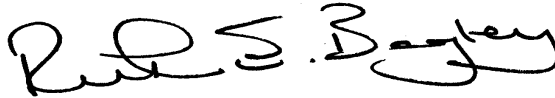


Date of issue: Wednesday, 4 July 2012

MEETING	LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 12TH JULY, 2012 AT 6.00 PM
VENUE:	JUPITER SUITE 1, ST MARTINS PLACE, 51 BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SECRETARY (for all enquiries)	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>	<u>TIME ALLOCATED</u>
1.	Apologies and Welcome		
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>	<u>TIME ALLOCATED</u>
3.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 29th March 2012	1 - 8	(5 mins)
4.	Matters Arising (other than those on agenda)	9 - 12	(10 mins)
5.	Chalvey One Way Scheme Consultation Update		(5 mins)
6.	Gating Orders	13 - 18	(15 mins)
	- Rossiter Close – Esther Deacon - Usage survey results		
	Target: what is LAF consensus on Rossiter Close proposal?		
7.	DEFRA consultation on improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way		(10 mins)
	Target: agree subgroup meeting to respond		
8.	Cycling about Slough		(5 mins)
	Target: Decide how to take this item forward.		
9.	Regional and National News		(10 mins)
	- SE LAF Conference 22 nd May 2012 - Huddle - Paths for Communities – Martin Gilchrist		
10.	AOB		(5 mins)
11.	Date of next meeting		
	Thursday 4 th October 2012 St Martins Place, Venus Suite 1 Ground Floor East		

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.

Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 29th March, 2012 at the Jupiter Suite 1, St Martins Place, 51 Bath Road, Slough

Present:-

LAF Members

David Munkley (Chair)
Councillor Satpal S Parmar
Toby Evans
Ken Wright
Trevor Allen

Observers

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Jacqui Wheeler, Public Rights of Way Officer
Alex Deans, Head of Highways
Nahid Moghul, Community Safety Officer

Apologies

Cllr Nimrit Chohan
Ian Houghton
Steve Roberts
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer
Bruce Hicks, Community Parks Projects Officer

69. Declarations of Interest

None.

70. Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th December 2011

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15th December 2011 were approved as a correct record.

71. Matters Arising (other than those on the agenda)

Ditton Park Cycle Path update –JW reported update from Peter Challis (Sustrans) dated 21 March 2012 saying there has been no progress in trying to get a site meeting with CA and he would try to contact someone at a higher level within CA to escalate the matter. He would inform the LAF if successful and if not decide what further action to take. There have been no further

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reports of any random closures recently. Members felt that it is disgraceful that CA, such a huge company are ignoring what is a legal obligation under the planning process to ensure the route is maintained and available for use. JW stated that the actual planning agreement was with RBWM and the path is within RBWM, however, the route is beneficial to residents in both boroughs. AD noted that the route is part of the National Cycle Network but impacts directly on Slough residents as it provides an off –road cycle link across the south of the borough. Members agreed that the SLAF ought to write directly to CA on behalf of the path users from Slough and copy RBWM LAF. DM thought that initial SLAF action should be to contact RBWM LAF to explain the strong feeling on this issue and to see if they would like to send a joint letter.

Resolved – JW would draft a letter to CA and advise RBWM LAF about the situation to see if they would like to send letter jointly.

Update on path dedication in memory of Margery Hitchman

Margery's family are happy for the path to be publicised and JW is working on ways in which this can be achieved in liaison with Tony Downs, the Herschel Park Warden and Bruce Hicks, Community Parks Projects Officer.

Resolved – continue to try to promote the nature reserve section of Herschel Park and in doing so, Margery's path.

Borderside to Shaggy Calf Lane – JW advised that Transport, Road Safety team have requested that the no cycling roundels remain in place as the local NAG group have been complaining that cyclists ride too fast along this path. The route is a public footpath, and also adopted public highway with cycling illegal along both. However, enforcement of this prohibition doesn't generally happen and cyclists do use public paths as an alternative to busy roads. Members agreed that if a path is wide enough to safely allow multi-use, as in this case, it will help support the Council's aims in encouraging increased use of sustainable modes of transport. Members thought the best course of action would be for the cycling usage to be legalised by converting the route to a cycle track; shared-use footway/cycleway signs could then be erected.

[If the path is dedicated as a cycle track then it will need to be extinguished as a public footpath and would then be removed from the Definitive Map – record of public rights of way]

Resolved - The LAF will ask the Integrated Transport team to dedicate the route as a cycle way under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984.

Chalvey One Way Experimental Scheme Consultation

The general effects of the scheme was discussed with TA stating that he feels it provides a more straightforward route layout and that it is helping to increase community pride. It was noted that there is increased parking for deliveries and for passing trade and that there is a variety of local opinion both for and against. Members felt that the Ragstone Road layout though strange

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with minor roads given priority, did open up the options available to navigate around Chalvey and were particularly happy that the contra flow cycle lane will be retained as part of the scheme being consulted on.

Members agreed the scheme appears to have solved the previous congestion issues experienced in Chalvey.

Farnham Road and Buckingham Ave Junction Improvement –Feedback from Transport was that this improvement sounds eminently sensible and would be added to the priority list for consideration. The LAF would be informed of its position on the list when it is decided.

Further Update Received After Meeting: *This request was taken into account as part of the Council's Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid. If the bid is successful there will be 3-4 years in which to implement the scheme.*

Heart of Slough –

- Crossing point at Windsor Road – TE had complained about the hazard to pedestrians due to the new crossing signals design. The problem being where cars heading south continue when cars in opposite direction have stopped creating confusion and danger for those crossing. JW pointed out that the Transport response said that on completion, the signal phasing would be reviewed to see if an alternative sequence might help and high level indicators would also be installed which are more visible to pedestrians. AD advised that sufficient traffic has to be allowed through the junction on this arm of the main junction with the additional complication caused by the new right turn into High Street West. He added that an independent Road Safety Audit would be done on completion in which this issue would hopefully be flagged up.
- TE felt that the overall Heart of Slough scheme has been built with the emphasis on cars and is not friendly at all for cyclists or pedestrians. AD thought it would be better to wait for the scheme to be completed before commenting which would be due at the end of April 2012. TE pointed out that the scheme at the moment did not feel safe and feels like it's designed to drive through rather than walk or cycle. AD said the whole ethos of the HoS was to open it up and make it safer for pedestrians/cyclists with removal of the subways and thus fear of crime. TE was asked to put his concerns down in writing that could be passed to the auditors. AD stated there are no formal on carriageway cycle routes through the Heart of Slough, while TE as an experienced cyclist did not feel safe. AD accepted that a site visit with LAF members could be possible after completion. JW to liaise with DM/AD about dates for this before the next meeting.

72. Membership Update

Welcome to Trevor Allen as new LAF member.

73. Report back on Older People's Forum meeting - re; bus station

KW reported as a result of the Older People's Forum meeting extra shelters would be erected at the Bus Station and there was an idea for a new bus service to Sainsbury's and back to the Bus Station. This is being looked into by Gillian Ralphs with a contribution from Sainsbury's and other companies and would relieve the difficulty for older people.

74. Mallard Drive Development - footpath closures update

JW tabled the report which gave the following updates on this item. The link path has been officially closed and a pedestrian/cycling usage survey has been done. The results show that the FP4C is being used at various times during the day with another survey to be done at the end of April to check use is consistent. JW confirmed these results were from a temporary camera and it was felt this usage was a reasonable amount and showed the path was being used legitimately. Members considered the amount of crime and asb statistics provided to be very little and could not be directly attributed to the path.

The possibility of situating an SD camera in the path was discussed and AD suggested this be dealt with through the Community wardens who could take ownership of it. JW would still contact the British Legion about the camera. DM stated the LAF is on a presumption for keeping the access open until there is sufficient evidence to show otherwise. While TE was worried that crime and asb are defining access in the borough with footpaths being an easy target. Members also raised the point that the crime and asb statistics did not provide enough detail to decide on their relationship to the path.

Resolved – That a closure of this path is not supported by the LAF from the evidence shown so far. JW would bring updates to the next meeting and ensure the Council's petition response is sent to members.

75. Cyclewise - Steve Roberts

In the absence of Steve Roberts this item will be taken forward to the next meeting.

76. Update on BHS request for additional equestrian access along Jubilee River

JW explained that the local British Horse Society want to achieve increased equestrian access by having access rights to the cycle tracks along part of the Jubilee River in Slough and Windsor & Maidenhead. The RBWM LAF is championing the idea of a year long trial which would require landowners' approval. The current construction of the route in Slough is suitable for multi-

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use and so would not require any work. After considering the route, TE was concerned about a possible blind corner after leaving the relief road underpass; a possible solution would be mirrors to aid visibility. JW advised there would have to be suitable signage to warn all users and that education was a key element to the project, so that ultimately all users would act considerately towards each other.

The issue of horse manure was raised as a hazard to other users and JW explained that horse riders are aware this is an issue. Members felt that given the natural emphasis in Slough being on walking and cycling access they were reluctant to see this issue as a priority however, they did agree to a trial. JW pointed out that the LAF's remit is to look at improvements for all types of users including horse riders.

Windsor & Maidenhead Council have agreed in principal with the scheme and JW added that Slough Council as Highway Authority is likely to approve but she agreed to get confirmation. RBWM Rights of Way Officers will also be checking the route for any physical barriers and narrow points. JW will inform RBWM officers and LAF of the Slough LAF concerns over narrow and blind point at the east of the underpass. DM stated that LAF would need to know further details on the trial period; ie; how long it will be, what protection would be put in place for existing users, results of RBWM survey of the route. Members were also concerned at how many more horses would use the route

Resolved – Slough LAF agreed to the trial period as long as it is done formally though with strong reservations about the practicalities of narrow and blind points in the route causing conflict with other users. JW would bring more details of the trial to the next meeting and inform RBWM LAF and Officers of Slough LAF concerns.

77. Feedback from Cycle about Slough

Issues discussed are as follows:

Shackleton Road dead end junction with Queens Road – Members agreed that this revised layout has definitely improved the area and looks much tidier.

Feedback from Integrated Transport and Road Safety Team.

LAF considered the feedback from the Integrated Transport and Road Safety Team. Discussion ensued about the integration of cyclists with pedestrians in shared use facilities on footways and the potential for conflict. The importance of consideration for other users and the necessary education of cyclists was agreed to be paramount. It was also agreed that there are a wide range of cyclists with all levels of skills, attitude and abilities with training and improving awareness being vital.

Pavement Parking Forum (PPF)– AD advised that a new forum has been set up to look at all the options and decide on a new SBC Pavement Parking

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Policy on preventing pavement parking led by Gillian Ralphs and Joe Carter. All legislation needs to be reviewed, including the Traffic Management Act. Options available include; a borough wide ban, a ban trialled in one area, or a blanket ban with positive enforcement in certain pre-agreed areas. Transport will be investigating these options and what implications there are. Significant consultation will be required. Two wheels on, two wheels off parking would be investigated with the disadvantage being that bays have to be marked. Generally not in favour of this method the PPF thought this may be the only option on extremely narrow roads. There is a lot of work involved as each road would need to be assessed according to its characteristics including; parking problems, geometry and available off street parking. A process for implementation of physical preventative measures which have been adhoc in the past will be introduced with a hierarchy of measures including; double yellow lines on junctions, bollards and double kerbs.

Resolved – To be kept on the main agenda and updates on all issues to be brought to next meeting.

78. Regional and National News - LAF National Conference Feedback - DM

DM attended the National Local Access Forum Conference for the south on 6th March 2012 in Bristol. He gave the following feedback;

The Conference was well attended with a mixture of presentations by both Defra and workshops with other LAF members. Issues that arose included;

- LAF's relationships with their appointing Councils were a major discussion point. Urban LAF's in unitary areas seem to have had the better experience and relationship with their council. DM thought the remoteness of county LAF's from
- LAF's being consulted and taken seriously
- The perceived independence of LAF's

DM reported that problems with membership are not just an urban LAF phenomenon. A new funding initiative, called the Paths for Communities was promoted though was conditional on it being for new routes in rural areas. JW had heard of this funding stream and would investigate if there was any potential for it to be used in Slough.

DM heard of a new scheme similar to the old Village Green scheme which he found of interest.

Overall the conference was a useful experience with being able to meet other delegates, however on a negative note there were no contact details given to delegates to take away with them and delegates including DM are still awaiting slides to be sent to them from presentations by Defra. DM also thought more examples of good practice would have been beneficial.

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JW stated that there is to be another SE LAF Conference in London on Tuesday 22nd May 2012 and DM said he would attend. Any other members who wish to attend should inform JW as soon as possible. TA might be a possible attendee.

Resolved - JW to find out from Martin Gilchrist if and when Huddle will be open to more LAF members and to inform him of the need to have notes from the conference sent to delegates.

79. A.O.B

None.

80. Date of Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting is Thursday 12th July 2012 at 6.00pm.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.00 pm and closed at 8.20 pm)

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18 June 2012

Slough Local Access Forum

CA Technologies
Ditton Park
Riding Court Road
Datchet
Berks
SL3 9LL

Replies to: Jacqui Wheeler,
Officer to Slough Local Access Forum
Highways Engineering
Slough Borough Council
St Martins Place, 51 Bath Road
Slough, SL1 3UF

Tel: 01753 477 479
Fax: 01753 875 660
Email: Localaccessforum@slough.gov.uk
Ref: LAF Linear Park/Ditton Park Cycle Path

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of members of both Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forums. We are advisory bodies whose members are volunteers living in the area set up under The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Our remit is to advise the Local Authority and other relevant organisations on access issues within the local area.

I would like to express our deep concerns about the Cycle path that runs through the Ditton Park Estate. This route provides a wonderful off road link affording opportunities for green commuting through beautiful surroundings to local residents and CA Technologies employees alike. Disappointingly however, there remain a number of issues which are undermining the free and unobstructed use of this route.

We understand that there have been numerous instances where the path has been inexplicably unavailable due to locked gates during daylight hours when they should be open. Also that the path surface through the Ditton Park section is badly rutted and potholed due to vehicular use and lack of maintenance.

In some instances people have been stranded at the locked gate which is quite a distance from an alternative route with no prior warning that the gate would be locked. Under the S106 Planning Agreement dated November 1997, CA agreed to certain actions regarding the upkeep of the path within the Ditton Park Estate; these include;

1. Maintain the Sustrans Route and/or the Pedestrian/Cycle route in a good and safe condition to the reasonable satisfaction of the Council.
2. Give 21 days notice to the Council which shall have also been displayed during this notice period on the Route for any of the situations referred to in the Agreement (4.8.1 to 4.8.12). One such reason being the closure of the Route in

the event of there being a security or safety or other risk or alert on or in the vicinity.

It appears these obligations are not being met and we would ask that the resulting issues are given your full attention as a matter of priority.

- Please confirm that prior notice of 21 days will be given to Sustrans Warden/Local Highways Authorities (Council) should it become necessary to close the gates for reasons detailed in the agreement.
- Immediate arrangements are made for the path to be repaired and please confirm that necessary surface maintenance will be carried out on an ongoing basis in future.

As part of the National Cycle Network this route is widely publicised and used; and we would like to see it continue to be an asset to the local communities of Slough and Windsor and Maidenhead.

We look forward to your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

David Munkley
Chair 2012, Slough Local Access Forum,

Peter Thorne
Chair 2012, RBWM Local Access Forum

Dear All,

I have received a reply from Eton College regarding the mutli-use route trial, agreeing to a one year trial for most of the route:

The College will accept a trial over parts of the proposed routes, provided it is clear that it has absolute discretion not to continue after the trial year should it wish not to do so and that in that event the Council will do its best to stop what it is imagined will by then be an established use pattern.

The College is opposed to the section through its immediate grounds – from the Common Lane Pumping Station, under 15 Arch Bridge, across College Field and Agar's Plough – being used by horses. It would also like to know what, if any, arrangements will be made with regard to the collection of horse droppings.....

I may have mentioned this previously but if you have not already done so please consult Mr Kinross at Manor Farm, Eton Wick, who is the tenant farmer on North and South Fields.

There will be some need to address the issues above about horse droppings and plan for what will need to be done if Eton College wish to withdraw permission after the trial period and this may require barriers being installed to prevent use.

I will now be arranging to contact the Environment Agency and Mr Kinross, I will let you know the outcome as soon as possible.

Thanks and Best Regards,

Andrew Fletcher

Public Rights of Way Officer

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Town Hall, St. Ives Road, Maidenhead, SL6 1RF

Tel: 01628 796122

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GATING REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform members of the way Gating is being viewed by the Council now and provide statistics on usage and asb/crime for paths currently under scrutiny.

2. LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO 2012

Slough Labour Party's Manifesto Pledges for the Local Government Elections which were held on Thursday 3rd May 2012, included the following;

Housing and Community Safety

If re-elected, by the next round of local elections in Slough, we will:

- Increase the number of 'alley-gates' installed, securing garage accesses and problem alleyways to improve safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

As a result of this pledge the Council is taking a more direct approach in how it deals with Gating requests in the borough. Cases are reviewed on a regular basis with all crime/asb statistics pulled together and issues discussed to decide what action should be taken dependent on levels of crime/asb, usage and residents affected. Alternatives to Gating are always assessed and put in place if appropriate and feasible.

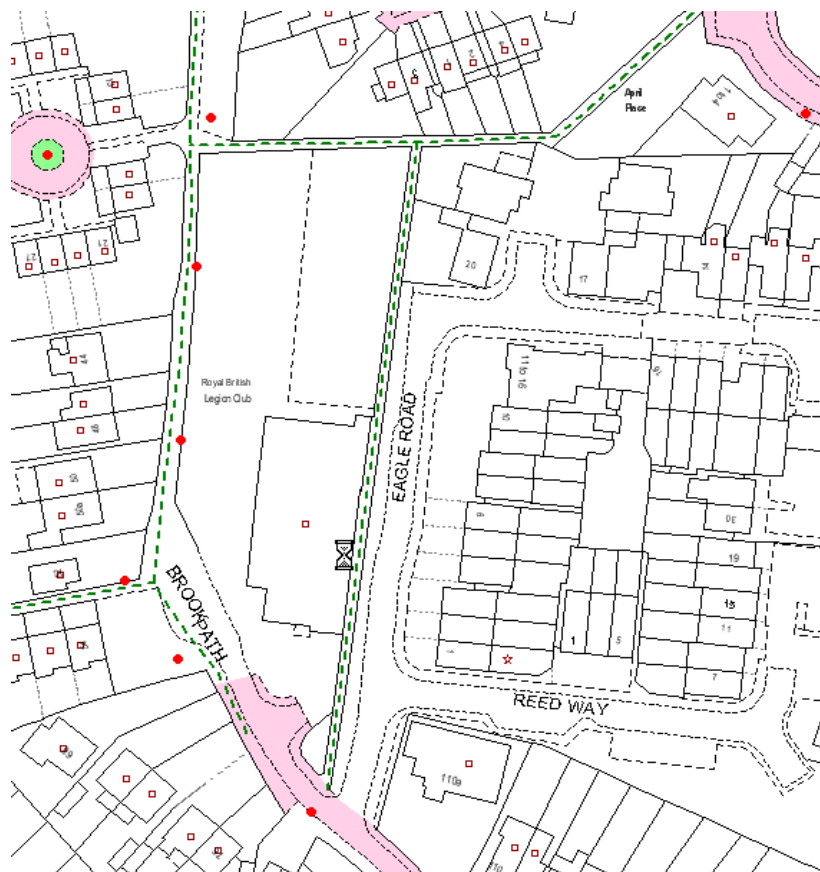
Council members are regularly informed of progress on individual cases by ward. The decision to go ahead with a gating order consultation remains an officer delegated function.

There is a commitment that the LAF will be consulted on cases requiring Gating Order consultations at the earliest opportunity. It has been made clear that the LAF also wants to be consulted on Gating schemes which are through routes where a Gating Order consultation is not required. Consultation with local residents is always undertaken, either through door knocking or letter.

3. USAGE SURVEY RESULTS

Usage survey Results for Footpath 4c		
Date	Usage both ways over 24 hours	
	Number of Cyclists	Number of Pedestrians
Tues 7th Feb 2012	4	49
Weds 8th Feb 2012	4	66
Thurs 9th Feb 2012	0	65
Fri 10th Feb 2012	3	55
Sat 11th Feb 2012	4	37
Tues 24th April 2012	6	52
Weds 25th April 2012	2	23
Thurs 26th April 2012	6	50
Fri 27th April 2012	4	48
Sat 28th April 2012	3	25

Site Plan Footpath 4c – Cippenham



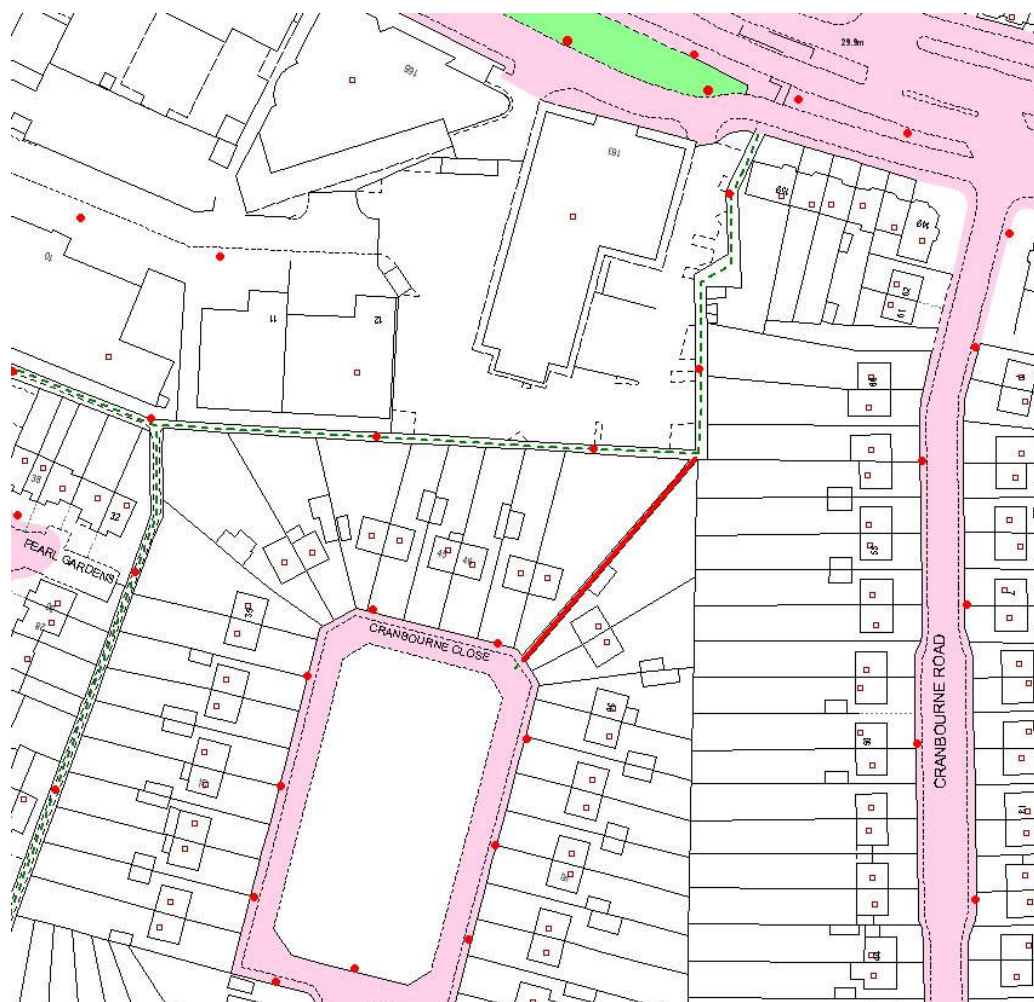
Usage survey Results for Footpath between Myrtle Crescent and Lismore Park		
Date	Usage both ways over 24 hours	
	Number of Cyclists	Number of Pedestrians
Tues 24th April 2012	3	372
Weds 25th April 2012	10	218
Thurs 26th April 2012	5	283
Fri 27th April 2012	11	299
Sat 28th April 2012	4	118

Site Plan Myrtle Crescent to Lismore Park



Usage survey Results for Footpath 56 (part) between 40 and 42 Cranbourne Close		
Usage both ways over 24 hours		
Date	Number of Cyclists	Number of Pedestrians
Tues 24th April 2012	21	137
Weds 25th April 2012	8	115
Thurs 26th April 2012	12	127
Fri 27th April 2012	14	125
Sat 28th April 2012	14	98

Site Plan for Footpath 56 (part) between 40 and 42 Cranbourne Close



Usage survey Results for Footpath 31 – Tuns Lane crossover

Date	Usage both ways over 24 hours	
	Number of Cyclists	Number of Pedestrians
Tues 24th April 2012	6	51
Weds 25th April 2012	7	34
Thurs 26th April 2012	2	20
Fri 27th April 2012	4	40
Sat 28th April 2012	2	18

Site Plan for Footpath 31 Tuns Lane crossover



Usage survey Results for Footpath 57 – Glentworth Place to Tuns Lane		
Usage both ways over 24 hours		
Date	Number of Cyclists	Number of Pedestrians
Tues 24th April 2012	3	49
Weds 25th April 2012	1	36
Thurs 26th April 2012	5	29
Fri 27th April 2012	5	35
Sat 28th April 2012	4	40

Site Plan for Footpath 57 between Glentworth Place and Tuns Lane

