

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6- MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT
1st FEBRUARY- 31st AUGUST 2018**

The total number of outstanding reported problems on Public Rights of Way has risen from 9 to 12 during the reporting period, (see table at Annex A for list of outstanding issues).

1. ENFORCEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 1st Feb 2018</i>	<i>Reported 1st Feb '18 - 31st Aug '18</i>	<i>Closed 1st Feb '18 - 31st Aug '18</i>	<i>Outstanding on 31st August 2018</i>
Enforcement problems	0	26	17	9

Examples of enforcement cases that have been resolved:

Path	Problem
Bisham FP 32 (Town Farm, Bisham)	Legal width of path obstructed by crops. <i>Path widened to legal width following formal notice to farmer and enforcement action. Rural Payments Agency informed</i>
Cookham FP 48	Gate broken and surface eroded by cattle. <i>Gate and path surface repaired by landowner.</i>
Eton Bridleways 17 & 18, Footpath 19	Path obstructions by cropping and ploughing. <i>Paths reinstated by farmer. Rural Payments Agency informed</i>
Hurley Footpath 17	Path padlocked shut by unknown persons. <i>Path reopened by landowner</i>
Maidenhead FP 87	Overgrown trees obstructing path. <i>Trees cut back by adjacent landowner.</i>

2. MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 1st Feb 2018</i>	<i>Reported 1st Feb '18 - 31st Aug '18</i>	<i>Closed 1st Feb '18 - 31st Aug '18</i>	<i>Outstanding on 31st August 2018</i>
Maintenance problems	9	7	13	3

Examples of maintenance and improvement projects completed:

Maidenhead FP 46 (Newlands Drive)	Surface improvement
Hurley FP 1 (Thames Path National Trail)	Surface improvement
Waltham St Lawrence FP 34 (off Hungerford Lane)	Bridge replacement
Cookham FP 46 (Alfred Major Rec)	Tarmac surface provided
Waltham St Lawrence FP 12 (off Mire Lane)	Bridge refurbishment

3. CHANGES TO THE PATH NETWORK

3.1 Wraysbury claimed footpaths 501 to 505 (Thamesfield)

On 15th July 2016 Orders were made to add fourteen footpaths at Thamesfield to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way. A number of objections were received to all the Orders, and a Local Public Inquiry was held from 1st to 4th May 2018.

The Inspector who conducted the Inquiry published his decision on 19th July: thirteen of the fourteen Orders were confirmed as made, and one Order was not confirmed.

Notices advertising the confirmation of the Orders were published on 10th August: following publication of the confirmation Notices, there will be a statutory 42 day period during which appeals can be made to the High Court for Judicial Review, but only if it can be shown that the Orders are legally flawed.

All but two of the thirteen confirmed footpaths are already fully open and available for public use, and arrangements are being put in place to re-open the two remaining footpaths that are currently blocked.

Public footpath signs will be installed at the entrances to the footpaths from the surrounding road network, and the 13 confirmed footpaths will become part of the recorded Public Rights of Way network and therefore be legally protected in perpetuity. In total, these 13 footpaths add approximately 2.9 km (1.8 miles) to the public rights of way network in the borough.

3.2 Margaret's Bridge

A new bridge across "The Cut", linking Maidenhead Road to the Green Way at Braywick Park, is to be opened on 17th September 2018. The bridge is being named in memory of Margaret Bowdery, former President of the East Berkshire Ramblers, in recognition of her tireless efforts and achievements in improving and protecting public rights of way and access to the countryside in the borough. The new bridge and connecting paths will provide a safe off-road route for walkers and cyclists, including access to the Oldfield Primary School, as well as a valuable new link to Braywick Park and the Green Way.

4. VOLUNTEERS

4.1 Working with Parish Councils, path user groups and the National Trust

All Parish/Town Councils in the borough, as well as the British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust, are members of the Parish Paths Initiative (PPI). Through this scheme the rights of way officers work directly with the Parish/Town Councils and the voluntary groups on maintaining and improving the rights of way network in the borough. As part of the PPI project, annual grants are paid to Cookham and Old Windsor Parish Councils who organise routine path clearance works in their parishes. A number of successful projects have been completed this year including: a joint project with the National Trust and Woodland Trust in Cookham Dean, improved signage in Bisham, and boardwalk improvements in Sunninghill. The partnership continues to deliver benefits to all involved.

4.2 Volunteering

The Public Rights of Way team have worked with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA), Ways into Work (WiW) and St Mary's School, Ascot (StM) to carry out practical work on public rights of way in the borough over the past 6 months.

The following projects were completed between February and August 2018

Date	Group	Path	Task	No. of participants
4 April 2018	WiW	Datchet FP 8 &9	Vegetation clearance	8
11 April 2018	WiW	Bray BR 64 (Cruch Lane)	Vegetation clearance	8
18 April 2018	WiW	Maidenhead BR 46 (Muddy Lane)	Vegetation clearance	7
25 April 2018	WiW	Bray FP 66 (Ashmore Lane)	Vegetation clearance	7
26 April 2018	BCA	Cox Green Footpath 4	Vegetation clearance	6
2 May 2018	WiW	Sunningdale FP 13	Litter picking	7
3 May 2018	BCA	Cox Green Footpath 7	Vegetation clearance	6
9 May 2018	WiW	Hurley BR 15	Vegetation clearance	8
10 May 2018	BCA	Cox Green Footpath 7	Vegetation clearance	6
16 May 2018	WiW	Hurley BR 15	Vegetation clearance	7
17 May 2018	BCA	Cox Green Footpath 7	Vegetation clearance	6
23 May 2018	WiW	Hurley BR 15	Vegetation clearance	8
24 May 2018	BCA	Waltham St Lawrence FP 34	Vegetation clearance	6
30 May 2018	WiW	Hurley Horse Margin	Vegetation clearance	8
6 June 2018	WiW	Hurley Horse Margin	Vegetation clearance	9
7 June 2018	BCA	Waltham St Lawrence FP 34	Vegetation clearance	6
9 June 2018	StM	Sunninghill FP 13	Vegetation clearance	8
13 June 2018	WiW	Bray FPs 2/39/40/41/43	Vegetation clearance	6
14 June 2018	BCA	Waltham St Lawrence FP 34	Vegetation clearance	6
14 June 2018	TCV	Hurley FP 29	Boardwalk repair and construction	11
20 June 2018	WiW	Bray FPs 2/39/40/41/43	Vegetation clearance	7
21 June 2018	BCA	Waltham St Lawrence FP 34	Vegetation clearance	6
27 June 2018	WiW	Maidenhead Footpath 45	Vegetation clearance	8
28 June 2018	BCA	Waltham St Lawrence FP 34 / Maidenhead Footpath 44	Vegetation clearance	6
4 July 2018	WiW	Maidenhead Footpath 44	Vegetation clearance	9
12 July 2018	WiW	Datchet FP 6	Vegetation clearance	7
12 July 2018	TCV	Hurley FP 44	Surfacing of the footpath	10
18 July 2018	WiW	Sunningdale FP 13	Litter picking	9
25 July 2018	WiW	Cox Green FP 6, 7 & 10	Vegetation clearance	6
1 August 2018	WiW	Cox Green FP 10	Vegetation clearance	8
2 August 2018	TCV	Hurley RB 54	Surfacing of the footpath	10
8 August 2018	WiW	Bray BR 22 (Long Lane) & BR 23 (Blackbird Lane) areas	Vegetation clearance	7
9 August 2018	TCV	Hurley FP 29	Boardwalk extension	10
15 August 2018	WiW	Bray BR 22 (Long Lane) & BR 23 (Blackbird Lane) areas	Vegetation clearance	8
17 August 2018	TCV	Hurley FP 44	Surfacing of the footpath	2
22 August 2018	WiW	Bray FP 24 and Bray BR 29	Vegetation clearance	8
Total work tasks		36		
Total volunteer days		265		

Based upon our current commercial rates for path works the value of the volunteer works listed above is:

Berkshire College of Agriculture: £229.20
Ways into Work: £2,036.64
The Countryside Volunteers: £2,250
St. Mary's School, Ascot: £36.00

Additionally, volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carried out 160 hours of condition survey work during the six-month period February – August 2018. This equates to £1,320 added value (based on the National Living Wage of £8.25 which is used as a notional figure for the hourly rate of volunteers).

Grand Total: £5,871.84

4.3 Partnership working with the East Berks Ramblers

Local volunteers from the East Berks Ramblers carry out inspections of the public rights of way network in Spring and Autumn each year, based on a three year rolling programme (i.e. approx. 1/3rd of the network is surveyed each year). The information obtained from these surveys is used to identify and prioritise works, and to calculate the annual performance indicator that measures the percentage of public rights of way that are easy to use. The 'easy to use' figure from the Spring 2018 survey was **87%**.

5. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Local Access Forum (LAF) is “*a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community*” established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum meets twice a year, with additional informal meetings or site visits as required.

http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way/452/local_access_forum

The LAF web content was developed by the Forum and contains the following:

- Information about the Forum, and how to get involved
- Minutes and agendas for the Forum meetings
- Links and information tailored for walkers, horse riders and cyclists
- Information about the Forum members and projects
- Copies of advice supplied by the Forum's Fast Response Team
- Links to neighbouring Local Access Forums and other useful links.

Anyone interested in applying to join the Forum should contact the Forum Secretary, Ambika Chouhan (01628 796185)

ANNEXE A**Public Rights of Way: issues outstanding, February 2018**

Parish/path number	Issue	Date reported
Bray FP 52 (off Fifield Road)	Stiles loose	18/05/18
Sunninghill FP 36 (Ascot High Street- Ascot Station)	Drainage issues along path	01/05/18
Sunningdale FP 2 (Coworth Park)	Drainage issues along path	23/03/18
Bray FP 1 (off Holyport Street)	Potential encroachment onto path	16/07/18
Bray FP 7 (off Sturt Green)	Path blocked due to alteration of kissing gate	16/07/18
Sunninghill BW 18 (Blythewood Lane)	Potential encroachment at 2 Marston Way	16/07/18
Old Windsor FP 3 (Thames Path National Trail)	Materials, and planting placed within path verge	27/06/18
Wraysbury FP 6 (off Douglas Lane)	Path blocked by gate	16/07/18
Sunninghill FP 5 (off Cheapside Road)	Path flooded due to blockage in neighbouring land	09/02/17
Maidenhead RB 70 (Malders Lane)	Report that hedges overhanging highway	03/07/18
Eton FP 45 (Union Passage)	Report that path is overgrown	07/08/18
Horton BR 4 (off Foundry Lane)	Report that bridleway being obstructed by nearby scrap yard business	28/08/18