF	Colin Bird (Chair) [CB]
	Graham Pockett [GP]
Mid & West Berks LCAF	Simon Pike (Chair) [SP]
	Elaine Cox [EC] Apologies received
RBWM LAF	Geoff Priest (Chair) [GP]
	Jacqui Wheeler (Secretary) [JW]
Surrey LAF	Elliot Cairnes (Chair) [EC]
	Joanne Porter (Secretary)[JP]

2. Summaries of LAF functioning:

Mid and West Berkshire LAF (Simon Pike - Chair)

Combination of 3 authority areas; Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham with a range of perspectives; including urban, rivers and canal routes, countryside, AONB and statutory commons.

Meet 3 times p.a during the day which can cause difficulties for some members but is easier for officers.

Difficulty attracting landowner members, but do have user representation of walkers, equestrians, motor vehicle off road users (active group). Particularly active disabled working group which may be able to offer advice to other areas Forums if needed

The LAF is very active in responding to national public consultations eg; ELMS scheme, OffCom and The Law Commission as well as local comments submitted regarding the BLP.

Bracknell Forest CAF (Colin Bird – Chair)

Meets 3 times p.a in the evening via Zoom.

The remit of the Forum was expanded to cover countryside issues as well due to large areas of Crown Estate, SANGS and Parks as well as PRoW.

Bracknell CAF can focus on specific location issues as opposed to strategic/policy issues due to small geographic area.

Has 11 members with 3 Council officers regularly attending.

Is unable to attract any landowner members even from the Crown Estate due to changes in personnel.

Urban PRoW were historically extinguished so focus of Forum is on countryside areas.

Focus on increasing access provision from new developments with a long "wish list" of routes. Challenges are keeping up with the level of planning applications for larger developments, maintaining PRoW in good condition with decreasing resources eg; surfaces are deteriorating and costs are increasing.

Surrey CAF (Elliot Cairnes – Chair)

County authority area.

Meets 4 x p.a during the day either face to face or via Zoom.

Has 23 members which is the maximum allowed membership with 15-18 members usually attending.

Focus is on countryside access and PRoW.

Covers a large area which has major road network, M25, M3 and major expansion of the A3 at Jct 10. Rivers and canals seeking to be rejuvenated, Surrey Hills AONB (2nd oldest in country) with expansion due as well as Surrey Heathlands.

Membership includes landowners, wildlife interests 4x4 trail bikes and cycling. Difficulties recruiting reps for people with disabilities.

Challenges – Surrey has problem with illegal motorised use, liaison with MOD is a problem.

As a large county the Forum generally focuses on strategic issues unless a particularly controversial local issue arises.

RBWM LAF (Geoff Priest – Chair)

Meets 2 x p.a face to face if possible and in the evening.

Membership includes landowners, walkers, cyclists, equestrians and one representative for people with disabilities.

Ais to be mainly strategic but will look at site specific project and suggested improvements where it is likely to be influential.

Has 3 working groups; Multi-User (equestrian) successful in pushing for a current trial of permissive bridleway access on council land, Accessibility Working Group working on a Walks4All mapping project of pilot paths to provide information on accessibility of specific routes to help people decide where to walk and a Cycling Subgroup vocal LCWIP preparation.

Challenges include responding to planning apps which are increasing due to recent BLP adoption, lack of council resources, monetary and staff and gaining attention of relevant contacts within council.

3. What should be the Region?

All agreed to seek representatives to invite to the next meeting from Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire LAFs. **Action - JW**

4. NE/Defra engagement/communication

All agreed that there is a need for engagement with LAFs from central government via Natural England. Previously this had taken the form of dissemination of national and regional issues, hosting LAF meetings/conferences and support from NE Access staff at individual LAF meetings if requested.

Concern was shared that the LAF Guidance updated in 2009 was out of date and not necessarily in synch with how LAFs currently work.

Noted that Andrew Mackintosh, Senior Specialist Public Access, Recreation and Rights of Way of Natural England was quite positive that there would be funding for a

new LAF support role and replacement SharePoint style site for Huddle at the beginning of 2023. All agreed to hold off from writing to Lord Benyon, as the responsible Minister until next year to see if this NE support materialises.

SP agreed to share the Mid & West Berkshire LAF working methods document. **Action SP**

5. Active Travel/Climate Change

Discussion about how each area has been involved in their areas LCWIP preparation and the possible adaptation that will be required going forward in achieving levels of biodiversity improvement required and how this will affect the management of countryside and PRoW.

SP offered to share the Climate Change Adaptation Manual received from NE **Action SP**

6. Quiet Lanes question

Information gathering topic from RBWM LAF to find out how Quiet Lanes are viewed in other LAF areas and if viewed as useful.

Quiet Lanes exist at Buckleberry Common in West Berkshire area, but no others known of, though there may be others. Sat nav's were noted as problematic sending drivers along unsuitable routes. SP advised that the CPRE who have previously published guidance on Quiet Lanes, has a Berkshire branch. He agreed to share the local CPRE contact info.

Action SP

Date of Next Meeting: 11th January 2023 at 10am (MS Teams)



LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT – Item 3 – 6th DECEMBER 2022

Local Access Forum Multi-User Subgroup

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow members to review the Summer Horse Riding Trial permissive bridleway access at Thriftwood (extension to Ockwells Park) and decide on whether to recommend that the Council continues to keep this permissive access open next year.

2. BACKGROUND

The Summer Trial of Permissive horse riding at Thriftwood began in June 2022 and has now closed for the winter months.

The following targeted comms approach was taken:

- Create a webpage about the trial, including the FAQs and other guidance –with a friendly URL https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/horse-riding-at-thriftwood
- Strong on-site signage plus the route map and reference on the signage the link/QR code to the above webpage
- Comms in members bulletin to alert Councillors prior to start.
- Internal comms to relevant departments, including customer services, plus LAF
 share link to webpage
- Contact local riding stables and equestrian businesses

Information was supplied about research done into conflict and perceived conflict between users along with a list of areas (inc. West Berks) where there has been little problem with multi-use paths.

Suitable signage and waymarking was placed around the route to show riders where they can and cannot go and to let people know where to expect to see horses with a messaging to all users that considerate behaviour is key to raise awareness that horse riders are permitted in specific areas and to encourage acceptance.

Minor modifications to the footbridge comprising a ramp and anti-slip surfacing were arranged.

Ground condition, signs and behaviour were also taken into consideration during the trial

As the trial is now over, it's important to review how the trial went to help decide whether this seasonal permissive bridleway access is evidenced to be workable.

FEEDBACK:

Most of the feedback received comprised of emails in the first few weeks of the trial along with a letter of support from the BHS (See Appendix 1) with concerns over possible conflict between dogs and horses highlighted by not only the Parish Council but also from one individual email.

The Parish Council also expressed concern over damage that may be caused to the ground and impact on users, the difficulties with any 'enforcement' of not following the guidance and the spill over onto other areas of Ockwells Park not authorised. Despite these misgivings, the Parish Council did agree to the BR access as a trial which would be reviewed.

Comments about the signage were received from horse riders including Trisha Mentzel (LAF member) in the early days of the trial which allowed modifications to be made to way marker posts (increasing the height and using a brighter colour) along with additional signs to be installed and clarifications to be given on where horse riders were allowed to be. It is acknowledged that ongoing engagement with users will be needed to help ensure that all users of this space know where horses are allowed to be.

Information about the risk of horse manure to dogs was added to the webpage after the Parish Council raised it as a concern.

Positive feedback was received from local horse riders who expressed their gratitude "Thank you for creating this riding route for the summer. It is much enjoyed by me, my horse and my friends"

Cllr Haseler as the local ward Councillor and an admin of the Ockwells FB group confirmed he has not received any further comments since the trial went live other than the initial ones regarding improved marking of the route.

He also stated that he's not aware of any negative social media posts either.

Significantly, there were no reports received of any conflict or incidents between users during the trial.

Overall, the feedback seems to indicate the trial has been a success with minimal tweaks required. If this permissive access is open again next year, monitoring of ground conditions, signage and behaviour will continue along with messaging to raise awareness and encourage acceptance. As mentioned previously, continuing dialogue with all users will be welcomed.

Once the LAF has decided on whether it supports this access the Parish Council and other stakeholders will be asked to give their views after which a final decision can be taken.

Resolution sought – Does the LAF support this permissive bridleway access at Thriftwood being made a permanent seasonal access while available?



Photos taken on 22nd November 2022



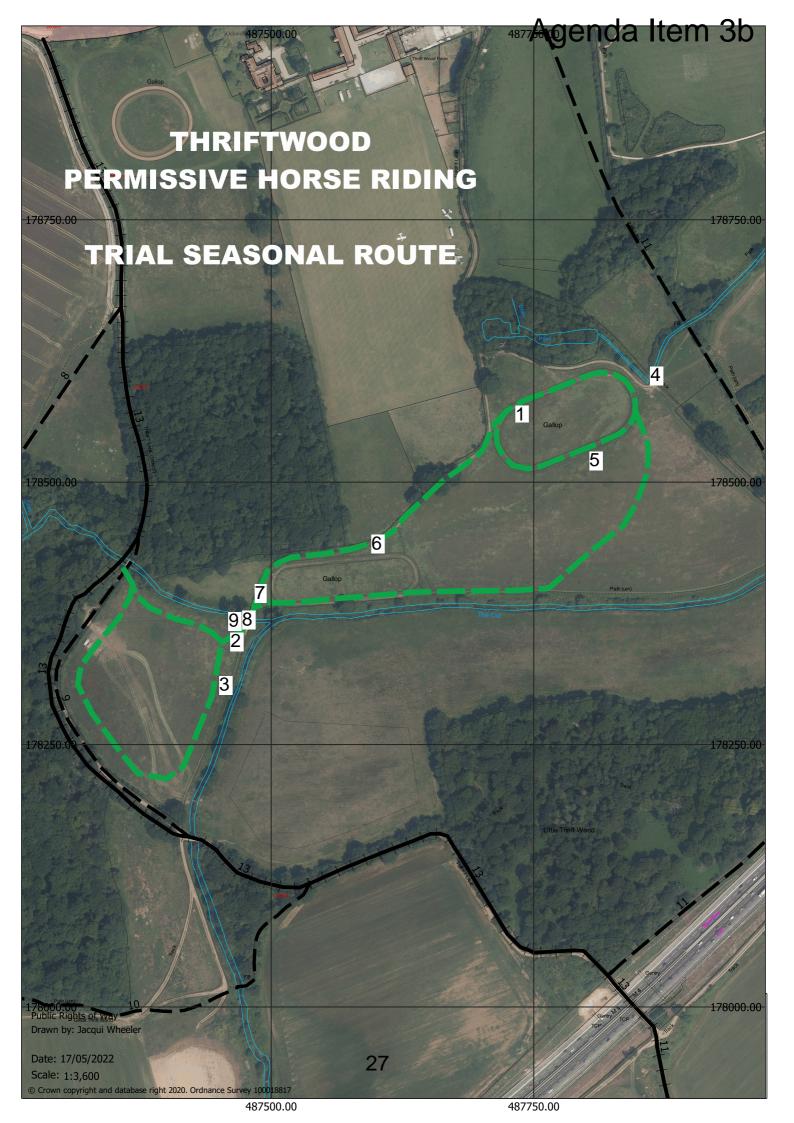




Photos taken on 22nd November 2022









Patron Her Majesty The Queen

Bringing Horses and People Together

The British Horse Society

Abbey Park,

Kenilworth,

Email enquiry@bhs.org Website www.bhs.org.uk Tel 02476 840500 Stareton.

Fax 02476 840501

aend

Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

27 June 2022

Jacqui Wheeler Parks and Countryside Access Officer Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead The Town Hall St Ives Road MAIDENHEAD SL6 1RF

Dear Jacqui,

Trial of permissive horse riding access at Thriftwood Extension to Ockwells Park

I am writing to thank you and all who have been involved in implementing the trial permissive horse riding scheme at Ockwells Park.

As you know, equestrians are increasingly concerned about having to use local roads to access bridleways and other off-road access. The British Horse Society collates statistics each year to understand the rate of incidents involving horses and riders on UK roads and in the year to 28 February 2021 alone there were **1,010** road incidents involving horses reported to the Society. Of these,

- 46 horses died and 118 were injured
- **130 people** were injured
- 45% of riders were victims of road rage or abuse
- 80% of incidents occurred because a vehicle passed by too close to the horse
- 43% of incidents occurred because a vehicle passed by too quickly.

Research indicates that only a fraction of incidents – possibly as low as 10% - are reported to us.

Riders are therefore understandably desperate to find safe riding routes away from the traffic, particularly in the more built-up areas of the country such as we have here in the South. The opportunity to ride off-road in places such as Thriftwood makes a significant difference to their ability to enjoy riding and exercising their horses safely, and this initiative by RBWM is therefore greatly welcomed by local riders.

We understand the anxiety that others who enjoy walking at Thriftwood – and particularly those with dogs - may have about allowing horses into the area. I hope however that this trial period will help to allay their concerns. Many horse riders are also dog-owners, and so understand how important it is to introduce dogs and horses to each other in a well-managed and sympathetic way. Once they have had the opportunity to become socialised together, they can be exercised in the same space quite harmoniously; for example, I have regularly ridden at Greenham Common, a very popular area for dog walking because it is well fenced, and I have never experienced any difficulty with the many dogs that I met there, both off and on the lead.

We would recommend therefore that those who enjoy exercising their horses and dogs at Thriftwood take a bit of time to allow their animals get to know each other in a calm and controlled way that ensures that neither the dog nor the horse is startled and frightened. This may mean that in the early stages of this trial horse riders have to stop and wait for dog owners to call their pets to them, and that those with dogs have to put them on the lead initially until they have got over the excitement of seeing such a large and unfamiliar animal.

With consideration for others by all users, there is every reason to expect that this trial will be a success – but if there is anything that the BHS can do to support this initiative, or to reassure other users, please don't hesitate to let either our local Access & Bridleways Officer Trisha Mentzel or myself know.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Petronella

Petronella Nattrass, MSc, MIPROW Access Field Officer - South Region ITEM 4 - Report to Local Access Forum

6 December 2022

Windsor Great Park access

Ramblers groups in Berkshire have recently been discussing what initiatives could be taken to increase public access to recreational areas in the county.

LAF will know that the Crown Estate has provided significant areas with public access in the Windsor Great Park and Swinley Forest and Ramblers are considering asking the Estate whether they would consider designating these parcels of land as Open Access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

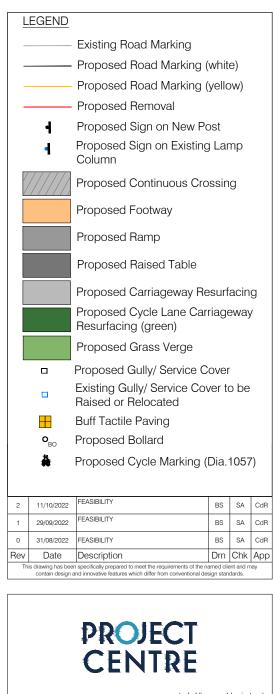
This designation would be shown on Ordnance Survey maps and have the advantage of informing members of the public, particularly those who are not familiar with the area, where they were allowed to walk – and so discourage access to those areas where they are not allowed. The Forestry Commission land at Crowthorne Woods is already designated as Open Access land and shown in yellow on OS maps so it would be a public benefit if appropriate Crown Estate lands were added as yellow.

Ramblers are also exploring the possibility of encouraging those who own SANGS (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces) to declare their land as Open Access land as this would very much improve information for all. SANGs are designed to attract more visitors by providing enjoyable natural environments for recreation as an alternative to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, which is designed to protect rare bird species. Ramblers are aware of one SANG in RBWM, at Allen's Field near Ascot.

LAF members are invited to express their views as to whether Open Access designation should be sought for the areas mentioned above.

Steve Gillions





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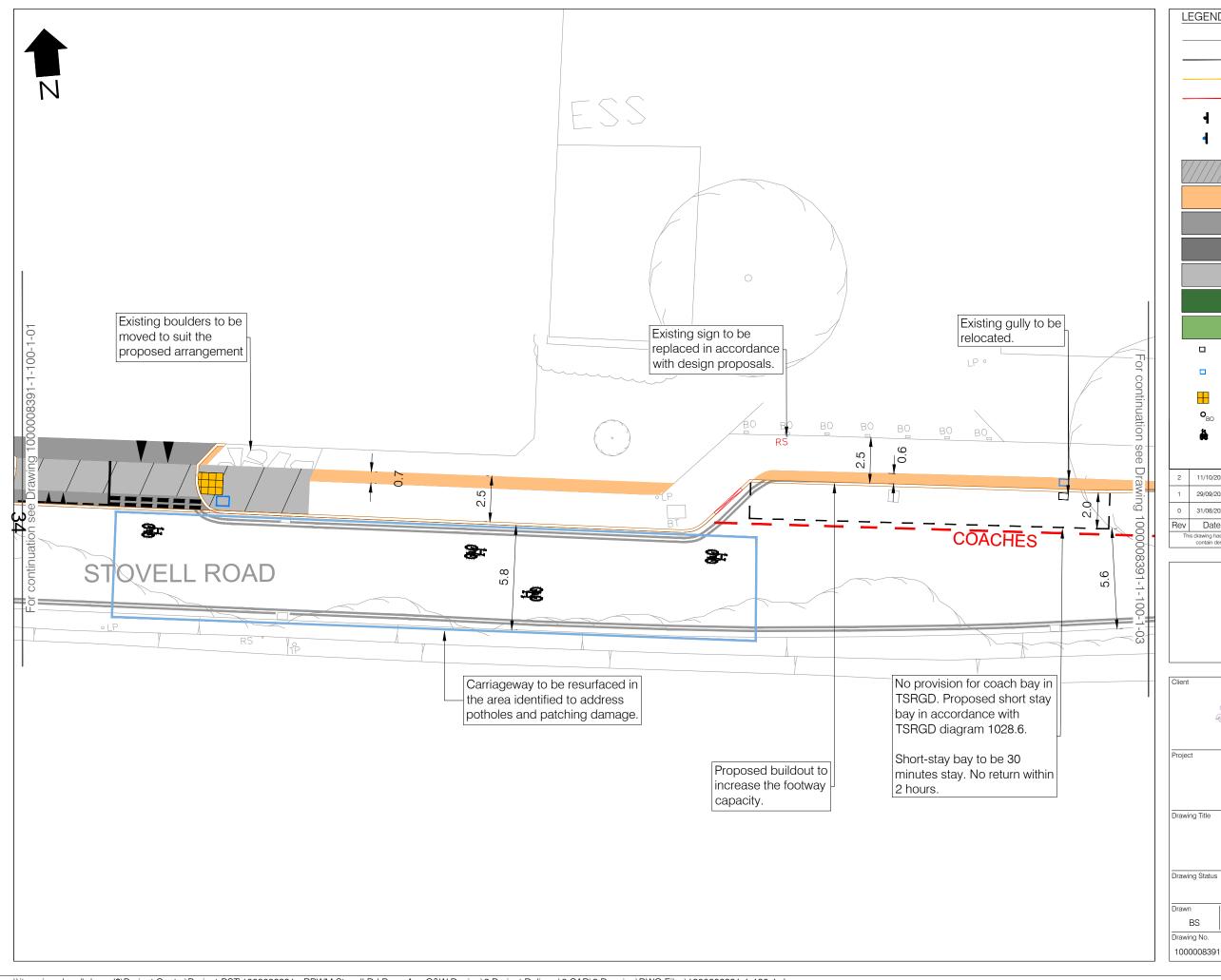
STOVELL ROAD AND BARRY AVENUE WALKING AND CYCLING DESIGN

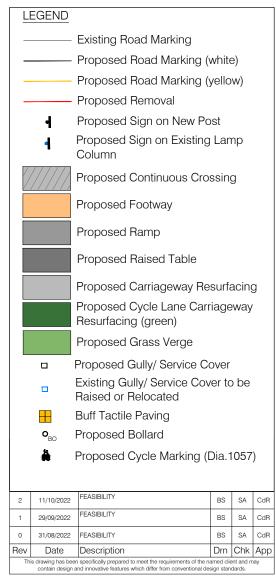
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SHEET 1 OF 9 OPTION 1

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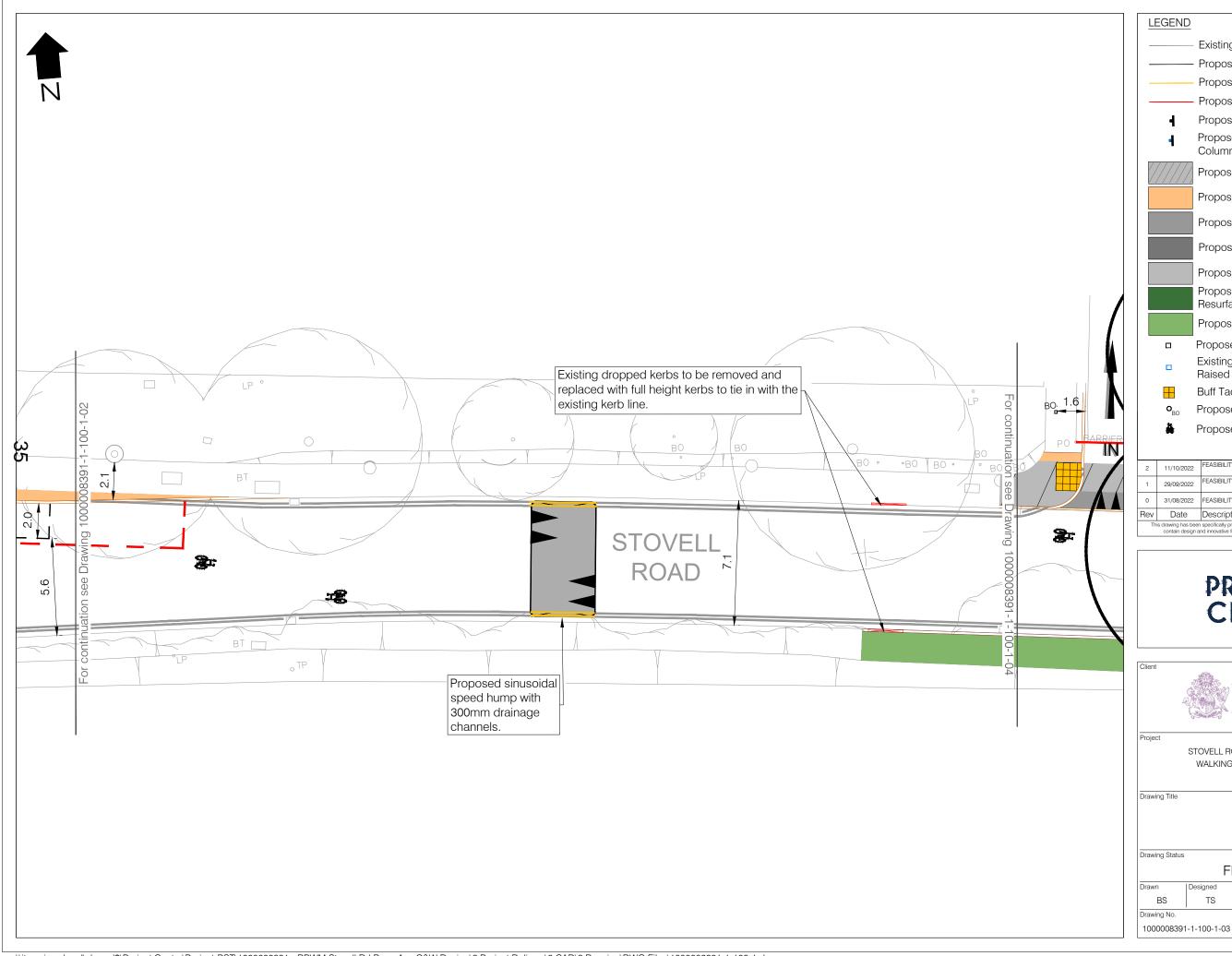


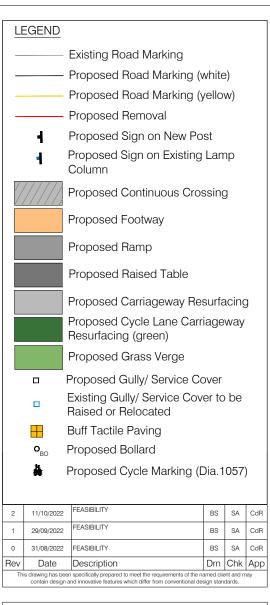


STOVELL ROAD AND BARRY AVENUE WALKING AND CYCLING DESIGN

> SHEET 2 OF 9 OPTION 1

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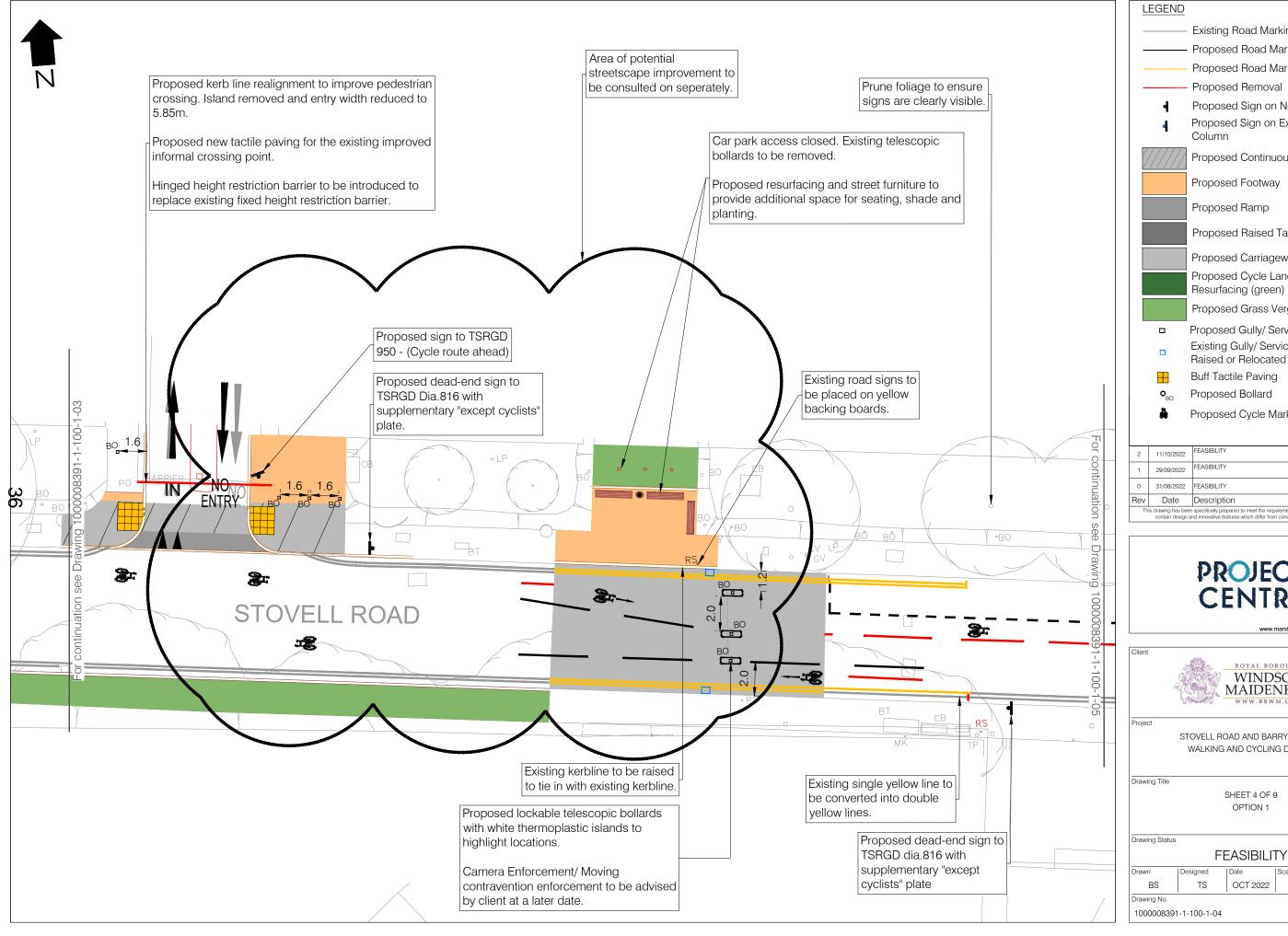




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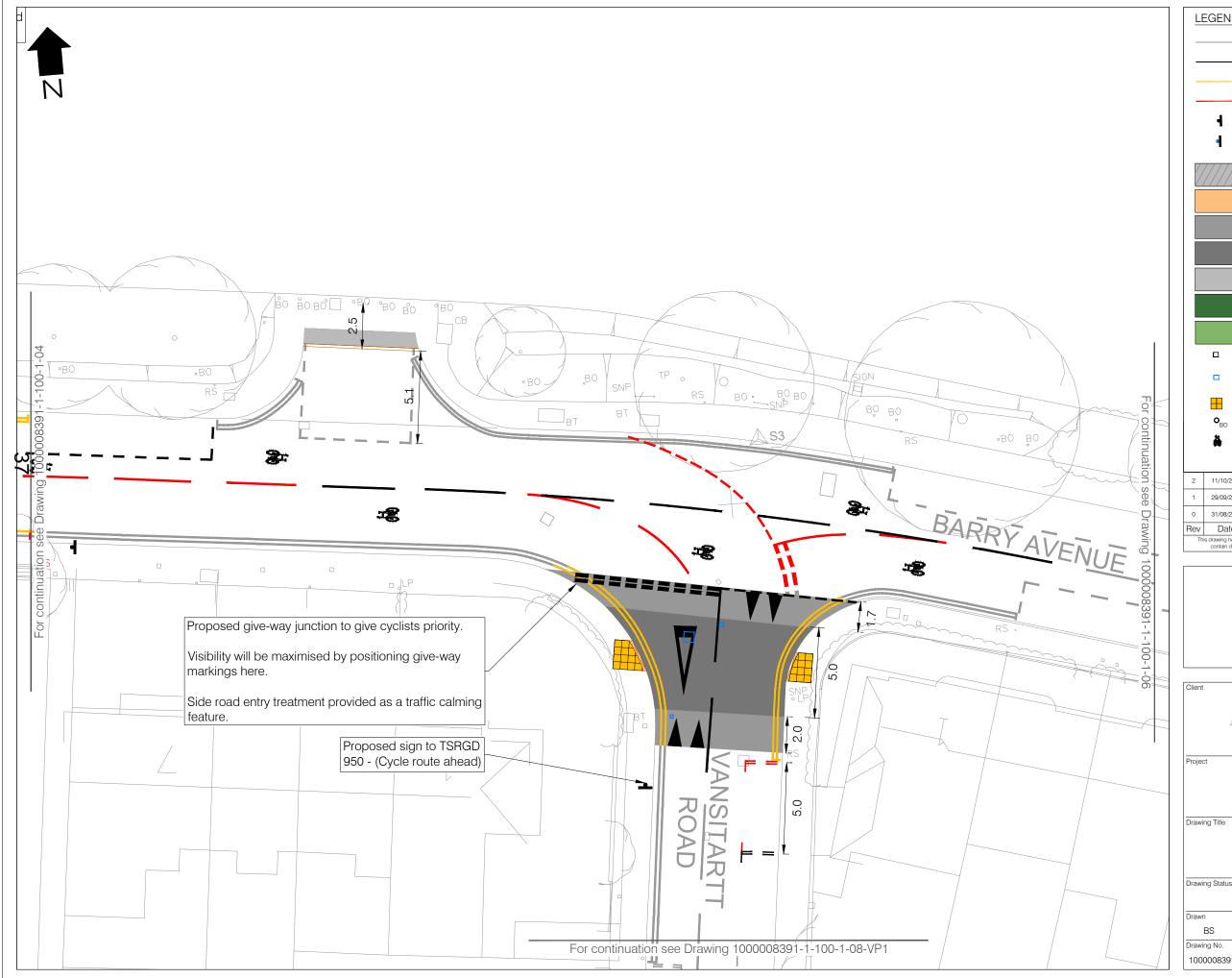


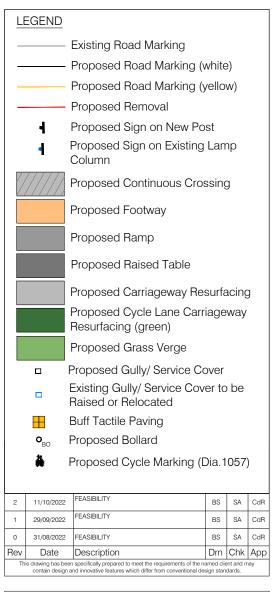


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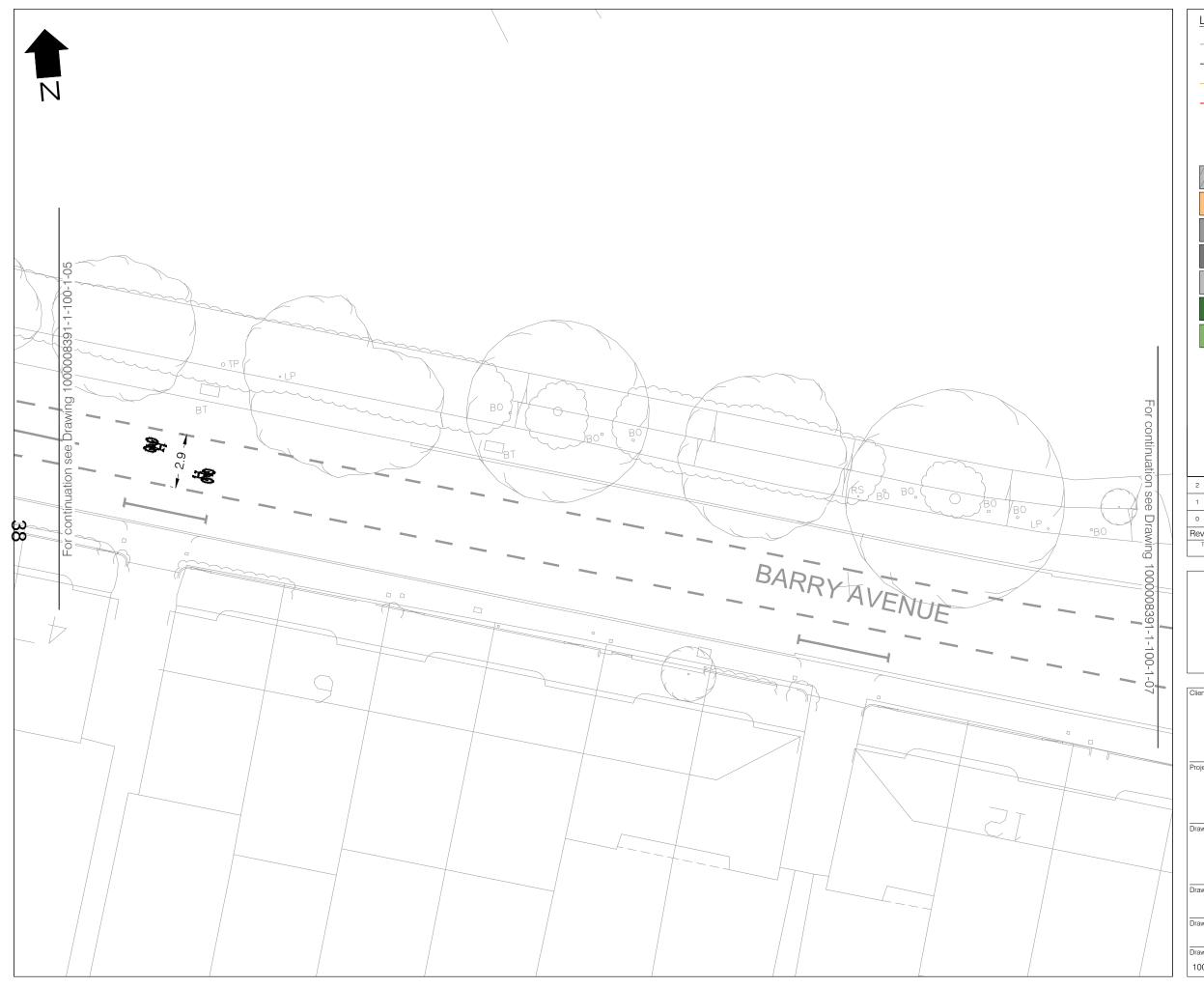


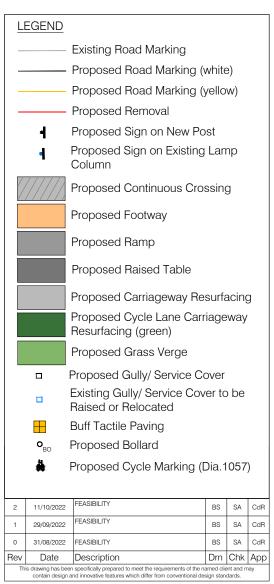


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SHEET 5 OF 9 OPTION 1

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STOVELL ROAD AND BARRY AVENUE WALKING AND CYCLING DESIGN

Drawing Title

SHEET 6 OF 9 OPTION 1

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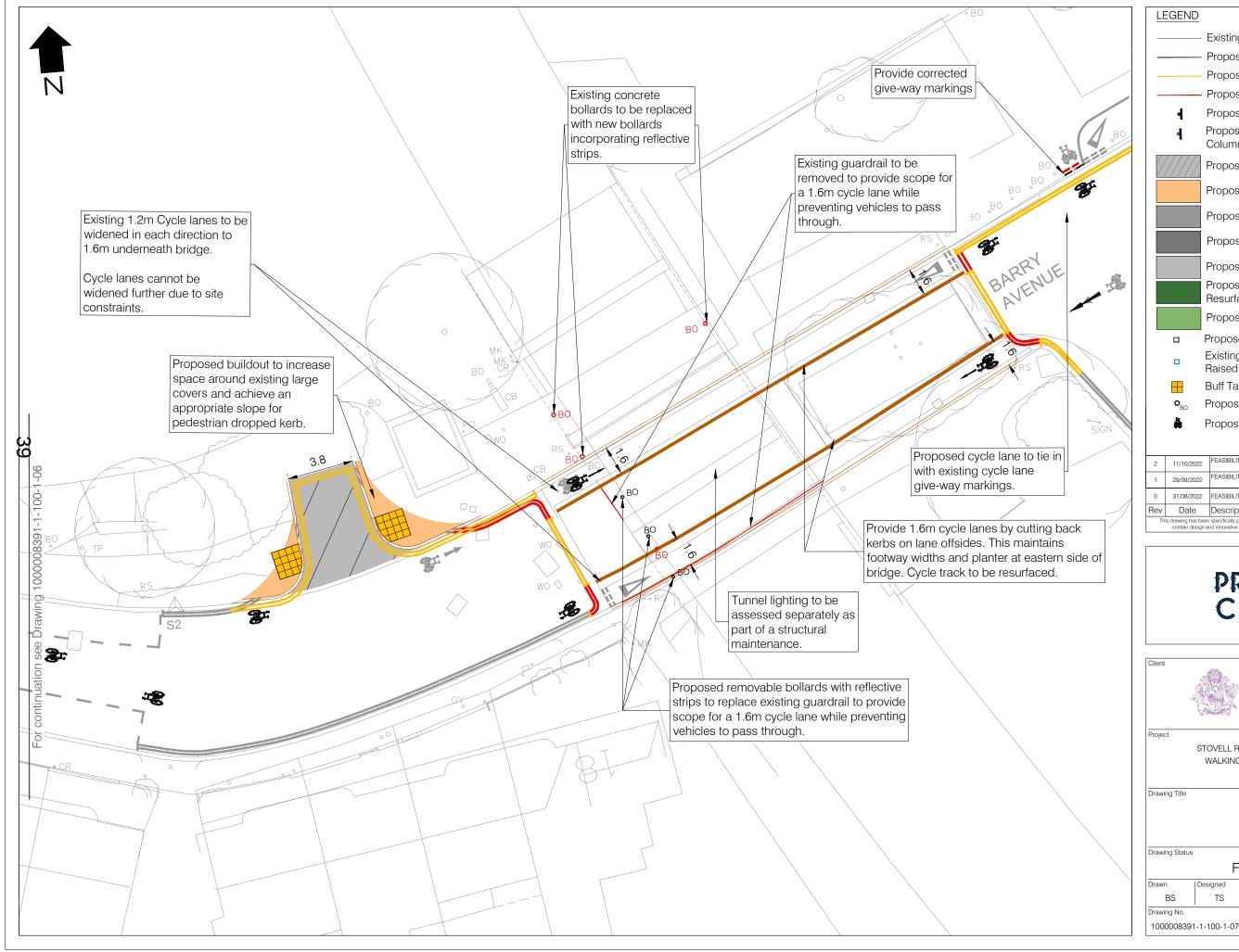
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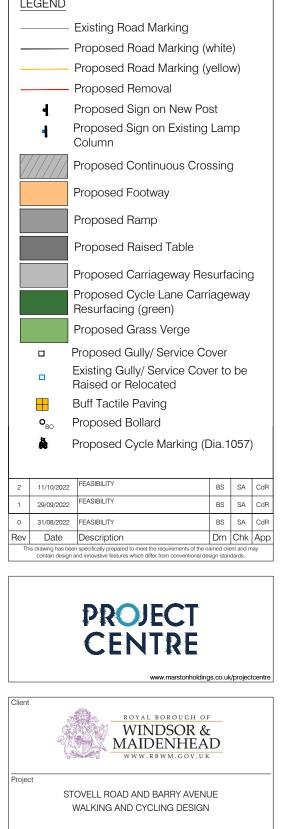
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SHEET 7 OF 9 OPTION 1

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LEGEND

Existing Road Marking

Proposed Road Marking (white)

Proposed Road Marking (yellow)

Proposed Removal Proposed Sign on New Post

Proposed Sign on Existing Lamp

Proposed Continuous Crossing

Proposed Footway

Proposed Ramp Proposed Raised Table

Proposed Carriageway Resurfacing

Proposed Cycle Lane Carriageway

Resurfacing (green) Proposed Grass Verge

Proposed Gully/ Service Cover

Existing Gully/ Service Cover to be Raised or Relocated

Buff Tactile Paving

Proposed Bollard

Proposed Cycle Marking (Dia.1057)

ı	T1					
ı	Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	Ар
	0	31/08/2022	FEASIBILITY	BS	SA	Cdf
	1	29/09/2022	FEASIBILITY	BS	SA	Cdl
	2	11/10/2022	FEASIBILITY	BS	SA	Cdl





STOVELL ROAD AND BARRY AVENUE WALKING AND CYCLING DESIGN

Drawing Title

SHEET 8 OF 9 OPTION 1

Drawing Status

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ROAD Proposed sign on lamp column No.14 to TSRGD 7014.4 - (New Road Layout Ahead). STOVELL VP1 6 Proposed sign outside No.21 to TSRGD 7014.4 - (New Road Layout Ahead). VANSITARTT ROAD VP2

SignPlot	™ Sign Schedule			Scheme:	Stovell Ro	ad and Ba	rry Av	enue Wa <mark>l</mark> king and	Cycling Design	Prepared	by: Br	anavan Suthahar	Date:	12/10/202	2
		Sign face	e			Mounting			Supports		Foundation(s)				
Sign ref.		Width (mm)	Height (mm)	Area (m²)	x-height (mm)		No.	Туре	Section	Length (mm)	No.	Depth (mm)	Width (mm)	Length (mm)	Cover (mm)
602	GIVE	679	600	0.24		2100	1	Steel circular section S235	60.3mm O.D. 2.9mm thick	3375	1	600	600	700	75
602	GIVE	679	600	0.24		2100	1	Steel circular section S235	60.3mm O.D. 2.9mm thick	3375	1	600	600	700	75
602	GIVE	679	600	0.24		2100	1	Steel circular section S235	60.3mm O.D. 2.9mm thick	3375	1	600	600	700	75
950	₩	679	600	0.24		2100	1	Steel circular section S235	60.3mm O.D. 2.9mm thick	3375	1	600	600	700	75
950	₩	679	600	0.24		2100	1	Steel circular section S235	60.3mm O.D. 2.9mm thick	3375	1	600	600	700	75
7014.4	NEW ROAD LAYOUT AHEAD	650	375	0.24	50	2100									
7014.4	NEW ROAD LAYOUT AHEAD	650	375	0.24	50	2100	1	Steel circular section S235	60.3mm O.D. 2.9mm thick	3150	1	600	600	700	75

2	11/10/2022	FEASIBILITY	BS	SA	CdR	
1	29/09/2022	FEASIBILITY	BS	SA	CdR	
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Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App	
This drawing has been specifically prepared to meet the requirements of the named client and may contain design and innovative features which differ from conventional design standards.						



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Client



Project

STOVELL ROAD AND BARRY AVENUE WALKING AND CYCLING DESIGN

Drawing Title

SHEET 9 OF 9 OPTION 1 SIGN SCHEDULE

Drawing Status

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Site visit and discussion – Maidenhead Town Centre Streets

3/10/22

Present: John Adamson, Sharon Bunce, Cllr Coppinger, Cllr Haseler, Lisa Hughes, Ellen McManus-Fry, Trisha Mentzel, Susy Shearer, Cllr Singh, Jacqui Wheeler, Dug Tremellen

Summary of group comments

- Currently, cycles legally need to follow one-way system around town it is a long way round by bike
- Have there been accidents or near misses, where people currently cycle the wrong way?
- Need to reduce highway clutter
- Is white line sufficient, for the existing contraflow cycle lane on (part of) High St?
- Observed parking on current painted cycle facility / widened footways, and ignoring double yellow lines
- High Street between St Ives Road and Queen St desire to see footways widened

 or perhaps if being very bold an extension of existing High St pedestrianisation?

 With exemptions for some types of traffic including building servicing, and
 needs of people who live in town centre, and Blue Badge holders
- Junction of High St and St Ives Road will need to clearly show where different traffic should be positioned on approaches and through junction
- If making changes to design, make it obvious so people notice that road has changed
- St Ives Road is a wide road to cross at junction with High St. Can it be narrowed?
 Would a table, or zebra be suitable?
- There is a shortage of Blue Badge parking, made more challenging as car parks have been redeveloped recently
- Blue Badge parking spaces on High St are regular size (no space for unloading equipment) and have no dropped kerb
- Outside Age UK redundant pole needs removing
- Crossing over High St outside St Mary's Walk gradient on approach to dropped kerb difficult to manoeuvre over/around. Not prominent enough. Could use raised crossing?
- Whole footway along High St is sloping, uneven, has utility covers etc very difficult to wheel over / trip hazards
- Cycle parking at top end Park St rarely used because not overlooked. Introduce seating instead / as well – would offer natural surveillance? Cycle parking useful nearer pedestrianised High St section instead?

- People are legitimately confused about where and when they can cycle
- Bus stop on High St buses cannot pull up flush with footway (or it is difficult to)

 difficult to board, and blocks highway. Could removing the last small section of black railings help? Or move bus stop round corner to Queen St, swap with taxi bays perhaps?
- Are there more secure types of cycle parking than Sheffield stands that are suitable for street environments?
- Could multi modal hubs be developed?
- Queen Street like High St, footway camber is poor
- Oueen St unnecessary bollards lining footway
- Queen St no dropped kerbs along length of street until get to near junction with Broadway where there is a raised crossing. Long way round if you need a dropped kerb!
- Queen St j/w Broadway near Gordons pub maintenance issue with accessible crossings which are not flush, and not lined up across the road so people setting off from one side may not end up finding dropped kerb on other side
- Queen St j/w Broadway very confusing patchwork of surfacing and seemingly design errors too e.g. painted double yellow lines suggest edge of carriageway is in one location, dropped kerb edge of footway/tactiles suggest others, and in between is an ambiguous cobbled space – very difficult to navigate
- Queen St j/w Broadway notice that motor vehicles are not indicating because it isn't clear which way is 'straight on', adding to challenge for peds and cycles knowing when safe to cross/manoeuvre
- Manholes and gullies in middle of footway trip hazard / difficult to wheel over
- Along Broadway, all the service entrances / access to car parks did not have dropped kerbs or tactile paving – generally in very poor state
- Broadway bus stop pole/flag located directly in middle of the footway, in everybody's way
- Broadway car park access spiral ramp overhangs footway, needs at the very least marking with yellow/black hazard stripes or something as people will be hitting their heads, it is very low. Ideally peds wouldn't have to walk under there
- Broadway large tree pots. Not well cared for, taking up space
- Broadway footway gradient/camber issues, particularly at side/access road crossings here – seems to be a very consistent problem across all streets surveyed
- Shared space signs and hazard paving at Broadway/King St most people don't know what they mean. Only drivers have read highway code. How else could it be made obvious what space is what, through design? Can cycles be treated as vehicles at this location, per LTN 1/20
- King Street create dedicated track down middle for cycling and scooting? Avoid doorways. Consider whether it needs to 'wiggle' (just a bit) to avoid speeding –

- perhaps planting could be used for natural deflection? Surfaces / height differences to show which space is which?
- No easy route into town from west side, over A308. There is space alongside A308 to do something more and create an improved link, like the Kidwells Park crossing, perhaps linked to existing junction w/Broadway? (Thanks for this discussion this will need to be looked at as a separate project for a future date, but it has been useful to know there is an interest in looking into this Dug.)



Agenda Item 6

Deerswood Meadow Public Survey

The Royal Borough would like to gather the opinions of residents on the enhancement of a community space: Deerswood Meadow. We would like to create a space for nature and residents that enhances local biodiversity and provides benefits for the local community, helping support wellbeing and encourage enjoyment of the space by increasing access to it.

Please fill in this paper survey and post to <u>Braywick Nature Centre</u>, <u>Hibbert Road</u>, <u>Maidenhead</u>, <u>SL6 1UU</u>. Please only fill in if you haven't done the online survey.

The Royal Borough is collecting this information in line with its Data Privacy Notices. For more information please see: https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-and-democracy/strategies-and-policies/data-protection/privacy-notices

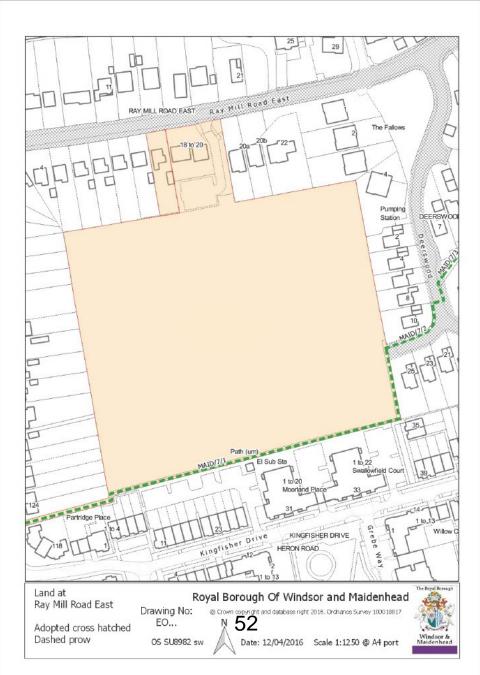
what is your age group? Pied	ise select one option.
☐ Under 18	□ 45-54
□ 18-24	□55-64
□ 25-34	□ 65-74
□ 35-44	□ 75+
What is your full postcode?	
SL6 8S* or SL6 8X*. Have you	
garden, garage etc)	is not including liveable property space, e.g., in the liveable space of your property)
	□ Under 18 □ 18-24 □ 25-34 □ 35-44 What is your full postcode? Please only answer this quest SL6 8S* or SL6 8X*. Have you (If 'Yes' we would be interested property flooding - you are we flooding.enquiries@rbwm.gov

4.	How would you primarily access Deerswood Meadow? Please select	
	one option.	
	□ Walk	
	□ Cycle	
	□ Car	
	☐ Public transport	
	☐ Other (please specify below)	
_	What do you imagine your primary reason for visiting Dearswood	
Э.	What do you imagine your primary reason for visiting Deerswood Meadow would be? Select as many as relevant.	
	☐ A place to walk	
	☐ A short cut to another destination	
	☐ A place to walk a dog	
	☐ A place to walk a dog ☐ A place to experience nature	
	☐ A place to experience nature	
	☐ A place to cycle	
	☐ A place to cycle	
	☐ A place to meet friends	
	☐ A place to use play equipment	
	☐ Other (please specify below)	
		Ш
6.	Which of the following features would you most like to see included in	1
	Deerswood Meadow? Select as many as relevant.	
	☐ Bat and bird boxes	
	☐ Annual wildflower meadow	
	□ Toad abodes (hibernaculums)	

	☐ Stag beetle loggeries	
	☐ New trees providing shade	
	☐ A wildlife hedge planted along the p	erimeter
	☐ An urban drainage feature (pond)	
	☐ A natural play area	
	☐ A natural fitness trail	
	☐ A sensory garden	
	☐ A community orchard	
	☐ A community art space	
	☐ Information signs on wildlife	
	☐ Cycle racks	
7.	Which of the following features, if any	, would you be strongly opposed
	to at Deerswood Meadow? Select up to	to 3.
	☐ Bat and bird boxes	☐ A natural play area
	☐ Annual wildflower meadow	☐ A natural fitness trail
	☐ Toad abodes (hibernaculums)	☐ A sensory garden
	☐ Stag beetle loggeries	☐ A community orchard
	☐ New trees providing shade	☐ A community art space
	\square A perimeter wildlife hedge	☐ Information signs on wildlife
	\square An urban drainage feature (pc	☐ Cycle racks
8.	Do you have any other ideas for	
٥.	Deerswood Meadow? Please consider	the context in the introduction
	above. (Answer next page)	

	9. What is likely to stop you accessing Deerswood Meadow? Think all why you do not access other green spaces? Select as many as relevant	
	☐ Too much travel time	, arre.
	☐ No good public transport options to travel there	
	☐ No provisions for my age group — e.g. no play area	
	□ Not accessible for me	
	☐ I wouldn't feel safe there	
	☐ Lack of seating	
	☐ Lack of information about the space	
	☐ Not enough wildlife around/doesn't feel natural enough	
	☐ No carpark close by	
	☐ No facilities e.g. toilets or café	
	☐ Other (please specify below)	
Γ		
L(0.Please include any other information you would like to add regarding	g the
n	mprovement of Deerswood Meadow as a public open space.	





"MILESTONES STATEMENT UPDATE 2022 - 2023"

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the forum on progress this year with "Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2022/23" and request for ongoing suggestions from the LAF.

2. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 22-23 was approved by the Rights of Way & Highways Licensing Panel on 14th March 2022.
- As part of the review the Panel agreed that the Local Access Forum can now feed into the Statement continually throughout the year. Current progress towards the "Milestones Targets" in the current year is shown on the Appendix 1 attached to this report.

2.3 **VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITY 2022**

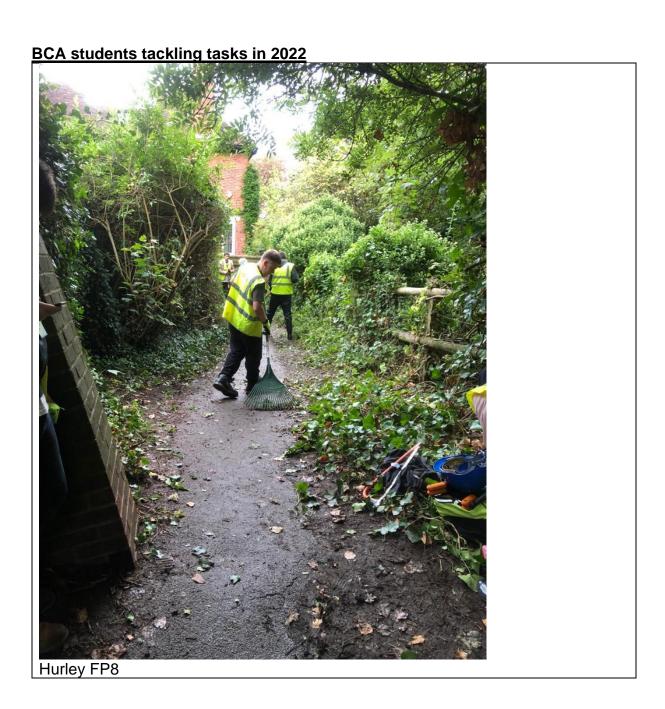
2.4 BCA group of students undertaking the Foundation course have been steadily completing tasks on both public rights of way and in our parks to help them become accustomed to using hand tools in removing vegetation.

Group	Location	Task	Complete
BCA	FP48/Town Moor	Lift the lower branches of small trees in park and cut back sympathetically the overhanging vegetation	complete
BCA	Uncles Lane	open up, cut back and thin out the vegetation to help with drying out the new surface when laid	complete
BCA	Maidenhead FP23A and 23B at edges of Laggan Field	Cut back vegetation	Complete
BCA	Maidenhead FP23b and Hurley FP8	Cut up and move fallen tree to the verges. Hurley 8 - cut back vegetation to widen narrow path	Complete
BCA	Town Moor	continue with lifting lower branches of trees	Complete – needs re-visit in Sept
BCA	Town Moor and Hurley BR15	cut back overhanging vegetation and lower branches of trees	Complete
BCA	Datchet FP5 Montagu Rd to Green Lane across railway line and Datchet paths near Pococks Lane	cut back overgrowing vegetation from footpath signs at both ends and brambles by the steps and cut	Complete

		back overhanging veg on paths by Pococks Ln	
BCA	Ockwells Park FP11 Cox Green and St Clouds Way underpass and Underpass under A4 by Town Moor	cut brambles back and any overhanging vegetation	Complete
BCA	Hurley FP8	re-visit to cut back forsythia hard and scrape off the tarmac paths surface	complete
TCV	Hurley Footpath 17	Repair handrail up the slope to High Wood and install steps at steepest point	complete
TCV	Hurley Footpath 17	Installing handrail up the slope to High Wood and building steps cont.d	complete
TCV	Braywick	Hand rail repairs and step repairs	complete
TCV	Braywick	Repaired 4 x sleeper steps on main steps up to NR	complete
TCV	The Green Way Maid/16	Surface improvement using last of donated gravel	complete
TCV	Cox Green FP7	Surface improvement work using 4 bulk bags of Type 1 material	complete
TCV	Cockmarsh - Cookham FP34	Phase 2 – consolidate steps and revetment. Working in partnership with NT to find best solution for keeping people on the FP in this sensitive habitat, chalk grassland (SSSI)	TBC

NB: No further works planned until confirmation of RBWM Grant awarded. Grant application placed in Sept 2022.

Discussions have taken place to potentially work towards TCV to gaining the RBWM grant through a Service Level agreement for their valued volunteering in the borough in conjunction with the Sustainability Team and PRoW and Parks Team to enable easier forward planning for tasks each year rather than having to apply each year for the Grant.





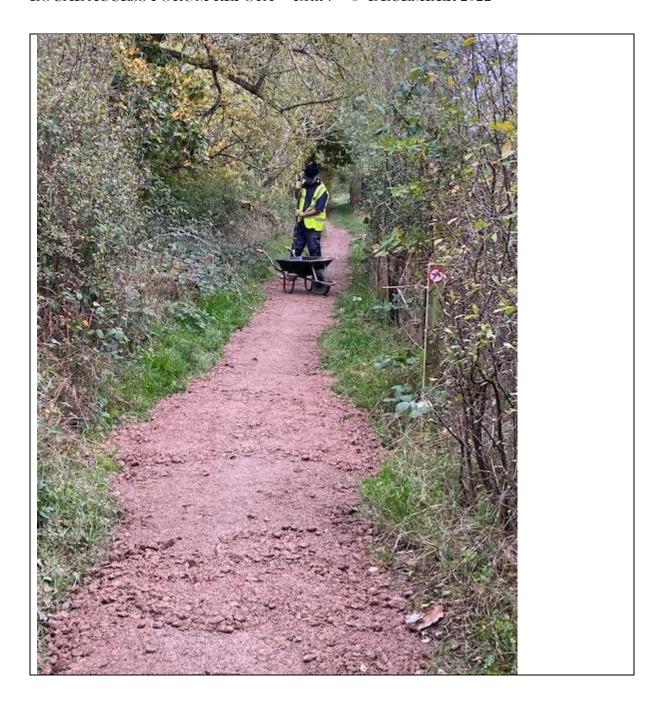
The Conservation Volunteers on Cox Green FP7 2022













Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Milestones Targets 2022-23

		UPDATED: 18/10/22						
WELL	WELL MAINTAINED							
WM1	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 2022-23: 95%	[note surveys undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers] Spring survey result: 93.2% Autumn survey result: XXX%						
WM2	To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)							
Eton B	R13	Surface improvements						
Bray B	R20	Surface improvements						
Braywi	ick park route to school (Looking into possibilities CCL)	Surface improvements						
WSL F	P39	Major vegetation clearance						
Uncles	Lane, Shurlock Road – RB35	Major surface improvement project						
Burleig	h Road, Ascot – SUNH/ Byway 18	Potholes filled						
Cook/5	55 (WiW)	Clearance						
Cox G	reen FP11	Vegetation Clearance						
Cox Green FP7 (TCV)		Surface improvement						
WM3	To repair or replace 7 bridges.	Total: 6						
	. C. Opan C. Copiaco I anagosi							
Bray F	P52	repair						
Eton F	P2	Repair						
Margai	ret's Bridge	Repair to ramps						
Bray F	P57	Repair to bridge						
Bray F	P16	Repair						
Eton F	P2	Replacement						
WSL F	P38	Repair						
		Total: 7						
	PUBLICISED							
WP1	To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet	Total:						



Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Milestones Targets 2022-23

Wraysi	bury PC	1
Sunnin	nghill & Ascot	1
WP2	To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.	Total:
Walks	For All Project	1
IMPRO	OVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	
AC1	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.	Total:
Thriftw	ood Permissive BR access Trial	1
AC2	To make 10 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by by people with disabilities, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc	
Cookha	am FP60	Works to remove tree roots and smooth surface laid
Cookha	am FP42	Surface improvement
The Gr	reen Way and Maidenhead FP90	Removal of lockable posts due to refreshing the security bund and resurfacing work on path prone to flooding
Cookha	am FP46	Step refurbishment
Cookha	am FP55	Remove metal trip hazards in Thames Path
Cookh	am FP48	Steps and revetment work
		Total: 5

Black text – works complete Italics– works not yet complete

Public Rights of Way Milestones 2022-23: monthly summary (running total)

		Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 31 st 2023
2021-22 Achieved	Target 2022-23												
90.7%	95% easy to use	-	-	93%	-	-	-	-	-	-			
11	10 major surface or clearance jobs	-	-	4	5	5	5	5	6	6			
9	7 bridge repairs or replaceme nts	-	2	4	6	6	7	7	7	7			
1	1 new Parish leaflet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
2	1 new prom. info. (assist others)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
1	1 new path created	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-			
10	10 access improvem ents		-	-	-	5	5	5	5	5			



WAYMARKING THE MILLENNIUM WALK

This paper is submitted by the Maidenhead Civic Society and has the support of East Berks Ramblers.

- 1. The Millennium Walk runs between Hurley and Maidenhead Riverside and was conceived by Maidenhead Civic Society and East Berks Ramblers as a project to celebrate the new Millennium. Over the years missing links have been put in place to improve the walk, most recently the route across Battlemead Common. A link from Marlow to connect with the Walk at Malders Lane in Pinkneys Green was opened in 2005. The only remaining missing link, across the rail track at Spensers Farm, north Maidenhead, may be achieved when this site is developed and better access to the proposed development is needed.
- 2. The MW is made up of a permitted paths, public rights of ways (PROW), restricted byways and country roads. In this respect it is similar to the Boundary Walk and the Green Way. Whilst both of these walks are individually waymarked, the Millennium Walk is not. The Royal Borough is rightly proud of its rights of way network and the named walks that it contains, which also include the Three Castles Walk shown on Ordnance Survey maps. The network makes a valuable contribution to physical and mental health as was evidenced during the pandemic.
- 3. It seems only sensible to accord the Millennium Walk the same status and signage as other named walks. This would supplement existing waymarkers and signposts. The initial Millennium Walk leaflet was published in 2012 and updated in 2022 to incorporate the link across Battlemead Common. It makes good sense for walkers following the map to also have reference to signage along the route.
- 4. A preliminary survey indicates that the following signage would be required
 - signs on existing finger posts (estimate 5 required)
 - waymarkers such as those used to sign the Boundary Walk. These could be plastic or adhesive roundels or adhesive (estimate 120 required)
 - short wooden posts with roundels attached, such as used in Braywick Park (estimate 10 required)
- 5. It has not yet been possible to calculate costs but these would not be high. For example, waymarker discs cost approximately £2.50 each. Installation, apart from any new finger posts requiring excavation, would be undertaken by MCS and EBR members.

Recommendations

- 1. LAF is asked to support the principle of signing the Millennium Walk
- 2. That officers of the Royal Borough be asked to identify any potential funding sources, including existing Council budgets; government initiative funding; grants.
- 3. That the project be taken forward by Royal Borough officers, MCS and EBR.

We hope the Local Access Forum will consider this proposal favourably. If so the Civic Society and the Ramblers will undertake to provide more detailed information on the waymarking required. We consider that the project to sign the Millennium Walk is relevant to the government aim to facilitate walking for which funds are apparently available. Certainly this aim would improve the physical and mental health of the population as it did during the pandemic.

Ann Darracott, MCS Steve Gillions, EBRA October 2022

The Millennium Walk

HURLEY TO MAIDENHEAD RIVERSIDE

This walk is a joint project between Maidenhead Civic Society and East Berks Ramblers. This leaflet aims to help walkers follow the route and enjoy the heritage, vistas and wildlife along the way.

Distance: 7¾ miles (12.5km)Start: Hurley Village Car ParkFinish: Boulters Lock Car Park

The Millennium Walk connects at each end with the Thames Path National Trail. A footpath link, shown between the Millennium Route and Marlow, provides two additional circular walks using the Thames Path.

Hurley to Prospect Hill

Tithecote House was a 14th-century Tithe Barn with dovecote – before conversion in 1950. St Mary the Virgin Church: A Benedictine Priory, as a cell to Westminster Abbey, was founded in this church in 1086 by the Norman Lord, Geoffrey de Mandeville. A smaller 14th-century Tithe Barn stands next to one of three Village Greens purchased, in 1976 by Hurley Village Association together with the lordship of the manor. Ye Olde Bell Inn was a guest house of the priory – dated 1135 over door but apparently it is 15th-century.

Prospect Hill to Temple Golf Club

Vista over Thames Valley: Large white building is Danesfield Court, now a luxury hotel, requisitioned during WWII as a base for air photo-intelligence. Prospect Hill summit marks boundary of Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA). Hall Place, the mansion now owned by the college, was the seat of the Clayton East family, once Lords of the Manor of Hurley. This section includes a new permitted path granted by BCA.

Temple Golf Club to Boundary Oak, Pinkneys Green

Vista is one of the best in the Thames Valley. Temple Golf Club was founded in 1909 by Capt G MacDonald of the Guards Club, Maidenhead, on fine chalk downland leased from the Temple Park & Bisham Estates.

Boundary Oak to the Green Way

Boundary Stone at base of Boundary Oak, one of the stones marking 1934 boundary of Maidenhead. From now on the route largely follows the northern boundary of the town in 1934 and connects several Commons and the Brick & Tile Works Nature Reserve, all held by the National Trust.

The Green Way to Widbrook Common

Heron, kingfishers, red kites and deer can be seen along this streamside walk.

Widbrook Common to Maidenhead Riverside

Vista: Hanging Woods of Cliveden Reach with Cliveden House (NT) on the skyline. Until 2021 Commoners grazed their cattle on Widbrook Common from mid-May to mid-November for a seasonal fee that benefited the Cookham Educational Charity. Grazing may resume in the future. In 2018 RBWM purchased part of White Place Farm to create Battlemead Common providing public open space and one of the missing links in the Millennium Walk. To protect overwintering migratory birds the causeway path on the East Field of Battlemead will be open only from April until after Rotary Bridge's Boundary Walk in October, beginning in April 2022. This will allow the Millennium Walk and the Boundary Walk, which it follows from Pinkneys Green, to be routed close to the 1934 boundary of Maidenhead during those months as well as providing a circular walk.

The Thames Path – Millennium Walk Link

Bisham Woods, including Quarry Wood, considered to be the richest ancient woodland in Berkshire, have been owned and sensitively managed by the Woodland Trust since 1990. The Wood is said to be the original "Wild Wood" of Kenneth Graham's book Wind in the Willows. He lived in Cookham Dean.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Maidenhead Civic Society: aims to improve and protect many aspects of the environment, including creating new walks. www.maidenheadcivicsoc.org.uk

East Berkshire Ramblers: helps to protect and restore public rights of way and seeks to develop new footpaths. www.eastberksramblers.org

Public Rights of Way, Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, email: prow@rbwm.gov.uk

Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA)

To check on permitted paths, email: enquiries@bca.ac.uk

Note: The completion of the Millennium Walk has been given high priority by the Local Access Forum (LAF) and is in the RBWM Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) of both 2005–2015 and 2016–2026. Work will continue to complete the remaining missing links.

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