

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT - 07 July 2022
AGENDA ITEM 1(c)

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 7th JULY 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 2nd December 2021.

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	Mark Beeley (Democratic Svcs) (new officer is Laurence Ellis)

Agenda Item 1(d): Matters Arising

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
1.1	Next 2020 Joint LAF Chairs meeting proposed by Graham Pockett Parks and Countryside Development Manager of Bracknell Forest Council Hampshire CAF and Surrey CAF are both interested in attending a new meeting	GP/JW	Bracknell and Surrey have responded. There is enthusiasm for re-starting the LAF Chair meetings at Bracknell who have suggested using Zoom. JW has contacted other LAFs and officers again and organised a virtual meeting for the 20 July 2022 at 10am. See Agenda Item 7 Possible items for discussion at this meeting.
1.2	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
1.3	Contact Youth Engagement Officer at Achieving for Children to recruit younger LAF member	GP/LH	GP/LH to update under membership item 2

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Agenda Item 6: Thriftwood permissive horse riding route

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
6.1	Progress the permissive multi-use access at Thriftwood	JW, Multi-use subgroup	Summer Horse Riding Trial of permissive bridleway access at Thriftwood. See info at Summer horse riding trial at Thriftwood extension to Ockwells Park Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk) Further discussion under Agenda Item 3

Agenda Item 11: Diversion Application Cookham FP17 & part FP59

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
11.1	Formal consultation for Diversion Order made on 17 th January 2022 took place. The LAF responded to the formal consultation.	JW/AH	Results of the public consultation were taken to Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 14 th March 2022 where it was decided not to proceed with the Cookham 17 (part) and Cookham 59 (part) Diversion Orders

Agenda Item 13: Borough Local Plan

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
13.1	Placemaking sessions for Southwest Maidenhead development area took place	All	LAF members were invited to attend the online sessions looking at Connectivity, Community Needs and Sustainability and the Environment. Event recordings are available at: Placemaking and South West Maidenhead Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk) The Strategic Area Map can be viewed in the papers.

Agenda Item 14: Milestones Statement Consultation 22-23

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
13.1	Milestones Statement Consultation and ROWIP Review 2022-23 took place in Feb – Mar 2022.	All	The Milestones Statement was updated and approved by the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel meeting of 14 th March 2022 and can be viewed at: Right of way : Milestones statement Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk) Parish Council responses and LAF members responses were taken

		into account. See table of responses received below.
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Consultation responses

<u>Responses from Parish Councils</u>	Officer comment, and/or suggested additional wording to be included in Milestones Statement
<p><u>Bray Parish Council</u> Thank you for forwarding the Right of Ways Milestone Statement for 2022-23, this has been reviewed by the Land Management Committee for Bray Parish Council. They are pleased to note the works due to be completed in Bray this year, but have no further comments.</p>	Noted.
<p><u>Cookham Parish Council</u> For information, the Parish Council discussed the Milestones statement at our meeting on 1st February but had no comment to make.</p>	Noted.
<p><u>Horton Parish Council</u> Horton Parish Council would like to suggest that there is a milestone relating to working with landowners to prevent fly tipping on public rights of way and where measures haven't been a prevention or deterrent there is a clear plan in place to remove the fly tipping that is then enforced. Maybe a target to reduce the fly tipping reports on public rights of way by x%.</p>	It is suggested that the following is added to the list of 'Objectives' in the Milestones Statement: <i>Respond to reported fly-tipping on public rights of way promptly and efficiently and work with landowners to prevent or deter fly-tipping.</i>
<p><u>Hurley Parish Council</u> Hurley Parish Councillors, at their meeting on Thursday 17th February, made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillors thanked the Rights of Way Team for the ongoing annual consultations, and also for the good works in and around the Parish Council area. • They observed that some works had been completed on FP1, adjacent to the 	The team will liaise with the Parish Council on these points. <i>PRoW team have inspected and will order necessary work.</i>

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<p>Thames to Marlow, but considered that additional surfacing works, particularly where tree roots were exposed, could be beneficial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They observed that FP59, from the river to Dairy Cottage, was particularly muddy and might benefit from further inspection. 	
<p><u>Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council</u></p> <p>It is an impressive report but what I miss and maybe we can obtain it is the survey report of our Parish rights of way and the priority identified.</p> <p>This regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for disability • Environmental surface if needed, this can be coordinated with local tree surgeons and obtain their wood chips. • Which rights of way are allowed for horse riding. • Available signs and possible gate upgrades which the PC can obtain for potential installation. • Vegetation cutting and verge protection due to allowed traffic and according to that the approved weight limits. 	<p>The team will liaise with the Parish Council on these points.</p> <p><i>After further contact with WSL Parish Council the following paths are to be investigated.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FP 2 Halls Lane (access to Burial Ground)</i> • <i>FP 39 Brook Lane - clearance</i> • <i>FP 30 Downfield Lane – check veg, accessibility signage and surface.</i> • <i>FP 26 is also heavily used and has the outstanding kissing gate missing/broken (Please let us know if this is not going to happen).</i> <p>PRoW team would investigate these issues.</p>
<p><u>Wraysbury Parish Council</u></p> <p>In principle the Parish Council agrees with the aims of the document, but would like to see the previous 2021/22 target implemented: -</p> <p>The production of a leaflet covering the Public Rights of Way within and adjoining the Parish is finally achieved. The Parish Council would like to see the following included in the targets & priorities for 2022/23: -</p>	<p>The team is working with the Parish Council on this leaflet, which we aim to publish by the end of March 2022.</p>

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<p>a) The Parish Council still contends that Magna Carta Lane is a Public Right of Way, it does not appear as such on the current Definitive Map. Appropriate steps need to be taken to rectify the current Definitive Map. This Lane previously appeared as a Public Right of Way on both Buckinghamshire & Berkshire County Council Definitive Maps. We do not want to see this lost.</p> <p>b) The Parish Council would like to see the Definitive Map updated to include the newer Public Footpaths with the Thames Field. They have now been official paths for a few years.</p> <p>c) There should be a priority shown for an update to the Definitive Maps, so that the public can clearly see where the Public Rights of Way are and what their status is.</p> <p>d) Back in 2016 in the Management & Improvement Plan, the Borough identified a path it called No. 45g,</p>	<p>a) The team has a procedure in place for processing ‘Definitive Map Modification Order’ (DMMO) applications, also known as ‘claimed’ public rights of way. The ‘Milestones Statement’ includes a target to process all DMMO applications within one year of receipt of the application. DMMO applications can be based on documentary evidence, user evidence or a combination of both.</p> <p>b) The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way’ (DMS) is updated on a continuous basis, as and when changes are made, such as confirmation of Diversion Orders or ‘Definitive Map Modification Orders’ (DMMOs). The Thames Field DMMO’s were confirmed on 19th July 2018, following the Public Inquiry, so from that date these paths are legally included on the ‘Definitive Map and Statement’.</p> <p>c) Consolidated Definitive Maps and Statements (i.e. incorporating all confirmed DMMO’s made since the previous consolidated map was published) are normally produced a number of years after the previous consolidated map was published (typically every 10 years, but this does vary between different Highway and Surveying Authorities). As the current RBWM ‘Definitive Map and Statement’ is dated 1st November 2015, we propose to publish the next ‘Consolidated Map’ with an effective date of 1st November 2025. However, in the meantime, the paths at Thames Field are shown on the interactive mapping service on the Borough website (“Know your Neighbourhood”) and will also be included on the new Parish leaflet.</p> <p>d) The team will aim to process any DMMO application received for the footpath referred to within one year of the application being received.</p>
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<p>running from the Village centre car park along the back of the properties on the eastern side of the B376 Staines Road to the path at the front of the properties in Broadwater Close, then continuing beyond to link with Magna Carta Lane & to the permitted path at the side of 104 Staines Road. The Parish would like to see a commitment by the Borough in the 2022/23 Milestone document, to actively follow up on this identification of a possible Public Right of Way.</p> <p>e) Within the Milestone document the Parish Council would like the Borough to commit to entering dialogue with the National Trust to add the footpaths that are already signed on the ground within the Ankerwyke Estate, to the Definitive map as Permitted Paths.</p>	<p>e) The team will liaise with the Parish Council and National Trust on these points. There are a number of Permitted Paths across NT land at the Ankerwyke Estate. Our permitted path records do include the permitted footpaths at Ankerwyke. However, as these are permitted paths rather than public rights of way they do not appear on the Definitive Map. Are you able to clarify whether the Parish is requesting that the Borough enters a dialogue with the NT to have these permitted paths dedicated as public rights of way (and thereby added to the Definitive Map), or is the suggestion that there are other paths within the Ankerwyke Estate that you wish to see indicated as permitted paths? Clarification on this point would be helpful.</p>
<p>Responses from Local Access Forum members</p>	<p>Officer comment, and/or suggested additional wording to be included in Milestones Statement.</p>
<p>A number of members of the Local Access Forum have reviewed the Milestones Statement in discussion with the Public Rights of Way team, and a number of suggestions have been made for amendments/additions, which have been</p>	<p>Additional or amended objectives or targets:</p>

incorporated into the draft Statement for 2022/23.

- *Explore opportunities to extend, create or promote safe, properly surfaced and well-maintained Multi-user Routes*
- *Develop and enhance the information available online for public rights of way, including compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), and the use of social media where appropriate.*
- *Investigate including destinations and distances where new signage is installed where appropriate.*
- *To make 10 physical access improvements, including the replacement of stiles with gates or gaps, to facilitate use by people with disabilities, the elderly, people with pushchairs etc. and provide appropriate information to users.*
- *Update all references to BS to latest version (BS 5709:2018 gaps, gates and stiles; and BS 8300-1:2018 which contains some standards relevant to recreational use of land).*

Additional groups to be added to Appendix 4

We will liaise with:

- *Disability & Inclusion Forum*
- *Wilds' groups and other environmental groups across the borough*
- *Volunteer groups such as: The Conservation Volunteers, Good Gym, BCA volunteers*

Additional site specific projects to be added to Appendix 7:

- *investigate creation of horse margin adjacent to the shared use cycle way on Switchback Road North. This would create a multi-user route and safe link for horse riders from Cookham village*

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	<p><i>to the Cookham Bridle Circuit at Malders Lane</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>explore, in discussions with the Parish Council and Local Access Forum the possibility of creating permissive horse-riding access at Thriftwood extension to Ockwells Park</i>
<p>Comments from members of the Local Access Forum relating to site specific issues. These are for continued liaison with RBWM PRoW and Transport teams</p>	<p>Request for improvements to surface and drainage of Waltham St Lawrence BR35 (Uncle's Lane) <i>Works ordered.</i></p> <p>Restricted access on public Footpath Sunninghill FP10 <i>To be investigated.</i></p> <p>Routes in the Ascot area which could be earmarked for improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sunninghill footpath 5, which is reduced to a narrow plank bridge in parts - Sunningdale Bridleway 1 – the surface close to the Shrubs Hill suffers in poor weather such that it become impassable by foot/cycle. <p><i>To be investigated</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Quiet (Cycle) Route" (Cycling Action Plan "high priority" schemes 7,18) running between West Windsor and the town centre has a principal access point in Clarence Road connecting with a path and access point in Green Lane. Previously used mainly by pedestrians, it was formally incorporated into a shared use path and has staggered barriers at the south side of the dedicated crossing in Clarence Road. • This has proved problematic and dangerous for some cyclists and others such as mobility scooter users. It would be helpful to review this barrier and reconfigure

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	<p>it appropriately if possible. The route also connects with other cycle/ foot paths locally and is an extremely valuable access link. It is well-used and provides a lifeline to many individuals wishing to avoid the dangers of the surrounding busy main/secondary roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Susy Shearer agreed to review this type of barrier in Windsor to ascertain whether other barriers may be giving rise to similar issues.
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The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

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Local access forums | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (rbwm.gov.uk)

RBWM Local Access Forum

Consultation response:

Diversion Orders for Cookham Footpath 17 and Cookham Footpath 59 (part)

The Local Access Forum (LAF) has received and reviewed the proposals for the above diversion orders to divert Cookham FP17 and FP59 (part) and wishes to make the following comments:

NB: All members of the LAF have been consulted via email concerning this consultation and these comments reflect those from members who have responded to the consultation.

The consensus reached by those members who responded means that the Forum formally objects to the proposed diversion of Cookham Footpath 17 and Footpath 59 (part).

The Forum recognises that the proposed diversions do not satisfy the legal criteria under S119 Highways Act 1980. The diverted route is longer and therefore not equally as convenient and the loss of the views and feeling of openness from the cross-field path means it is also less enjoyable.

No comments supporting the proposals were received from any Forum members therefore consensus is reached as per the above.

*Comments were received from the following Forum members:
T Mentzel, A Woodward, S Gillions, M Howard and G Priest*

In addition to objecting to the diversion of FP17 and FP59 (part) Forum members also feel that the surfaced route around the field edge should be retained and that it would be beneficial to more borough users if horse-riding access either dedicated or permissive could be given along it as well as cycling to make it a fully multi-user route.

This letter constitutes formal response from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum. Local Authorities are required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.