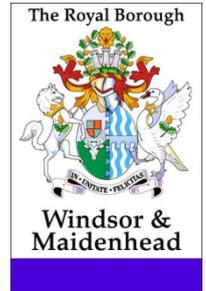


## ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

### LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ANNUAL REPORT 2015 – 2016



#### Introduction from the Chair

[tbc]

**Peter Thorn**

Chairman of the Local Access Forum.

#### Activities of the forum

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

As one of the key strategic documents shaping the Council's approach to public rights of way the forum has been and remain closely involved with the Council's review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. The forum discussed and provided detailed advice with regard to the consultation draft of the Rights of Way Management and Improvement Plan 2016-2026, and the final plan that was published in December 2015.

##### **Milestones Statement, and targets for the coming year**

The forum was consulted on the Milestones Statement and Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Report 2016-2017 and recommended that the targets and priorities are retained for the coming year. These recommendations were reported to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel in March 2016 and formed the basis of the targets for the coming year.

##### **M4 Smart motorway**

The forum has been involved with the M4 Smart motorway proposal and has requested that improvements are made to the Marsh Lane bridge for horse riding and cycling use. The forum ensured that they are actively involved in the progress of this scheme as it progresses through the necessary planning stages to seek these improvements.

##### **Multi-user routes and Horse Riding improvements**

The forum has continued to be involved with the creation of a multi-user route from Eton Wick to Dorney and has worked closely with Slough and Bucks Local Access Forums to take the project forward. The Forum also considered reports regarding horse riding access to Windsor Great Park and provided advice regarding issues that users were experiencing crossing the main road.

### **Improvements to cycling**

In addition to making the best use of existing cycle tracks by converting them into multi-use routes where possible, the forum has discussed how the existing provision for cycling can be improved, in particular the forum have responded to the 'Skindles' planning application and suggested that cycling provision is included over the proposed Thames bridge and through the development. It has also responded to the Draft Cycling Delivery plan consultation from the Department Environment, Food and Rural Affairs suggesting that the government consider options to make it easier to create dual and multi-use paths.

### **Diversion of Hurley FP 18**

The forum considered a proposal from Berkshire College of Agriculture to divert Hurley Footpath 18. The forum responded with no objections to the proposal, and made suggestions for an information board to be installed along the new route to explain the history of the area.

### **Quiet Lanes**

The Forum reviewed the success of quiet lane schemes in the South East of England with a view to informing advice to the Council with regard to priorities and targets. After research the Forum concluded that Quiet Lanes have had limited success and recommended to the Council that it was not considered worthwhile to have a target to create them in the Royal Borough.

### **Links with other local, regional and national groups**

The forum has remained very active over the past year in improving its links with neighbouring Local Access Forums and has continued to host meetings of neighbouring Local Access Forum chairs to discuss cross boundary issues and ways that the local forums can work together. In addition to this the LAF has continued to be involved on a national and regional level, and was represented at the National Local Access Forum conference in February 2016.

The forum has also arranged for a joint LAF training course to be run by the Institute of Public Rights of Way to be held at Maidenhead in September 2016.

The forum considered a proposal from South Lincs and Rutland LAFs for a revival of the England Access Forum as a mechanism for providing advice from a national perspective. After some debate the forum decided that it would prefer to tackle issues at a local level.

### **Fast Response Team:**

The Fast Response Team, set up by the forum to respond to consultations that fall outside of the forum's formal meeting dates, responded to the following requests for advice on behalf of the forum:

- Initial Response to the M4 Smart Motorway Proposals
- Eton Footpath 51 gating proposal

### **Other issues that the forum has discussed during 2015-2016:**

- Volunteer works
- Monitoring the progress of the Deregulation Act
- Current cycling schemes
- Rambler's Big Pathwatch

### Looking forward

[To be decided at June 2016 meeting]

### Meetings of the Forum

The Local Access Forum meetings for 2015-2016 were as follows:

#### Formal meetings

- 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### Informal meetings

- 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 – Local LAF Chairs meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Local LAF Chairs meeting

#### Site meetings

- 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 – Eton-Dorney Multi-User Route site visit
- 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016 – Swinley Forest Multi User Route site visit

## Membership of the Forum

The forum is expected to achieve a reasonable balance of members' interests. The current membership of the Local Access Forum is listed below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Other interests</b>
Cllr. Malcolm Beer	RBWM Councillor	Walking; Cycling; Caravanning; Member of Arthur Jacob Nature Reserve Management Committee; Rights of Way; Old Windsor Parish Councillor
Sara Church	Horse riding	
James Copas	Land and estate management	
Margaret Cubley	Walking and open spaces	Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, Bisham Parish Councillor
Rachel Forsyth	Land and Estate Management	National Trust
John Foulger	Walking	Open Spaces; Rights of Way; Bray Parish Councillor
Christine Gadd	Rights of Way; Walking; Cycling	Sunningdale Parish Councillor
Steve Gillions	Walking	East Berks Ramblers
Cllr. Maureen Hunt	RBWM Councillor	Chair of Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel
Tom Jarvis	Land and estate management	Crown Estate
Cllr. Asghar Majeed	RBWM Councillor	
Gordon Marrs	Walking	East Berks Ramblers
Andrew Nye	Rights of way	Cookham Parish Council
Geoff Priest	Open countryside, access for younger users	Hurley Parish Council
Katie Sarsfield	Rights of way	Waltham St Lawrence Parish Council
Peter Thorn	Land and estate management	Estate Management; Management of the Countryside; Management of Education and Training

## Finances

		Total Cost (£)
<b>Meeting expenses</b>		
Meeting refreshments	<b>16.33</b>	
		<b>16.33</b>
<b>Members' Expenses:</b>		
Dependent Care	-	-
Travel / Mileage		<b>251.50</b>
Other Expenses	-	-
		<b>251.50</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>267.83</b>

**Note: The costs above do not include overheads such as Officer time or printing costs**

## How to get involved

For more information about the Local Access Forum and how you can get involved, visit the Local Access Forum web pages at [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/local\\_access\\_forum.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/local_access_forum.htm), or contact Andrew Fletcher, Public Rights of Way Officer on (01628) 796122 or email [andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk) or [prow@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:prow@rbwm.gov.uk)