

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017

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 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Key:

Completed items

In progress

Incomplete

Action owners:

AF	Andrew Fletcher (Public Rights of Way Officer)	AH	Anthony Hurst (Parks and Countryside Team Leader)
SW	Sharon Wootten (Public Rights of Way Officer)	PT	Peter Thorn
GO	Gordon Oliver (Principal Transport Policy Officer)	GP	Geoff Priest
GM	Gordon Marrs		

### Agenda Item 1: Matters arising from the last meeting

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
1.1	Approach schools around Sunningdale and Sunninghill for potential volunteer groups	AF	An email was sent to all schools on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2017. 1 school has expressed interest in forming a volunteer working party and this is being discussed further.
1.2	Circulate outline information of local wildlife sites to each Parish Council	AF	Maps of local wildlife sites have been circulated to all Parish Councils
1.3	Develop a site visit schedule for Feb-June 2017	AF	May 17: Hawthorn Lane / Hogoak Lane

### Agenda Item 2: Members' update

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
2.1	Write to Mrs Bowdery's family on behalf of the forum to express the forums' sympathy for their loss and appreciation for her work	PT	A letter was sent to Margaret Bowdery's family on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
2.2	The Forum <b>recommended</b> to the Council that Margaret	PT/AF	Email from PT to Councillor Dudley sent on 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2016

	Bowdery's decades of dedication and enthusiasm to promote and improve access to the countryside is permanently appreciated by associating her name with a local path or linked route with which she may have been particularly involved in its creation or protection, or perhaps some future significant future project		
2.3	Invite the Crown Estate to talk to the Forum about current and future developments and changes within Windsor Great Park	AF	Invitation sent to Tom Jarvis 6/12/16

#### Agenda Item 4: RBWM Cycling Strategy

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
4.1	<p>The Forum supported the RBWM cycling strategy in principle, and <b>recommended</b> the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The strategy should seek to generate partnership working to develop multi-user routes and create links to fill gaps in the network.</li> <li>2. The strategy should ensure that the Council take advantage of development opportunities to create new links and improve the network, including ensuring that the cycling strategy is included as far as possible in the Local Plans.</li> <li>3. The strategy should include goals to encourage more responsible cycling in the Borough.</li> </ol>	GO	The advice from the LAF has been incorporated into the RBWM Cycling Strategy.

#### Agenda Item 5: Milestones Statement and Annual Targets for 2017-2018

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
5.1	The forum <b>recommended</b> to the Council that the following	AH	These recommendations will be reported to the Rights of Way and

	<p>changes are made to the priorities listed in the targets for 2017/2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WM 1: remain at 95%</li> <li>• WM 2: remain at 10 surface improvements</li> <li>• WM3: remain at 5 bridges</li> <li>• LD1: Remove this target. The forum notes the current service standard to deal with uncontested DMMO applications within 1 year.</li> <li>• WP1: Increased to 2 leaflets.</li> <li>• WP2: Remain at 1 leaflet</li> <li>• AC1: remain at 1 new path</li> <li>• AC2: Remain at 15 physical access improvements</li> <li>• EN1: The forum suggested that the target be changed to 'resolve 100% of all new enforcement cases within 3 months'.</li> <li>• Change existing priority to "seek improvements <i>and additions</i> to the network <i>and enhance connectivity</i> for horse riders, cyclists and people restricted mobility"</li> <li>• Change existing priority to "Liaise with landowners and occupiers on all public rights of way matters, including updating and advising landowners on changes in legislation <i>and encouraging the establishment of permitted routes</i>"</li> </ul>		<p>Highways Licensing Panel on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016</p>
<p>5.2</p>	<p>Review East Berks Ramblers survey with Lisa Hughes and East Berks Ramblers to capture</p>	<p>AF/SW</p>	<p>Meeting held on</p>

	issues relating to disabled access		
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**Agenda Item 6: Auditing the list of streets**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
6.1	The forum <b>recommended</b> to the Council the following: <i>No highway (or part highway) should be removed from the list of streets, other than pursuant to a legal event, unless to correct a mistake where there has been consultation with local interests (such as the local access forum and parish council), the correction is fully documented for archiving and indexation, and the decision is taken transparently within the Council by an appropriate panel, based on a report by officers.</i>	AF	<p>After further discussion about this with John Stewart who looks after the Adopted Highway records, we do not think that the decision should be taken to panel as it is essentially an evidence based question rather than one of opinion; there would be little the Panel could add if the evidence shows a road should not have been included in the records.</p> <p>There is value in soliciting any evidence that people may hold as the status of a particular highway however, and we will consult the BHS when the status of a highway is being investigated, requesting whether or not the BHS has any evidence that would help in the investigation.</p> <p>This would allow some open knowledge of what is being investigated and allow an opportunity for any evidence that may be held by the BHS with regard to a road's status to be uncovered.</p> <p>This would be sent out at the same time that a similar consultation is sent to other external parties such as the local Parish Council.</p>
6.2	Respond to British Horse Society to inform them of the forums decision.	AF	Email sent to Janice Bridger on 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017.

**Agenda Item 7: Berkshire College of Agriculture planning application**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
7.1	The forum provided comments on the planning application as follows:  <i>The forum have a mixed view</i>	AF	The LAF comments have been sent to the Planning Officer to be included in the report to the Development Control Panel.

	<p><i>regarding this application. There is a strong view that the open countryside should be retained, and that the proposed planting would change the nature of the landscape, and conversely there was also a view that the proposed planting would be acceptable.</i></p> <p><i>Likewise, there was mixed view from the forum regarding the height of the proposed development, with some suggesting that the 3 storey high buildings would be too high and adversely affect the view from the footpath, and others suggesting that this would not be too much of an impact.</i></p> <p><i>The suggestion from the Highways Development Control Officer, supported by Anthony Hurst, for a 1-way system was debated and on balance the forum felt that this would not be feasible to mitigate the traffic issues, however there were still mixed views.</i></p> <p><i>An area where there was common ground within the forum was the vehicular entrance point at the junction of Hurley Footpath 18. On this point the forum as a whole felt that this would be dangerous.</i></p>		
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**Agenda Item 8: LAF work programme**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action / Issue</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
8.1	All members to response to AF with details of potential new multi-user routes	ALL	No feedback has been received to date
8.2	A small working party to be established to look at actions to foster closer engagement with Parish Councils	AF/PT/GP	A meeting was held on 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2017.
8.3	Review the weekly planning list and advise the forum if there are applications made which may be of interest to the forum	GM	Ongoing

8.4	Liaise with the Council's planning teams and ensure that they are aware of what the LAF would wish to be consulted about, particularly in regard to large planning developments	AF	Ongoing discussions about how the LAF can be best involved with this process.
8.5	Meet with Alan Keene and Annie Keene to develop proposal for new horse riding access within Ashley Hill, to be subsequently taken forward to relevant land owners.	AF	Meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> February 17 and a plan of suggested routes was developed. Unfortunately the Forestry Commission who manage the land are not willing to grant permission for additional horse riding use in the forest.

**Agenda Item 9: Cross compliance reporting**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
9.1	<p>The forum <b>recommended</b> to the Council that the procedure for dealing with ploughing and cropping issues be changed to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make first contact with farmers via telephone to explain the report or issue. This telephone call should agree the date with the farmer for the resolution of the issue based upon the 14 day deadline. Explain that if the works are not done by this deadline the issue will be reported to the RPA. Take the 14 day deadline from the date that the farmer is contacted. Where necessary agree extension of this deadline up to 28 days, for example where ground conditions do not allow proper reinstatement.</li> <li>2. Farmer to contact RBWM when the works have been done, providing photographic evidence.</li> <li>3. If the agreed deadline has not been met this should then be reported to the RPA.</li> </ol>	AF/AH	These recommendations will be reported to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2016.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2017 - AGENDA ITEM 1(c)

9.2	Meet with the Rural Forum to explain this new process and gain contact details for all local farmers	AF	AF attended Rural Forum meeting on 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2016
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**Agenda Item 11: Feedback from meetings and conferences**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
11.1	Circulate slideshow from the De-regulation Act training to all members with the minutes.	AF	Following a review of the training materials the slideshow consisted of illustrative photographs but did not contain any useful information about the Deregulation Act. It was decided that this would not be useful information to distribute.