

CONSULTATION ON DRAFT MILESTONES STATEMENT & PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW 2019/20

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consult the Forum on the priorities, targets and service standards to be included in the Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review 2019/20.

**2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Council produces a **Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review**, which sets out priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work in the coming year, and reviews progress made in the previous year. The Statement also includes an update on progress with implementation of the Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016/2026.
- 2.2 The Milestones Statement helps guide the work of the Council's Public Rights of Way Team, ensures that available resources are directed towards agreed objectives and priorities, and enables effective monitoring of progress.
- 2.3 The Milestones Statement is scheduled to be submitted to the Council's Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel on **4<sup>th</sup> March 2019**, prior to publication in April 2019. The published Milestones Statement will then be circulated to all members of the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel, Parish Councils, Local Access Forum members and others with an interest in the public rights of way network, and will also be available in public libraries and Council offices, and will be published on the Borough website.
- 2.4 The views of the Local Access Forum are requested on the following:
- Priorities for 2019/20: Are there any recommended changes to the priorities listed in the current 2018/19 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?
  - Milestones Targets for 2019/20: Are there any recommended changes to the Milestones Targets listed in the current 2018/19 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?
  - Service Standards for 2019/20: Are there any recommended changes to the Service Standards listed in the 2018/19 Milestones Statement (see Appendix A)?

Progress towards the Milestones Targets in the current year is set out elsewhere on the agenda, and could be used as a guide to setting the targets for 2019/20.

**MAKING YOUR COMMENTS**: Any comments or recommendations agreed by the Forum at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February will be incorporated into a report to the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel as "Local Access Forum comments or recommendations".

**Public Rights of Way Milestones 2018-2019: monthly summary (running total)**

	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar 31 <sup>st</sup> 2018
<b>Target 2018-19</b>												
<b>95% easy to use</b>	-	-	-	<b>87%</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>87%</b>		
<b>10 major surface or clearance jobs</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>		
<b>7 bridge repairs or replaceme nts</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>		
<b>1 new Parish leaflet</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
<b>1 new prom. info. (assist others)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>1 new path created</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>10 access improvements</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>		
<b>Number of issues outstanding on database</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>		

# Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

## Public Rights of Way Milestones Targets 2018-19

<b>UPDATED: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019</b>	
<b>WELL MAINTAINED</b>	
<b>WM1</b> <i>To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public (former Best Value Performance Indicator 178). Target for 2017-18: 95%</i>	<i>[note: surveys to be undertaken in Spring and Autumn by East Berks Ramblers]</i>  <b>Spring survey 87%</b>
<b>WM2</b> <i>To carry out major surface improvements or vegetation clearance on 10 public rights of way. (FP =footpath, BR = bridleway, RB = restricted byway)</i>	
Cookham Footpath 61 (off Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Cookham Footpath 46 (Adjacent to Shergold Way)	Surface improvements
Datchet Footpath 9 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Hurley Footpath 1 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
Hurley Bridleway 15 (Hodgedale Lane)	Vegetation clearance works
Hurley Horse Margin (Henley Road)	Vegetation clearance works
Hurley Footpath 44 (off Star Lane)	Surface improvements
Hurley Footpath 45 (off Knowl Hill Common)	Surface improvements
Maidenhead RB 70 (Malders Lane)	Surface improvements
Old Windsor Footpath 3 (Thames Path)	Surface improvements
	<b>Total : 10</b>
<b>WM3</b> <i>To repair or replace 7 bridges.</i>	
Bray Footpath 4 (off Sturt Green)	Bridge replaced
Cox Green Footpath 11 (Ockwells Park)	Boardwalk repairs
Eton Footpath 3 (off Common Road)	Bridge repaired
Sunninghill Footpath 5 (off Cheapside Road)	Extension to boardwalk
Sunninghill Footpath 5 (off Cheapside Road)	Bridge repaired
Sunninghill Footpath 13 (off Coronation Road)	Repairs to bridge approaches
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 12 (off Mire Lane)	Bridge improvements
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 34 (off Hungerford Road)	Bridge replaced
Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 38 (off Smewins Road)	Bridge repaired
	<b>Total : 9</b>
<b>WELL PUBLICISED</b>	
<b>WP1</b> <i>To produce 1 new Parish rights of way leaflet</i>	<b>Total : 0</b>

# Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

## Public Rights of Way Milestones Targets 2018-19

<p><b>WP2</b> <i>To assist others to produce effective promotional material: minimum of 1 new or updated publication.</i></p>	<p><b>White Waltham</b> walks leaflet/poster updated</p> <p><b>Total: 1</b></p>
<b>IMPROVING ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY</b>	
<p><b>AC1</b> <i>Create 1 new strategic path, either public right of way or permitted, to fill identified gaps in the public rights of way network as/when opportunities arise.</i></p>	<p><b>Margaret's Bridge:</b></p> <p>Footpath/cycleway and bridge, Braywick Park to Bray Road (at Oldfield Primary School)</p> <p><b>Total: 1</b></p>
<p><b>AC2</b> <i>To make 10 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.</i></p>	
<p>Bray Footpath 72 (The Causeway)</p>	<p>Surface improvements for buggy use</p>
<p>Cookham Footpath 29 (off Alleyns Lane)</p>	<p>One stile replaced with Kissing Gate</p>
<p>Cox Green Footpath 11 (Thrift Lane-Thrift Wood)</p>	<p>Kissing Gate removed</p>
<p>Hurley Footpath 1 (Thames Path)</p>	<p>One gate replaced with gap</p>
<p>Hurley Footpath 18 (Berkshire College of Agriculture)</p>	<p>Two kissing gate enclosures widened, One new swing gate put in to avoid ancient narrow kissing gate</p>
<p>Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 41 (off Brook Lane)</p>	<p>One stile replaced with gap</p>
<p>Waltham St Lawrence Footpath 41 (off Brook Lane)</p>	<p>One stile replaced with Kissing Gate</p>
<p>Wraysbury Footpath 6 (off Douglas Lane)</p>	<p>One stile replaced with Kissing Gate</p>
<p></p>	<p><b>Total: 10</b></p>

## 2 OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 Priorities for 2018/19

- Maintenance and enforcement: bring all public rights of way up to an acceptable standard for all users.
- Encourage and support the involvement of volunteers in the maintenance and improvement of public rights of way.
- Equality of service: ensuring that the needs of all users, regardless of race, disability, sexuality, age and religion, are taken into account.
- Ensure that the Thames Path National Trail is consistently safe and easy to use by all members of the public.
- Seek to complete the missing links in the Millennium Walk.
- Partnership working: working with all interested parties in the management of public rights of way, (e.g. Local Access Forum, Parish Councils, Civic Societies, residents associations, user groups and landowners)
- Claims: reduce the backlog of applications to add to or amend the Definitive Map.
- Changes to the network: seek improvements in association with development and other proposals. [*e.g with reference to the Borough Local Plan Position Statements submitted by the Local Access Forum; see Appendix 8*]
- Improvements: seek improvements and additions to the network to enhance connectivity for horse riders, cyclists and people with restricted mobility.
- *Explore opportunities to extend, create or promote Multi User Routes*
- Ensure effective early consultation with interested parties on proposed changes to the network, in accordance with government regulations, circulars and codes of practice.
- Liaise with landowners and occupiers on all public rights of way matters, including updating and advising landowners on changes in legislation and encouraging the establishment of permitted routes.

- Maximise the use of recycled and reused materials in rights of way maintenance where practicable.
- Develop and enhance the information available online for public rights of way, including the use of social media where appropriate.

### 2.2 Milestones Targets for 2018/19

#### Well Maintained

**WM 1:** To ensure that all public rights of way are easy to use by members of the public. (This is the former Best Value Performance Indicator for public rights of way). Target for 2017/18 is **95%**.

**WM 2:** To carry out major surface improvements/vegetation clearance on **10** public rights of way.

**WM 3:** To repair or replace 7 bridges.

#### Well Publicised

**WP 1:** To produce **1** new Parish rights of way leaflet.

**WP 2:** To assist others to produce effective promotional material: a minimum of **1** new or updated publication.

#### Improving Access and Connectivity

**AC 1:** 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.

**AC2:** To make **10** physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by those with special needs, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc.

***Note:** the targets set out above are interchangeable and subject to change should the need arise, to ensure flexibility in light of changing circumstances or to take advantage of opportunities that may arise during the course of the year.*

## APPENDIX 4

### **Service standards**

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has the following key aims in relation to public rights of way:

- To ensure that the borough's public rights of way network is properly maintained and well publicised
- To ensure that public rights of way are safeguarded and enhanced
- To help landowners and users to understand their responsibilities and rights
- To consult and work with interested parties to achieve the provision of a well-maintained and signed network of public rights of way

#### **We will liaise with and involve:**

- Local Access Forum
- Parish and Town Councils
- Natural England
- East Berks Ramblers
- Disabled Ramblers
- British Horse Society
- British Driving Society
- Cyclists' Touring Club
- Sustrans
- Vehicle User Groups
- National Farmers' Union
- Country Land & Business Association
- Thames Path Management Group
- Any other interested parties

**We will comply with British Standards** on all new structures and furniture, and where possible, upon replacement of existing structures or furniture. BS 5709-2006 gaps, gates and stiles; order of preference; a) gap, b) gate, c) kissing gate, d) stile. Barbed wire, razor wire, farm type electrical fences and suchlike should not normally be used in the vicinity of structures covered by this standard, but where these wires are necessary then assessment should be made of the effect they have on the safety and convenience of people in the vicinity. A condensed version of BS 5709-2006 produced by the Pittecroft Trust is available on request from the public rights of way team.

#### **We will carry out:**

- A condition survey of each path every three years, based on a rolling programme of six-monthly surveys (in partnership with East Berks Ramblers Association).
- An inspection of rights of way in a dangerous condition within one working day of notification, make safe within one working day of inspection, and inform correspondents of the results within three working days.

#### **We will use our powers:**

- To enforce removal of any obstructions to the public rights of way network within three months of inspection, enforce compliance with the Rights of Way Act 1990 (ploughing etc) in accordance with the