

## LAF CHAIR MEETING – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### 1.0 ATTENDANCE

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

### 2.0 APOLOGIES FROM

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

### 3.0 ACTIONS / NOTES FROM THE MEETING

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

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

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

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

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