

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD  
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY: 6- MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2015- 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

The total number of outstanding reported problems on Public Rights of Way has risen from **34** to **65** during the six month period, (*see table at Annex A for further details*).

## 1. ENFORCEMENT

### Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015</i>	<i>Reported 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 2016</i>	<i>Closed 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 016</i>	<i>Outstanding on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2016</i>
Enforcement problems	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>

Examples of enforcement cases that have been resolved:

<b>Path</b>	<b>Date reported</b>	<b>Problem</b>
Bray Footpath 77 (off Langworthy Lane)	10/7/2015	Path obstructed by overhanging vegetation. <i>Vegetation cleared by adjacent residents</i>
Bray Footpath 25 (off Forest Green Road)	23/11/2015	Paths ploughed and not marked correctly. <i>Paths marked out by farmer</i>
Bray Footpath 55 (off Oakley Green Road)	26/11/2015	Gate damaged and bound with rope. <i>Gate repaired by landowner</i>
Eton Footpath 41 (off Eton Wick Road)	21/12/2015	Path blocked by parked vehicles. <i>Vehicles removed from path by adjacent house owner, and path marked out.</i>
Hurley Footpath 45 (off Bath Road)	11/6/2015	Path surface covered with rubble. <i>Path surface repaired by landowner</i>
Old Windsor Footpath 3 (Thames Path)	17/8/2015	Path partially blocked by posts and rope fence. <i>Fence removed by landowner.</i>

The following cases have been reported to the Rural Payments Agency under Defra's Cross Compliance procedure during this period:

- Bray Footpaths 25, 28,31 (Hornbuckle Farm, Bray) paths obstructed by crops
- Bray Footpaths 25, 28,31 (Hornbuckle Farm, Bray) paths ploughed and not reinstated
- Bray Footpath 58 (Fairacres Farm, Bray) – paths ploughed and not reinstated
- Eton Footpath 4 (North Field, Eton) – paths cropped and not reinstated.

## 2. MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

### Problems reported and problems closed

	<i>Outstanding on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015</i>	<i>Reported 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 2016</i>	<i>Closed 1 Aug 2015 - 31 Jan 016</i>	<i>Outstanding on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2016</i>
Maintenance problems	<b>23</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>51</b>

Examples of maintenance and improvement projects completed:

Hurley Footpath 25 (Channers) and Bridleway 22 (Pudding Hill)	Surface improvements
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Eton Footpath 38 (off POCOcks Lane)	Surface improvements
Cookham Byway 68 (Jobs Lane)	Drainage improvements
Maidenhead RB 70 (Malders Lane)	Surface improvements
Horton Bridleway 5 (off Horton Road)	Clearance works

### **Works due to be carried out**

The following projects are scheduled to be carried out in the next 2-3 months:

Hurley Walks	Map board to be installed at Hurley car park
Maidenhead RB 72 (Nightingale Lane)	Surface improvements
Eton Bridleway 13 (South Field)	Anti-graffiti paint to be applied to underpass
Waltham St Lawrence RB 35 (Uncles Lane)	Surface and drainage improvements
Cookham Footpath 55 (Thames Path)	Riverbank repair and path surfacing

### **3. DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER (DMMO) applications (path claims)**

#### **3.1 Wraysbury claimed footpaths 501 to 505 (Thamesfield)**

Five DMMO applications were received in June 2009 for footpaths crossing land at Thamesfield in Wraysbury. A Village Green application was also received for the land crossed by these claimed footpaths, and the footpath applications were held in abeyance pending resolution of the Village Green application. The Village Green application was refused following a public inquiry held in November 2012. Following a Judicial Review, the Council's decision on the Village Green application was upheld in 2014. The footpath applications are currently being investigated.

#### **3.2 Windsor claimed footpath 502**

A DMMO application was received in March 2014 to add a footpath running from Priors Road to Keepers Farm Close to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way. An Order was made in December 2014, and as objections were received a Public Inquiry was held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015. The Inquiry Inspector published a revised Order with amendments to the path width: however, a further objection was received to the revised Order, and the matter is currently being reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate.

#### **3.3 Cookham claimed footpath 501**

A DMMO application was received in December 2015 to add a footpath running from Strande Lane to Maidenhead Road in Cookham to the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way, and delete the existing line of Cookham Footpath 48 which runs over the same land. This application is currently being investigated.

## **4. RAMBLERS BIG PATHWATCH PROJECT**

Between July and December 2015 the 'Ramblers' national office organised a major condition survey of public rights of way across the whole of England and Wales. Called the "Big Pathwatch", the survey involved members of the public selecting one or more Ordnance Survey 1km grid squares and walking all public rights of way within that area and recording any problems they encountered (such as blocked paths, missing signs, broken stiles etc.) The results of the surveys were collated by the Ramblers Big Pathwatch project team and circulated to the relevant Highway Authorities. Every two

weeks each Highway Authority (including RBWM) received a report setting out any problems reported in their area. This provided useful feedback, and supplemented the information already provided by the local East Berks Ramblers from their own regular path surveys.

Within the RBWM area a total of 189 grid squares were covered by the Big Pathwatch survey, and almost the entire public rights of way network (303km out of 306km) was surveyed by members of the public taking part in the project. Across England and Wales as a whole, 83,434 km of public rights of way were surveyed.

The 'Ramblers' are currently preparing a full report on the project to be published in the Spring.

## 5. BIG SOCIETY

### 5.1 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 Council's who organise routine path clearance works in their parishes. A number of successful projects have been completed this year and the partnership continues to deliver benefits to all involved.

### 5.2 Volunteers

The Public Rights of Way team have worked with The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA), Ways into Work (WiW) and Sunninghill and Ascot Girl Guides (SGG) to carry out practical work on public rights of way in the borough over the past 6 months. The PROW team is actively looking to expand works with other volunteer groups including local Scouts and Girl Guide groups and other conservation groups.

The following projects were completed between August 2015 and February 2016:

Path	Group	Date(s)	Task	Number of participants
Hurley Restricted Byways 52/53/54 (Knowl Hill)	WiW	5 <sup>th</sup> Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Vegetation clearance	14
Maidenhead FPs 2/88/89 (The Green Way)	WiW	19 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Vegetation clearance	6
Bisham Footpath 3 (off Quarry Wood Road)	TCV	20 <sup>th</sup> Aug.	Step construction	7
Bray Footpaths 71/72 (Vicarage Walk/The Causeway)	WiW	26 Aug. 2 Sept.	Vegetation clearance	11
Maidenhead Footpaths 3B, 3C, 82 (Hines Meadow and near Fire Station)	WiW	9 <sup>th</sup> Sept 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Path clearance/ sweeping	12
Cookham Footpath 48 (The Green Way)	TCV	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Path regarding/ surfacing	22
Hurley Restricted Byway 2 (Thames Path)	BCA	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Himalayan Balsam clearance	7
Hurley Horse Margin	BCA	17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Vegetation	12

(off Henley Road)		1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	clearance	
Maidenhead Footpath 22 (Garretts Lane)	WiW	23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Vegetation clearance	12
Datchet Footpath 9 (Thames Path)	TCV	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Vegetation clearance/ surfacing	16
Cookham Footpath 42 (Cookham Moor)	BCA	24 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Vegetation clearance	6
Sunninghill Footpath 8 (off Winkfield Road)	SGG	Oct. 2015	Vegetation clearance	10*
Sunninghill Footpath 16 (off Kennel Ride)	SGG	Oct. 2015	Vegetation clearance	10*
Hurley Bridleway 18 (Hodgedale Lane)	BCA	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Vegetation clearance	8
Maidenhead Footpath 80 (Green Lane)	WiW	7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Vegetation clearance	6
M'head Restricted Byway 72 (Nightingale Lane)	BCA	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Vegetation clearance	5
Cookham Footpath 54 (Thames Path)	BCA	8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Vegetation clearance	7
Maidenhead Footpath 13 (North Town Moor)	WiW	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Vegetation clearance	5
White Waltham Bridleway 2 (off Bath Road)	BCA	15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Vegetation clearance	5
Bray Bridleway 29 (Primrose Lane)	WiW	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Winter cut back	13
Maidenhead Footpath 16 (North Town Moor)	TCV	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Path surfacing	6
Bray Bridleway 22 (Long Lane)	BCA	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Vegetation clearance	18
Bray Footpath 41 (off Stroud Farm Road)	TCV	5 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Stile replacement	8
<b>Total number of task days: 32</b>		<b>Total participant days: 226</b>		
*estimated figures				

### **5.3 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. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> 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 for 2015/16 is 93%.

## **6. PUBLICATIONS**

### Public Rights of Way Milestones Statement 2016/17

The Milestones Statement for 2016/17, which sets out targets and priorities for the coming year, has been submitted for approval by the Rights of Way & Highways Licensing Panel at its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

### Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026

The "Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026" came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Annual updates are published as part of the Milestones Statement.

### Public Rights of Way information booklet

This booklet has produced by the Rights of Way team in partnership with the Local Access Forum.

### Public Rights of Way section of Borough website

[http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights\\_of\\_way](http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights_of_way)

The Public Rights of Way section of the borough website contains comprehensive information about public rights of way in the borough, including contact details, problem report forms, downloadable leaflets, registers of path claims and Highways Act landowner declarations.

The Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way is available online and the public rights of way information is also available through the Council's MapsOnline service, allowing users to view the paths around their home address, and view the location of all stiles, gates, bollards and signs on public rights of way.

## **7. 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 membership is listed at Annexe C. The Forum meets twice a year, with additional informal meetings or site visits as required. The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 are included in Appendix D.

The Local Access Forum web pages can be found at:

[http://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/info/200215/rights\\_of\\_way/452/local\\_access\\_forum](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, Andrew Fletcher (01628-796122).

## ANNEXE A

### Recorded problems on Public Rights of Way in the Borough.

	Outstanding at 31 <sup>st</sup> July 15	Reported 1st Aug 2015 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 16	Closed 1st Aug 2015 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 16	Total Outstanding at 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 16	Issues outstanding over 5 years
<b>ENFORCEMENT</b>					
Ploughing and lack of marking	0	4	3	1	0
Obstruction by crops	0	4	4	0	0
Fence encroachment	5	3	2	6	2
Fence obstruction	0	3	3	0	0
Building obstruction	0	0	0	0	0
Other obstructions	1	3	1	3	1
Stiles	3	6	7	2	1
Gates	0	3	2	1	0
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	0	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised vehicular use	0	0	0	0	0
Electric fencing	0	4	4	0	0
Misleading notices	0	3	3	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	1	3	3	1	0
Other Enforcement Problems	1	4	5	0	0
<b>TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE</b>					
Vegetation	2	30	14	18	0
Rutting	1	1	0	2	0
Drainage	3	1	1	3	1
Fallen trees	0	15	11	4	0
Erosion	8	13	10	11	0
Tree problems	0	2	2	0	0
Bridges	2	10	5	7	1
Safety barriers	1	0	1	0	0
Steps	0	1	1	0	0
Roadside signposting	1	17	17	1	0
Signposting at path junctions	0	0	0	0	0
Waymarking	2	2	3	1	0
Rubbish/ waste	0	6	4	2	0
Other Maintenance Problems	3	8	9	2	0
<b>TOTAL MAINTENANCE:</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>6</b>

**ANNEXE B****PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY  
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981  
CLAIMED PATHS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION****FEBRUARY 2016**

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Claim no</b>	<b>Claim date</b>	<b>Path description</b>		<b>Current status</b>
			<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	
Cookham	FP 501	2015	Strande Lane	Maidenhead Road	Under investigation
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various paths in and around Thamesfield	Various paths in and around Thamesfield	Under investigation
Windsor	FP502	2014	Priors Road	Keepers Farm Close	Public Inquiry held 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2015: objection received to amended Order, currently under further review by Planning Inspectorate

## ANNEXE C

### LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

February 2016

<b>Name</b>	<b>Main Interests</b>
Peter Thorn ( <b>Chairman</b> ) (Basildon, Berks)	Land management
Malcolm Beer (Old Windsor)	Old Windsor Parish Council, walking, cycling
Sara Church (Eton)	Horse riding, British Horse Society
James Copas (Maidenhead)	Land management / farming
Margaret Cubley (Bisham)	Walking, open spaces, CPRE, Bisham Parish Council
Roy Fabry (Maidenhead)	Cycling, Sustrans, disabled access
Rachel Forsyth (Taplow)	Land management, National Trust
John Foulger (Fifield)	Walking and open spaces
Christine Gadd (Sunningdale)	Walking and cycling
Steve Gillions (Old Windsor)	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Councillor Maureen Hunt (Hurley)	RBWM nominated councillor
Tom Jarvis (Windsor)	Land management, Crown Estate
Alan Keene (Bisham)	Bisham Parish Council, Countryside, public rights of way, farming and land management
Councillor Asghar Majeed (Maidenhead)	RBWM nominated councillor
Gordon Marrs (Maidenhead)	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Andrew Nye (Cookham)	Cookham Parish Council, public rights of way
Geoff Priest (Hurley)	Hurley Parish Council, open countryside, access for younger users
Katie Sarsfield (Waltham St Lawrence)	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council, public rights of way



**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD**

**LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES**

**11 November 2015**

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Interest area</b>
Peter Thorn	Chairman, land management
Katie Sarsfield	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
Sara Church	Horse riding, British Horse Society
Margaret Cubley	Bisham Parish Council, CPRE
Christine Gadd	Sunningdale Parish Council, cycling and walking
Gordon Marrs	Walking, East Berks Ramblers
Alan Keene	Bisham Parish Council, land management, public rights of way
Roy Fabry	SUSTRANS, cycling & disabled access
Geoff Priest	Hurley Parish Council
Councillor Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor
Councillor Malcolm Beer	RBWM Councillor / walking, cycling, Old Windsor Parish Council
Tanya Leftwich	Clerk to the Forum
Andrew Fletcher	Local Access Forum Secretary

**Apologies**

Andrew Nye  
James Copas  
Rachel Forsyth  
John Foulger  
Tom Jarvis

**ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
11 November 2015  
MINUTES**

**1 Welcome, apologies and introductions**

The Chairman Peter Thorn welcomed everyone to the thirty-third meeting of the Local Access Forum.

The Chairman explained that very sadly in August 2015 Gordon Harris had passed away. It was noted that Gordon had been on the Forum since 2006 and that this meeting would be held in memory of him.

Apologies for Absence were received from James Copas, John Foulger, Tom Jarvis, Andrew Nye and Rachel Forsyth.

The Forum approved the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015.

Matters arising from last meeting

Andrew Fletcher referred members to pages 13-28 of the agenda.

**Action (AF):** Item 1(c) That **Andrew Fletcher** would look into whether there were any options to put in a crossing at the Bisham roundabout as the 3 options had been dropped.

*Councillor Beer arrived.*

**Action (AF):** Item 1(c) That **Andrew Fletcher** would ask Sharon to update the horse margin as concerns had been raised about the barrier as a number of accidents had taken place and it was felt that someone might die soon.

**2 Members' update**

None received.

**3 Membership update**

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chair

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that one nomination had been received for the Chairman's position, that of Peter Thorn. It was noted that Peter Thorn had been invaluable on this Forum and it was hoped that he would continue in his role. Councillor Hunt proposed Peter Thorn as Chairman, which was seconded by Christine Gadd.

**Unanimously agreed: That Peter Thorn would remain as Chairman for the next two years and the Vice-Chair position to remain open until the next meeting.**

General Forum membership

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that five new members had joined since the last meeting:

- Councillor Maureen Hunt (RBWM Nominated Member)
- Alan Keene (Bisham)
- Andrew Nye (Cookham)
- Geoff Priest (Hurley)
- Katie Sarsfield (Waltham St Lawrence)

It was noted that the following members had been re-appointed:

- Councillor Malcolm Beer
- James Copas
- Sara Church
- Margaret Cubley
- John Foulger
- Christine Gadd

- Tom Jarvis
- Peter Thorn

It was noted that the following members had resigned from the Forum:

- Julie Mason
- Helen Howard
- Phil Jackson
- Andrew Randall
- Christopher Westacott

Andrew Fletcher explained that the Forum membership was made up of a balance of 53% user interests, 29% land management, 6% other interests and 12% RBWM Councillors. It was noted that Slough had a disabled Member on their LAF who was happy to give the Royal Borough advice re: disabled access when needed.

**Action (AF):** That **Andrew Fletcher** would write to everyone who had resigned (particularly Chris Westacott who was very ill) to thank them for their time on the Forum.

It was noted that the Royal Borough were able to jointly fund training with other Local Authority LAF's.

**Action (ALL):** That anyone interested in being trained to let **Andrew Fletcher** know by the first week in December and to let **Andrew Fletcher** know what were the areas of interest.

#### LAF Fast Response Team membership

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that the LAF Fast Response Team looked at issues outside the Forum meetings in order to meet deadlines and reported back to subsequent meetings. It was noted that these issues tended to be handled via email as it was less time consuming than meeting face to face. Andrew Fletcher stated that additional LAF members were needed on the LAF Fast Response Team.

**Action (ALL):** That ideally two new members to the Fast Response Team were needed - anyone interested to let **Andrew Fletcher** know by the first week in December.

## 4

### **Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026**

Andrew Fletcher informed Members that the purpose of this report was to consult the Forum on the outcome of the "Draft Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-26" public consultation and to seek the Forum's endorsement of the Final Plan.

The Chairman explained that the Royal Borough had received a commendation from Natural England to say good effort / approach and congratulated officers on their hard work, which was echoed by the Forum.

The Chairman went through the "Draft Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Public Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-26" (pages 33 – 57 of the agenda) page by page and the following comments were noted / agreed:

- It was noted that the annual risk assessment of the Thames Path Nation Trail was felt not to gain any new / useful information and it was proposed by Andrew Fletcher that this be stopped in the future. The Forum suggested that instead of an annual assessment, a risk assessment should be conducted in response to an extreme weather event (such as flooding), and also to ensure that all waymarks along the Thames Path have RBWM telephone numbers on them. EBR also stated that they could arrange for a dedicated Thames Path warden as well.

**Unanimously agreed: That the annual risk assessment no longer needed to take place.**

**Unanimously agreed: That a monthly update of issues and what had been done to resolve them be added to the RBWM website / be circulated to Forum members & Parish Councils.**

**Unanimously agreed: That the wording on page 37 1.2(b) include 'in consultation with public ROW team on major developments'. Parish councils were also thought to be key to identifying these areas.**

**Unanimously agreed: That the wording on page 38 1.5(c) include Community Wardens.**

**Unanimously agreed: (page 39 2.1(a)) to a minimum of 2 cuttings per year.**

**Unanimously agreed: (page 44 2.23) To add an additional identified needs section in about increasing multi-user routes (for horse riding & cycling).**

*Councillor Beer left the meeting.*

**Unanimously agreed: (page 47 3.6) To add in improve communication / responses on issues and problems & to ensure signage has contact telephone numbers on them. This was a target to improve Community responses rather than communication responses.**

**Unanimously agreed: That Woodland Path be added (B.Hill Recreational Ground to F/Path 13).**

**Action (AF):** Re: A404 - that **Andrew Fletcher** contact Highways England and also change the wording to emphasise safety re: the Bisham roundabout crossing.

**Unanimously agreed: (page 53 ref: 26) To add in the wording 'to establish a continuous riverside route'.**

**Unanimously agreed: The overall plan (pages 31-47) was agreed subject to the changes noted above.**

**Action (AF):** That **Andrew Fletcher** send a copy of the final plan to the Forum members once it had been to the Rights of Way & Highway Licensing Panel on the 7 December 2015.

## **5**

### **Milestones Statement and Annual Targets for 2016-2017**

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that this report was 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 2016/17.

The Chairman explained that the views of the Forum were requested on the following:

- **Priorities for 2016/17:** Were there any recommended changes to the priorities listed in the current 2015/16 Milestones Statement (Appendix A)?
- **Milestones Targets for 2016/17:** Were there any recommended changes to the Milestones Targets listed in the current 2013/14 Milestones Statement (Appendix A)?
- **Service Standards for 2016/17:** Were there any recommended changes to the Service Standards listed in the 2015/16 Milestones Statement (Appendix A)?

Andrew Fletcher gave Members a brief overview presentation which was agreed would be emailed out with the minutes.

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that over the last five years the number of issues had reduced from 314 to 42 which he was very proud of. It was noted that the issues considered 'cold cases' had not been included in his figures as suggested by the Rights of Way & Highway Licensing Panel. The Forum congratulated Andrew Fletcher

and his team on such a fantastic achievement.

It was noted that it had been agreed with Viola that they would collect rubbish bins in agreed locations (in this case at the entrance points of Cookham Bridleway 19) but it was not possible to place rubbish bins at every location along public rights of way because the refuse collectors will not walk great distances to empty them.

The Forum were shown before and after photos of:

- Bray Footpath 41 – stile replacement by conservation volunteers.
- Old Windsor Footpath 2 – surfacing works.
- Cookham Bridleway 19 – surfacing works.
- Hurley Footpath 25 – surfacing works.
- Datchet Footpath 8 – bank repair works – a joint scheme between the Royal Borough and the National Trails Office (50/50 funding of £10,700).

Peter Thorn informed the Forum that Andrew Fletcher had been very pro-active in engaging the volunteers for which he was congratulated.

It was noted that the priorities and targets could be found on page 97 of the agenda.

**Action (AF):** That **Andrew Fletcher** add cyclists & enhance multi user network to the ninth bullet down on the priorities for 2015/16.

**Unanimously agreed:**

- That no changes were requested to be made to the priorities listed in the current 2015/16 Milestones Statement.
- That the targets remained as proposed bar LD1 being left blank, WP1 being increased to 3 and the wording be changed to ‘targeted user groups’, WP1 to include updating current leaflets & EN1 being reduced to 10.
- That the service standards wording was agreed.
- That a vote of thanks be given to the team of 2.8.

## 6 Proposed diversion of Hurley Footpath 18 at Berkshire College of Agriculture

Andrew Fletcher referred Members to pages 99 – 102 of the report.

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to consult the Forum on the proposal to divert Hurley Footpath 18 at Berkshire College of Agriculture.

Members were informed that Hurley Footpath 18 ran from Hall Place Lane in Burchetts Green to the junction of Hurley Footpath 17 at Prospect Hill in Hurley. It was noted that the route of the path took it through the centre of the Berkshire College of Agriculture campus.

Andrew Fletcher explained that the Berkshire College of Agriculture was considering applying for a diversion of the centre section of this footpath to take the path around the main buildings of the college instead of running through the centre of the complex. It was noted that a map detailing the proposed diversion could be found in Appendix A of the report.

Councillor Hunt expressed her concern that children and young adults used the area / campus and that the new route would allow walkers to walk through the area without being noticed. Andrew Fletcher explained that the Berkshire College of Agriculture had considered alternative route to the south and had discounted it.

**Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher** to give feedback to say that the Forum had no objections to the proposal made by Berkshire College of Agriculture.

**Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher** to request that an information board be added to the bottom of the statue and ensure the bridleway access was OK.

## 7 Looking forward issues

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that he had nothing prepared for this item as he was seeking views on ways to improve cycling, bridleways and disabled access, etc.

**Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher** to write to the Parish Councils to ask them to help identify and prioritise which bridleways needed linking.

**Action (ALL):** That suggestions be sent to **Andrew Fletcher** by the first week in December.

## 8 **South Lincs and Rutland LAF consultation: Making our needs known and future of permissive access**

The Forum was referred to pages 103-116 of the agenda.

The Chairman explained that the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum, working with the Mid and West Berks Local Access Forum had sent a proposal and consultation document to all Local Access Forums advocating the re-instatement of a modified "England Access Forum" to work and advise on specific 'nationally significant' issues. It was noted that in addition to this proposal, the South Lincolnshire and Rutland LAF were seeking the opinion of the Forum regarding the future of permissive access in stewardship schemes nationally.

The Chairman went on to explain that the proposal prepared by the South Lincs and Rutland LAF was included in the agenda as Appendix A to the report and that accompanying the proposal was a consultation document asking various questions, which was attached as Appendix B to the report.

The Forum were invited to consider and discuss the report and respond to the consultation questions.

**Action (GM): Gordon Marrs** to inform Andrew Fletcher of the ones the RBWM had lost.

The Chairman expressed his concerns that there could potentially be issues that the Royal Borough were not consulted on and that he saw this as a group to help raise the Forums profile.

It was suggested that the Forum be more reactive and focus its efforts more on how to solve issues once the Stewardship Scheme had gone rather than trying to influence Government.

**Unanimously agreed: That the Forum would prefer to tackle issues at a local level and not support the proposal re: national support.**

## 9 **LAF Monitoring items**

The Forum was referred to pages 117-120 of the agenda.

It was noted that the purpose of the report was to update the Forum about the status of projects on the LAF regular monitoring list and to seek the Forums advice regarding the members' discussion forum.

### Thames Path 'missing link' at Bridge Gardens

Andrew Fletcher showed the Forum before and after photos of Bridge Gardens roadside path which was now in place but explained that the riverside route was still included in the Plan.

### Deregulation Bill update

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that the Deregulation Bill had been passed and received Royal Assent on the 26 March 2015. It was noted that regulations and guidance enacting the public rights of way sections of the bill were expected in April/May 2016.

### Volunteer Works

Andrew Fletcher showed some before and after photos of Hurley Footpath 29 and Cookham Footpath 48 and explained that his target was to reach 50 task days with the volunteers which he had already met.

**Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher** to write a letter to the volunteers thanking them for their hard work and also write to the Council (cc. Cllr Dudley) saying how wonderful the volunteers had been and how the Forum would like their work to continue.

Activities of the LAF Fast Response Team

Andrew Fletcher referred the Forum to page 119 in the agenda that listed the activities.

**Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher** to send the response he had received from Highways England to the Forum members.

**Action (ALL):** That suggestions of where to go from now be sent to **Andrew Fletcher** by the first week in December.

**10 Feedback from meetings and conferences**

**Action (AF): Andrew Fletcher** to prepare a briefing note on the feedback from meetings and conferences and circulate it to the Forum members.

**11 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed.

The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting which started at 6.30pm, ended at 9.05pm.