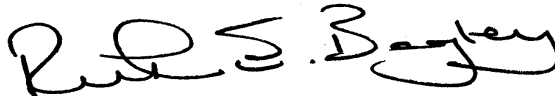


Date of issue: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>LOCAL ACCESS FORUM</b>
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	TUESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2011 AT 5.30 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	COMMITTEE ROOM 4, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
<b>LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SECRETARY</b>	JACQUI WHEELER, RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER 01753 477479

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



**RUTH BAGLEY**  
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART 1

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1.	Apologies & Welcome  Martin Gilchrist, Natural England	
2.	Declarations of Interest	(5 mins)

(Members are reminded of their duty to declare personal and prejudicial interests in matters coming before this meeting as set out in the local code of conduct)

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	
3.	Election of new Chair - postponement from previous meeting		
4.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 12th May 2011	1 - 6	(5 mins)
5.	Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)		(10 mins)
6.	Membership Update - DM and Steve Roberts?		(5 mins)
7.	Update on path dedication in memory of Margery Hitchman	7 - 8	(5 mins)
8.	Gating Order Proposals Updates	9 - 10	(10 mins)
9.	Chalvey One Way Experimental Scheme Consultation		(10 mins)
10.	Feedback from Cycle About Slough with SBC Transport Officers	11 - 14	(10 mins)
11.	Regional and National Update	15 - 16	(15 mins)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural England – Access and Engagement Lead Advisor Martin Gilchrist Hampshire and Berkshire</li> <li>- LAF member event and training</li> </ul>		
12.	UPDATE - Access to Jubilee River in Chalvey Footpath 33 and 32 - Action Plan	17 - 20	(5 mins)
13.	Sara Church - British Horse Society Request for additional equestrian access		(5 mins)
14.	Eton Dorney Temporary Spectator Bridge and Diversion of Thames Path		(5 mins)
15.	Any Other Business		(5 mins)
	- Items for next meeting (need suggestions) e.g.: signage to Jubilee River across the Borough, cross boundary issues, ROWIP review, SLAF Annual Report contributions, Definitive Map and Statement Review, Walk4Life - LAF Involvement		
16.	Date of the next Meeting		
	To be confirmed.		

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM**

**REPORT TITLE**

**PAGE**

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

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**Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 12th May, 2011 at the Mayor’s Conference Room, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough**

**Present:-**

**LAF Members**

Councillor Satpal S Parmar  
Toby Evans  
Ian Houghton, Local Access Forum  
Ken Wright

**Observers**

None

**Officers, Slough Borough Council**

Jacqui Wheeler, Rights of Way Officer  
Alex Deans, Head of Highways  
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer  
Viv Vallance, Senior Consultant, Transport

**30. Apologies**

Steve Roberts

**31. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**32. Election of new Chair - necessary postponement until Sept**

It was noted that the full Council meeting which will nominate the two Council members to the LAF will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**Resolved** – that the election of a new Chair would be postponed until the September meeting and that Ian Houghton, Vice Chair would be acting Chair in the meantime.

**33. Minutes of the last meeting held on 19th January 2011**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were approved as a correct record.

**34. Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)**

Stoke Poges Lane – Elliman Avenue Junction update – JW advised that an update from the Network Management team stated that this job was completed in March 2011.

## Local Access Forum - 12.05.11

Ditton Park Cycle Path update – JW advised that CA Real Estate had not responded to the letter Principal Rights of Way Officer, Anthony Hurst of Windsor and Maidenhead Council sent on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011. There had also been recent reports of another unexpected closure of the gates. CA said this was due to vandalism and security being compromised. Members questioned this as a need to close the gates without the required notification. A subsequent letter has been sent by RBWM dated 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

**Resolved** – JW would chase for a response to the letter in a fortnight.

### Gating Order Proposals Updates Mildenhall Road – Lerwick Drive -

There is no further news on this proposal except that Cllr Matloob has asked for a site meeting to discuss.

**Resolved** - That the situation should continue to be monitored.

Shaggy Calf Lane to Borderside – KW highlighted the problem of litter being harboured within the shrubs that have been planted in the verges.

**Resolved** – JW will liaise with Environmental Services to have this route added to the regular clearance routine and the situation should continue to be monitored.

Footpath 35a – Members were advised that this development was moving forward with the temporary closure order being made on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011 to enable the demolition to begin. The demolition works are due to begin on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011.

**Resolved** - That the situation be monitored pending the outcome of the proposed development.

## **35. Membership Update - welcome to possible new member Greg Wise**

After the local election results confirmed the change in the Council members JW confirmed David Munkley had been emailed asking him to consider joining the LAF as an individual member. JW advised that Steve Roberts of Cycle-Wise, Thames Valley had shown interest in applying for LAF membership and would be attending the next LAF meeting in September. He runs the Britwell Bike Project where young people can learn how to fix up donated bikes and is working with Burnham and Slough Schools as a trained Bikeability Cycle Safety Instructor.

## **36. Update on path dedication in memory of Margery**

JW advised members that Margery's family approves of the dedication. The walking route around the nature reserve part of Herschel Park would be entirely suitable to be dedicated to the memory of Margery. The circular route has been carefully constructed to comply with all guidance on accessibility

## Local Access Forum - 12.05.11

including acceptable gradients on slopes to allow access by wheelchairs/ buggies. Draft wording for the plaque was discussed which would be situated next to the bench at the first junction on the route. Members suggested a dedication ceremony be arranged.

**Resolved** – JW would order the plaque to be situated where agreed.

### 37. **Feedback from Cycle About Slough with SBC Transport Officers - Ian Houghton**

IH presented the results from the cycle about which took place on 15th April 2011. Issues discussed are as follows:

Montem Lane width restriction; this was agreed as a historical problem for cyclists.

Stoke Poges Lane (Belgrave Rd/Bradley Rd) Safety Scheme – IH highlighted this scheme as dangerous for cyclists where the usable road width has been restricted and the footway widened. AD commented that an independent safety audit had recently been done for this scheme which would hopefully pick up on any safety issues for all road users. AD would update members when the results become available.

Shackleton Road dead end junction with Queens Road – IH stated that what would be brilliant cycling/pedestrian access between the two roads was constantly blocked by parked cars. Members agreed this was a parking issue and that a formal request be made via Gillian Ralphs and Joe Carter to have double yellow lines on this section of highway. It was noted that enforcement of these extends to the back edge of the footway.

Park Street/Herschel Street and Hencroft Street North/South crossovers (rear of High Street Slough) – There are no dropped kerbs for cyclists on an otherwise useful quiet route into town centre from the south. IH commented that if there was a drop kerb in the middle there would be good visibility but would also need double yellow lines to prevent illegal parking on the dropped facility.

Herschel Street (only option to cyclists as no cycling allowed in High Street. – TE and IH viewed this route as hazardous for cyclists due to fast drivers and narrow carriageway width. VV would look at the feasibility of removing the centreline as a way of making drivers take more care.

East end of High Street Slough – A good two way cycle lane has been narrowed by planting of trees on one half of the width. IH asked if anything could be done to remedy the situation. AD provided that Joe Carter, Head of Transport could be asked not to sign off the High Street scheme until this issue was investigated and the trees changed if necessary to a variety without low level branches.

## Local Access Forum - 12.05.11

It was noted that the cycle lane disappeared further west along the High Street and the area becomes cut off for cyclists.

A4 Langley Road junction and Datchet Road crossing near the Myrke – IH noted these two crossings were not toucan crossings despite cycle lanes leading to them in both directions. After discussions it became clear that the Datchet Road crossing is already a toucan crossing. The cost of £100,000 for providing toucan crossings is prohibitive to the council at the A4/Langley Road junction though if a development presented itself in that area then this improvement would be secured through planning contributions.

Primary Way, Chalvey – The no through road area has been built without a gap for cyclists. AD agreed to arrange for remedial works to sort out this problem.

Path between Spackmans Way and White Hart Road, Chalvey – The barriers installed across this path are prohibitive to cyclists. JW agreed to arrange for the staggered barriers to be replaced with bollards.

Farnham Road and Buckingham Ave – there is no pedestrian/cyclist crossing phase at this junction. VV would try to get this requirement incorporated onto the SEGRO improvements attached to the Leigh Road Central Concession.

Sheffield Ave and Oatlands Drive – there was general agreement that the cycle lanes on these roads were too narrow and along with the central refuges provided for crossing, caused difficulty for cyclists. There was no consensus on what could be done to help with this issue.

Footpath between Shaggy Calf Lane and Borderside, and continuing south through to Kendal Drive and Grasmere Avenue – no cycling signage is present due to these paths being public footpaths. IH asked if these routes could be made into cycle paths or bridleways to legalise the usage. JW advised that these paths were adopted highway as well as public rights of way the feasibility of removing them from the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way could be investigated.

IH asked how funding can be secured to make sure that cyclists are taken into account in any future highways schemes from the beginning. VV advised that he would try to secure a fund that had been discussed internally to pick up the kind of small cycle infrastructure measures being highlighted.

TE raised issues with the Long Readings Lane walking and cycling scheme, where a shared use walking/cycling facility had been implemented off carriageway. Members felt that the LAF needed to be consulted by SBC on all traffic schemes, however, it was noted that schemes needed to be dealt with on a fast turnaround. Parking on the new shared use part of the scheme was felt to be the main problem and AD explained how parking restrictions were taken out of the scheme design as a result of pressure from residents. The Council cannot enforce without these parking restrictions. AD also explained the safety audit process which includes the police and the problem



## Local Access Forum - 12.05.11

with police not enforcing parking restrictions. TE informed members that he was due to attend a meeting with the police where he would try to raise this issue with Tony Humphreys, the police Road Safety Officer.

Members mentioned problems for cyclists and pedestrians with the temporary traffic management for the Heart of Slough scheme currently under way. The junction is due to be operational by Sept 2011.

It was agreed that another date would be arranged for a cycle about with officers and LAF members.

### **Resolved –**

- a) A formal request for double yellow lines at the Shackleton Road dead end junction with Queens Road is made to appropriate SBC Officers as detailed above.
- b) Actions would be taken as per the above notes and updates provided at the next meeting.
- c) That AD/VV arrange another meeting where key council officers involved in transport scheme design could cycle with LAF members to see first hand the types of problems encountered. VV will get back to members with some possible dates.

## **38. Regional and National Update**

An update report was tabled by JW who advised that she had attended the SE LAF Conference for members and officers Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

Members discussed the possible routes that could be way marked as part of the Walk4Life project with TE very interested in doing some of the way marking. GP advised that Kim Truelove co-ordinates Healthy Walking now and further work is required to agree what routes could be highlighted and to order some of the way mark disks. It was agreed to put this on the next meeting agenda.

**Resolved -** That a response be drafted to the Defra Minister, Richard Benyon's letter asking for LAF's views on proposals to improve the flow of information between central government and LAF's; for approval at the Sept meeting.

## **39. UPDATE - Access to Jubilee River in Chalvey FP 33 and 32 - Action Plan**

JW tabled pictures of the mural recently done on the wall of the footpath between Wentworth Ave and Monksfield Way as an example of Spencer Lowe's work. JW stated that the mural on FP33 adjacent to the Chalvey waste transfer site would be started in June.

**Resolved –** that JW circulate the photos of the Britwell mural and that an update is brought to the next meeting.

**40. Walk4Life - LAF Involvement**

This item was discussed under item 9: Regional and National Update

**41. Any Other Business**

SIFE – Highway Improvement Scheme M4 Jct 5 –

VV tabled design drawings of this scheme explaining that the preferred approach is to replace the subway and elevated ramps, which are not DDA compliant, with at grade crossings which would link in with the off carriageway cycle routes along the A4 another gain from the SIFE development. After discussion no consensus was reached amongst members about the proposals with TE's initial reaction being that he would prefer to be away from the fast moving traffic and retain the subway/bridges. IH, however, agreed with the proposals. AD advised that the long term safety of the footbridges is in question after one was hit last year and required 2 x cranes to repair.

**Resolved** - that members would consider the design drawings and make comments via JW as soon as possible.

Equality Training – VV and AD recently attended training on equality and highlighted the need to incorporate positive discrimination into design and also into the LAF itself. It was agreed that a broadened perspective is required so that the needs of all kinds of vulnerable users can be considered in providing advice and information and also in allowing for accessibility to LAF meetings.

BHS Local Representative – JW advised that there was a new local rep for the British Horse Society called Sara Church who was enthusiastic about the circular bridleway route through Cippenham and the Jubilee River. A leaflet is being planned to promote this amenity to the local community to encourage walking and cycling on the doorstep. TE suggested that the leaflet include the streamside path in Cippenham and other off-road walking and cycling routes in the area.

**Resolved** - that the leaflet also be forwarded to the BHS to be added to their web site highlighting this circular bridleway facility to local horse riders.

**42. Date of the next Meeting**

Date of the next meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 5.30pm.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.45 pm and closed at 8.15 pm)

## REPORT ON: UPDATE ON PATH DEDICATION IN MEMORY OF MARGERY

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide updates to members about the dedication of the accessible circular walk through the nature reserve section of Herschel Park.

### 2. Memorial Plaque and Plinth



This accessible walk is dedicated  
to the memory of the late  
Margery Hitchman  
Local volunteer and courageous person  
who lived life to the full  
(1967 – 2010)

We are currently awaiting delivery of the plaque and plinth after which a suitable date for the dedication will be arranged.

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SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

**REPORT ON: GATING ORDER PROPOSALS UPDATES**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide updates to members about the current position with paths where closures through gating orders have been requested by residents.

**2. Path Location**

Borderside to Shaggy Calf Lane  
FP65

**Picture**



**Current Position**

Monitoring crime and asb reports via the ASB Hotline and the Police. Decision has been taken that no additional fencing will be provided alongside the adjoining properties. There have been no recent reports through to Esther Deacon, Community Safety Officer or the ASB hotline and she not been made aware of any police reports. The next stage for the residents would be the Ombudsman if they are unhappy with the decision.

Mallard Drive Development – new  
Footpath link

Salt Hill Tunnel – FP21

This path link is part of the planning obligation on the developers of this site; after meeting with residents, the situation will be monitored for crime and asb reports via the ASB Hotline and the Police for a six month period.



Salt Hill Park Action Plan meetings have been ongoing – progress has been made with new CCTV cameras viewing both ends of tunnel and one inside north tunnel pointing south. CCTV has been very effective in reducing crime and asb at the tunnel. Continued painting, cleaning and maintenance is improving the route. Lighting in southern tunnel still to be repaired, though this is being chased.

Paxton Ave across Tuns Ln to  
High Street Chalvey FP31

Residents complaints, no further action

Rear of nos 19-38 Granville Ave –  
access to Granville Playing Field

Mildenhall Road to Lerwick Drive  
Myrtle Crescent to Lismore Park



Council owned (Housing) route where residents complain of asb after dark and want path gated. Path very well used so gating during the day is not an option. No Gating Order Required

Monitoring crime and asb reports via the ASB Hotline and the Police. Since the door knocking exercise which took place in June, the situation is being monitored via the crime/ASB reports relating to the alleyway. Residents have been given the correct numbers to report through too, so if there are issues with the alleyway we should see a rise in reports. At the end of the monitoring period the situation will be reviewed.

In order to enable monitoring to take place for informed decisions, current policy is to advise residents to report either via the anti-social behaviour hotline or to the Police

Recent letter to all residents surrounding Myrtle Crescent to Lismore Park alleyway:

Dear Resident,

#### **Report Anti-Social Behaviour**

Slough Borough Council has received reports of anti-social behaviour in your local area. In order for Slough Borough Council and Thames Valley Police to build up an accurate picture of what is happening, it is really important that residents report through to the correct channels. Please be assured that we take reports of anti-social behaviour seriously. We are monitoring the situation and are looking at options to tackle anti-social behaviour in your area.

You can report incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour to Thames Valley Police on the non emergency number: **0845 8 505 505**. If a crime is in progress at the time of the call or someone is in immediate danger please call 999.

You can also report incidents of anti-social behaviour through to the council's Anti-Social Behaviour hotline on **01753 875298**. Please note that criminal activity should be reported to the police in the first instance.

The Community Safety and Highways Officers are working closely following the standard procedure as previously tabled at the LAF meetings. An advisory panel is being set up as per the process approved and should any future situations reach the stage where an initial unbiased consultation identifies the path as an issue in the neighbourhood members of this panel would decide whether or not to proceed with a gating specific consultation. **Action: A LAF member representative is required to be available via email as a member of this panel.**

**Local Access Forum - Results from the cycle about which took place on 15th April 2011. Issues discussed at the meeting are as follows:**

Montem Lane width restriction; this was agreed as a historical problem for cyclists.

**Can anything be done about this? - Being investigated.**

Stoke Poges Lane (Belgrave Rd/Bradley Rd) Safety Scheme – IH highlighted this scheme as dangerous for cyclists where the usable road width has been restricted and the footway widened. AD commented that an independent safety audit had recently been done for this scheme which would hopefully pick up on any safety issues for all road users. AD would update members when the results become available.

**Action: Has the safety audit been done yet? – Enquiry sent.**

Shackleton Road dead end junction with Queens Road – IH stated that what would be brilliant cycling/pedestrian access between the two roads was constantly blocked by parked cars. Members agreed this was a parking issue and that a formal request be made via Gillian Ralphs and Joe Carter to have double yellow lines on this section of highway. It was noted that enforcement of these extends to the back edge of the footway.

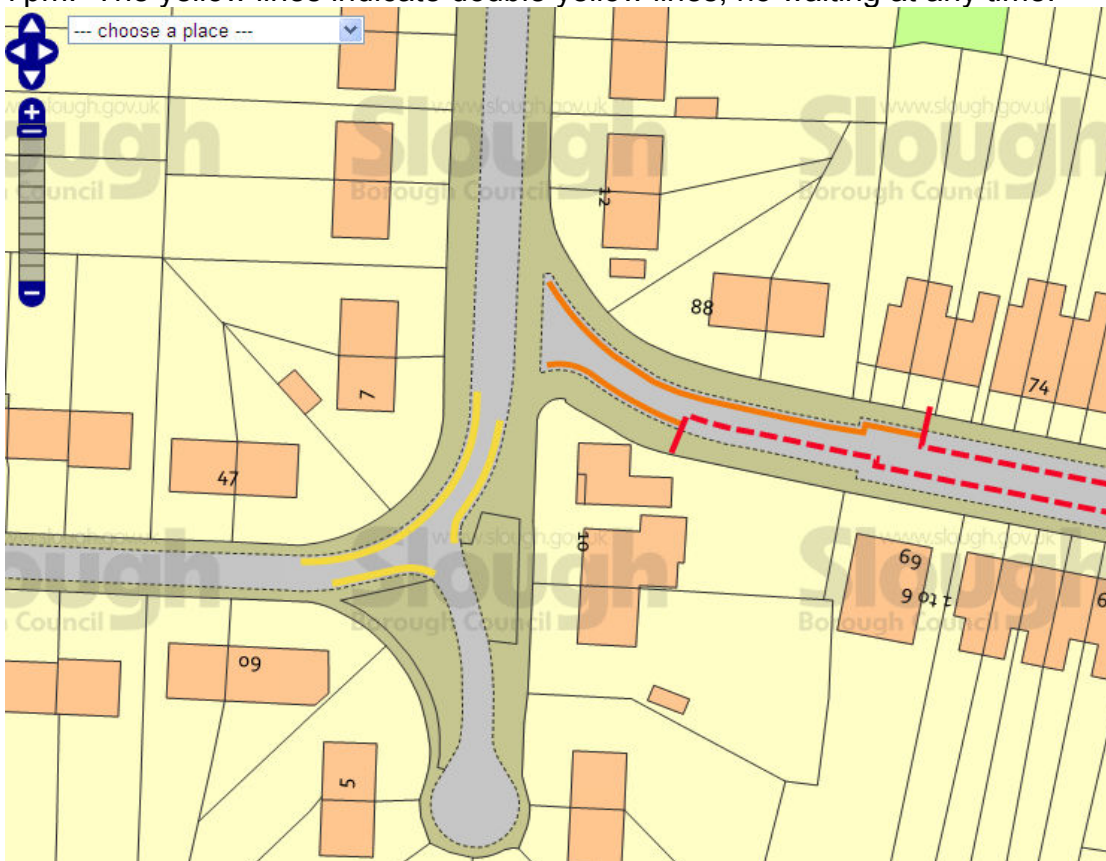
**Action: Email from LAF to Joe Carter cc: Martin Mallia to request investigation into feasibility of parking restrictions at this location.**

*Details of the parking restrictions at this location show they do not cover the crossover from Queens to Shackleton. The yellow lines in Queens Road do not correctly reflect the parking restrictions, therefore the Parking Section have been requested to rectify. An investigation into installing possible barriers (bollards and tree) on footway to prevent illegal parking is being done.*





Parking Restrictions: The orange indicates single yellow lines, no waiting mon- sat 8am - 7pm. The yellow lines indicate double yellow lines, no waiting at any time.



Park Street/Herschel Street and Hencroft Street North/South crossovers (rear of High Street Slough) – There are no dropped kerbs for cyclists on an otherwise useful quiet route into town centre from the south. IH commented that if there was a drop kerb in the middle there would be good visibility but would also need double yellow lines to prevent illegal parking on the dropped facility.

**Action: Email from LAF to Joe Carter and Alex Deans cc: Martin Mallia to request investigation into feasibility of drop kerb and parking restrictions at this location**

Herschel Street (only option to cyclists as no cycling allowed in High Street. – TE and IH viewed this route as hazardous for cyclists due to fast drivers and narrow carriageway width. VV would look at the feasibility of removing the centreline as a way of making drivers take more care.



**Ask VV if any progress yet.**

East end of High Street Slough – A good two way cycle lane has been narrowed by planting of trees on one half of the width. IH asked if anything could be done to remedy the situation. AD provided that Joe Carter, Head of Transport could be asked not to sign off the High Street scheme until this issue was investigated and the trees changed if necessary to a variety without low level branches.

It was noted that the cycle lane disappeared further west along the High Street and the area becomes cut off for cyclists.

**Emailed to Joe Carter with this request.**

A4 Langley Road junction and Datchet Road crossing near the Myrke – IH noted these two crossings were not toucan crossings despite cycle lanes leading to them in both directions. After discussions it became clear that the Datchet Road crossing is already a toucan crossing. The cost of £100,000 for providing toucan crossings is prohibitive to the council at the A4/Langley Road junction though if a development presented itself in that area then this improvement would be secured through planning contributions.

Primary Way, Chalvey – The no through road area has been built without a gap for cyclists. AD agreed to arrange for remedial works to sort out this problem.

**The Safety Audit is being arranged by developer and snagging works (including this item) are to be carried out by the developer alongside any issues that emerge as part of the audit process.**

Path between Spackmans Way and White Hart Road, Chalvey – The barriers installed across this path are prohibitive to cyclists. JW agreed to arrange for the staggered barriers to be replaced with bollards.

**The Safety Audit is being arranged by developer and snagging works (including this item) are to be carried out by the developer alongside any issues that emerge as part of the audit process.**

Farnham Road and Buckingham Ave – there is no pedestrian/cyclist crossing phase at this junction. VV would try to get this requirement incorporated onto the SEGRO improvements attached to the Leigh Road Central Concession.

**Check this has been done with VV**

Sheffield Ave and Oatlands Drive – there was general agreement that the cycle lanes on these roads were too narrow and along with the central refuges provided for crossing, caused difficulty for cyclists. There was no consensus on what could be done to help with this issue.

Footpath between Shaggy Calf Lane and Borderside, and continuing south through to Kendal Drive and Grasmere Avenue – no cycling signage is present due to these paths being public footpaths. IH asked if these routes could be made into cycle paths or bridleways to legalise the usage. JW advised that these paths were adopted highway as well as public rights of way the feasibility of removing them from the Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way could be investigated.

**An order has been placed to remove the No Cycling signs on these footpaths.**

IH asked how funding can be secured to make sure that cyclists are taken into account in any future highways schemes from the beginning. VV advised that he would try to secure a fund that had been discussed internally to pick up the kind of small cycle infrastructure measures being highlighted.

**Ask VV if there is any progress with this.**

TE raised issues with the Long Readings Lane walking and cycling scheme, where a shared use walking/cycling facility had been implemented off carriageway. Members felt that the LAF needed to be consulted by SBC on all traffic schemes, however, it was noted that schemes needed to be dealt with on a fast turnaround. Parking on the new shared use part of the scheme was felt to be the main problem and AD explained how parking restrictions were taken out of the scheme design as a result of pressure from residents. The Council cannot enforce without these parking restrictions. AD also explained the safety audit process which includes the police and the problem with police not enforcing parking restrictions. TE informed members that he was due to attend a meeting with the police where he would try to raise this issue with Tony Humphreys, the police Road Safety Officer.

**Ask Toby if he managed to raise this issue.**

Members mentioned problems for cyclists and pedestrians with the temporary traffic management for the Heart of Slough scheme currently under way. The junction is due to be operational by Sept 2011.

It was agreed that another date would be arranged for a cycle about with officers and LAF members.

**Resolved –**

- a) A formal request for double yellow lines at the Shackleton Road dead end junction with Queens Road is made to appropriate SBC Officers as detailed above.
- b) Actions would be taken as per the above notes and updates provided at the next meeting.
- c) That AD/VV arrange another meeting where key council officers involved in transport scheme design could cycle with LAF members to see first hand the types of problems encountered. VV will get back to members with some possible dates.

**Action: Do members feel it would be useful to arrange another cycle about?**

**REGIONAL AND NATIONAL UPDATE:****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide updates to members about the current national and regional context for access and information about provisional details for the next LAF member event and training day.

**2. SLAF Response to the Richard Benyon Letter Consultation**

A response was sent by Slough LAF via email on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

On behalf of Slough Local Access Forum, in response to the Minister, Richard Benyon's letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The general consensus, after discussions at the last meeting of the Slough Forum on 12th May 2011 was that members were in agreement with the proposals set out. In particular, it was felt that a virtual forum would be beneficial to communication between LAF members and for delivering advice/opinions to Defra.

**3. Natural England**

3.1 A new Business Model has been circulated for Natural England whereby there is a specific department titled Access and Engagement (People & Access). Local Access Forums are being offered liaison through the People & Partnerships stream with Lead Advisors as follows:

- Kevin Haugh - Kent, Medway and Sussex;
- Kirsten Chamley - Surrey;
- Jenny Hanwell - Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire; and
- Martin Gilchrist - Hampshire and Berkshire.

3.2 Andrew Hawkins from Oxfordshire LAF has kindly agreed to help NE in their planning for a southern event and training day for LAF members. The provisional date will be FEB/MAR time (see email update below) , with venue to be confirmed, please decide if you may be free to attend.

3.3 E- mail update received from Alice Kimpton to Regional coordinators – 7/9/11

I have had quite a few enquiries about the training and Huddle so I thought it would be worth just clarifying a few points:

**Training/Conference**

Following a meeting with Defra 2 weeks ago we have decided to put back the Training ( we are now calling it a conference) to Feb/Mar time. We will get dates and venues out to you soon as we want LAFs to be able to access cheaper travel and make plans around the event,

Most likely venues are Reading and Newcastle.

There is no funding this year for regional training events we have kept all the funds centrally to run this two venue national event

## **Huddle**

Hopefully most people are now registered on Huddle and able to access the functions and have a play with it. We have developed a flyer to promote Huddle and will forward that soon.

There was no consultation about Huddle apart from its mention in the letter from Richard Benyon asking LAFs if they thought having this online collaborative workspace was a good idea – the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Natural England and Defra felt that Huddle provides a way of sharing best practice amongst LAFs. There will be no charge to the LAFs or their appointing authorities for the use of this technology.

The plan for the roll out of Huddle is to demonstrate Huddle to the Chairs and Secretaries during Regional Meetings and then get a volunteer from each LAF who is interested in huddle and train them. They would then be the Huddle Champion for that group. We have yet to decide exactly what that may mean. We would like to have all LAFs represented on Huddle by the end of February 2012 for a Launch event soon after that.

There is a small group of people working on the look and content of Huddle and for support or technical advice you should look to Jenny Parsons and Rob Leek as well as Graham Ellery (from SKI).

## UPDATE - ACCESS TO JUBILEE RIVER IN CHALVEY – FOOTPATHS 33 AND 32

### 1. Completion of Mural

The mural was completed at the end of July 2011.





The following press release was picked up and was in the Slough Observer.

### **A riot of colour transforms an unsightly footpath**

Thanks to Slough Borough Council, students from Slough & Eton Business and Enterprise College and local artist Spencer Lowe, an unsightly public walkway has been transformed into a vibrant and eye catching riot of colour.

The public footpath in question is a heavily used route to Windsor and Eton and the Jubilee River, but suffers from being right next to the Chalvey Waste Transfer Station.

To add some colour and bring the area back to life, a decision was made by the council to paint a brightly coloured mural on one side of the wall and create a welcoming gateway to the Jubilee River.

The council started working with students from the college and Mr Lowe, who completed a similar project in Britwell, to turn their ideas into reality.

Many of the art designs for the 70 metre long and two metre high mural came from the students' imagination as well as the environment.

Taking its inspiration from both the natural and urban landscapes surrounding it, the mural depicts everyday objects which are routinely recycled, plant and animal life and also clothing and footwear.

The artist worked with the students for two months providing advice and guidance on suitable designs for the wall. The end result is a brightly coloured gateway to the Jubilee River.

Jackie Wheeler, the council's public rights of way officer said: "This public footpath really was very grim and not a nice place to walk through. The work put in by Spencer Lowe and the college students has completely transformed it. They worked extremely hard throughout the project and have managed to create an enjoyable and interesting walkway."

The artist, Spencer Lowe, said: "Working with the students was a real pleasure. We were able to use many of their drawings and incorporate them into a consistent design. When it came to actually painting the wall, they really put in the work."

Feedback from the general public has been really positive and the students are rightly proud of their achievement.

The work to paint the mural started in June 2011.

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