

Date of issue: Wednesday, 16 May 2018

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>LOCAL ACCESS FORUM</b>
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	THURSDAY, 24TH MAY, 2018 AT 6.30 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	MEETING ROOM 4, CHALVEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE GREEN, CHALVEY, SLOUGH, SL1 2SP
<b>LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SECRETARY (for all enquiries)</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.

Interim Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

**PART 1**

<b><u>AGENDA ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>REPORT TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME ALLOCATED</u></b>
1.	Apologies and Welcome		(2 mins)
2.	Declaration of Interest		
	(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)		
3.	Minutes of Last Meeting held on 14th Dec 2017	1 - 4	( 5 mins)

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>TIME ALLOCATED</u>
4.	Jubilee River External Partners Meeting  Does the LAF have any comments/issues to raise?	5 - 8	(5 mins)
5.	Better By... Sustainable Access Fund Project Update	9 - 16	(5 mins)
6.	Slough Canal Updates	17 - 22	(10 mins)
7.	LCWIP - infrastructure plan for walking and cycling		
8.	Site Visits 2018 -  Action – see suggested site list and dates for these meetings. These need to be agreed and whether or not to visit Ramblers Pathwatch areas		
9.	Joint LAF Chairs Meetings	23 - 30	
10.	The Ramblers Charter for Walkable Towns and Cities  Action – Should the LAF send the Charter to all local Councillors?	31 - 32	(5 mins)
11.	Matters Arising from minutes of the last meeting		( 5 mins)
12.	Date of next meeting  Training Room 1 – Arbour Park Sports Stadium at 6.30pm on 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2018.		

#### 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. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

The Council allows the filming, recording and photographing at its meetings that are open to the public. By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings. Anyone proposing to film, record or take photographs of a meeting is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.



**Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Thursday, 14th December, 2017 at the Meeting Room 4, Chalvey Community Centre, The Green, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2SP**

**Present:-**

**LAF Members**

Councillor Satpal S Parmar  
Andy Packer  
Tony Haines  
John Keegan, Ramblers Association

**Observers**

**Officers, Slough Borough Council**

Jacqui Wheeler  
Rights of Way Officer

**260. Apologies and Welcome**

David Munkley  
Toby Evans  
Trevor Allen  
Ken Wright  
Arnold Richardson

NB: In the absence of the Chair, Tony Haines stepped in to chair the meeting.

**261. Declarations of Interest**

None

**262. Minutes of Last Meeting on 3rd August 2017**

Minutes of the last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017 were approved as an accurate record.

**263. Slough Canal - updates**

Slough Canal Action Group are working on an agreement with CRT to lease the triangle of land at Goodman Park which suffers from vandalism, severe littering and fly tipping on a regular basis. The agreement will mean that the council can enter the CRT land and clear it and make small improvements when a budget is available.

## **Local Access Forum - 14.12.17**

JW stated that legal have been instructed to look at the terms of the agreement with a view to getting it signed in the near future. A break clause is to be included.

TH stated that the land had been fenced cheaply, landscaped and a path put in. Unfortunately over time the fence has become broken and out of repair, the landscaping has become overgrown and anti-social behaviour happens. TH suggested that removing vegetation and fencing entirely would reduce the maintenance costs, however, there is still the ecological loss of natural habitat to be considered.

A water based risk assessment was done in November 2017 with a view to piloting a project to have water based activities such as ; kayaking and paddle boarding on the canal aimed 11 + year olds. The risk assessment outcome was that from Uxbridge Road to Middlegreen Road would be the best section of the canal for activities with paddle boarding rejected due to the higher risk of falling in and the shallowness of the water with unknown hazards. There was a huge amount of plastic bags and cans in the canal which are difficult to see from the towpath.

TH confirmed that the dredging in 2014 was limited with only a central channel being dredged.

The problem of littering underneath the Wexham Road footbridge was discussed with JW proposing that a mesh cage is erected over the footbridge to prevent people throwing rubbish over the side. Rough sleeping at this location and at various points along the canal is also recognised as a major issue and the Action group is seeking to work together with CRT and the Resilience team at the council on this.

JW is looking at getting a specialist cleaning company to quote for clearing the litter at this location. There are health and safety issues in asking volunteers to tackle this section due to needles.

Members felt that the fencing of the Tiling Company should be removed now rather than wait for the regeneration to happen. However, any work to remove the fencing on this narrow section would not affect the difference in levels which would require a lot more investment than simply removing the fence and is not realistic at the moment.

JW agreed to seek an update from the SUR on when the planning permission will be submitted with a new design and when this will be consulted on.

### **264. Draft LAF Work Programme**

Members agreed the proposed draft work programme and that site visits would be agreed for 2018 at the next meeting.

**265. Local Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

More details on this Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan would be brought to future meetings.

**266. Possible Closures of FP57 and FP35b**

After discussing the results of the door knocking exercise with residents of Glentworth Place, members agreed that the closure of FP57 due to anti-social behaviour problems needed to be taken forward either as a permanent stopping up order or as a Public Spaces Protection Order.

**267. Berkyn Manor Farm FP**

JW would send details of this new footpath in Colnbrook around to members with a view to taking a position on this and deciding on any action at the next meeting.

**268. Matters Arising from last minutes (apart from those on agenda)**

SMART M4 – Updates

The public will be consulted by HE in due course and the LAF will be invited to any events..

JW agreed to circulate the managed motorway presentation to LAF members.

The DCO for this scheme means there is actual specific legislation which has been made to deal with all aspects of the scheme including any legal orders required for the temporary closure and also permanent diversion of any affected public rights of way.

Blandford Road North – Final Decision

JW tabled the final decision received from the PINS Inspector.

**269. Date of next meeting TBC**

**Local Access Forum - 14.12.17**

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.45 pm)

## Jubilee River External Partners Meeting

Kings Meadow House, Reading - Room G1

Thursday 22<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 10am- 11.30am

### Agenda

**Attendees:**

**Environment Agency:**

Kylie Newman (KN), Sophie Dancer (SD), Ian Ware (IW) Dawn Swadling (DS), Andrew Weatherly (AW)

**AECOM (EA contractors):**

Jon Rooney (JR), Tom Roseblade (TR)

**Local/County Authority:**

Jonathan Clark (JC) Bucks CC, Jacqui Wheeler (JW) Slough Council, Anthony Hurst (AH) RBWM

**Eton College:**

n/a

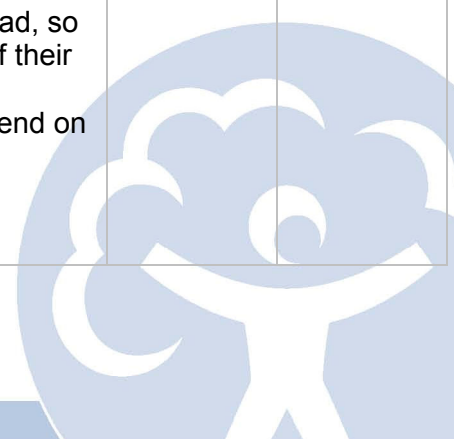
**Dorney Court Estates:**

Patrick Todd (PT)

Actions highlighted in **Red**

**Apologies:** Brendan O’Dowda (Eton Security) Rob Johnson (Eton Security), Andrew Fletcher (RBWM), Lindsay Badman (EA Estates) Maria Herlihy (EA Ops Manager), Janet Losty (Eton Estates), Ian Mellor (Eton Estates)

	Topic	Lead	Time
1.	<b>Introductions &amp; Purpose of meeting</b>	KN	10:00
2.	<b>Actions</b>	KN	10:10
3.	<p><b>Landscape maintenance work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update on vegetation maintenance</li> <li>- Additional grass cut complete</li> <li>- Hedge row trimming postponed due to boggy ground. Will continue as soon as the ground dries up.</li> <li>- AW mentioned the bird nesting season needs to be taken into account.</li> </ul> <p><b>Update on management of structures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bollard thinning at Slough Road and Marsh Lane in progress. Concerns raised over public safety, especially at Slough Road, so looking into replacing them. Booms are coming to the end of their life so all will need replacing at some point regardless.</li> <li>- EA are still looking into Taplow car park closure but will depend on the contingency plans.</li> </ul> <p><b>LPA management of structures</b></p>	AECOM/ EA	10:20



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- JC - Lake end road bridge repairs undertaken</li> <li>- JC - Footpath work and tree trimming complete. <b>KN to check near miss was shared.</b></li> <li>- AH - Black Potts and Michaels bridge inspections happening in the next few months and will share when complete. They will be reviewing the inspection scheduling.</li> <li>- <b>JC to call contractor about returning Jubilee keys</b></li> <li>- JW looking at footpath work</li> <li>- JW Chalvey footbridge repairs happening soon</li> </ul>		
5.	<b>External Partners questions/ issues to raise</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>KN to speak with legal about landowner responsibility on pre-existing S106 after compulsory purchase.</b></li> </ul>	All	11:00
6.	<b>Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>KN to speak with farmer about grazing his cattle as he may not return until the antisocial behaviour is resolved. If he doesn't then we will need to address the maintenance of the field.</b></li> <li>- Bird ringing group requested a meeting to expand their area. <b>KN to send bird ringing group meeting invite to AECOM.</b></li> <li>- JW - shared riverside centres intention to set up café in Slough car park</li> <li>- Slough Road car park CCTV has helped with fly tipping situation and tree thinning has been completed.</li> <li>- Riverside centre has put litter bins near the Riverside Centre, they will be responsible for managing them.</li> <li>- Lake End road dog poo bin has been removed upon request from South Bucks CC.</li> <li>- <b>JC, JW and AH - Footpath and bridal routes to be shared with EA</b></li> <li>- <b>KN to contact Malcolm Kelly regarding footpath closure as work hasn't started yet.</b></li> <li>- <b>KN to forward bridal email regarding bridal routes to JW, AH and JC</b></li> <li>- AW mentioned the plant tracker app for identifying pennywort and to be vigilant in reporting if it is spotted on the Jubilee.</li> </ul> <p>Link to plant tracker app:  <a href="http://www.planttracker.org.uk/">http://www.planttracker.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Link to pennywort information:  <a href="https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canal-and-river-wildlife/the-roques-gallery/floating-pennywort">https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canal-and-river-wildlife/the-roques-gallery/floating-pennywort</a></p> <p>Information on invasive species:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-spread-of-harmful-invasive-and-non-native-plants</a></p>	All	11:10



7.	<b>AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KN to set up next meeting</li> <li>- Campers and homeless are ongoing issue. KN to check with Eton about the vagrants and how they are manging them.</li> </ul>	All	11:20

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**Photo:**

19 March 2018

## **Transport for Slough's Better by... scheme provides diverse, sustainable travel options throughout the borough**

Transport for Slough is transforming the way we travel throughout the borough with its [Better by...](#) campaign.

The scheme is set to enable and encourage workplaces, schools and the wider community to use environmentally-friendly forms of travel, including public transport, cycling and walking routes.

The initiative will additionally help boost the local economy by enhancing access to jobs, skills, training and education and improve the health and wellbeing of Slough residents.

The programme began after Transport for Slough received £1.5million in funding from the Department for Transport's [Access Fund for Sustainable Travel](#).

Building on the legacy of the [Local Sustainable Transport Fund \(LSTF\)](#), which improved Slough's connectivity and network efficiency, and therefore travel choices for 25,000 employees and 15,000 pupils, the Better by... project looks to maintain and build on the achievements of the LSTF through four key objectives to be achieved over the next two years and beyond:

- increase cycling and walking in Slough to improve personal health
- up-skill the Slough workforce by enhancing access to local jobs and training
- encourage a switch from car use to sustainable travel for work and school trips to help offset the effects of road traffic in Slough
- promote sustainable travel opportunities offered by the Local Growth Fund and other capital schemes in Slough.

Slough's Better by... team is rolling out a number of sustainable travel events across the borough at key locations and within schools and businesses. This includes community engagement events and awareness campaigns:

- one-to-one cycle training and scooter training for children and adults across the borough
- group cycle rides on leisure and commuter routes around the borough
- bike surgeries - free bicycle checks, minor repairs and maintenance advice for members of the public, schools and employees
- journey planning for jobseekers, youths seeking education and training opportunities for employees and residents
- cycling and walking competitions and competitive events
- travel planning advice for schools and businesses
- targeted road safety awareness and advice
- promoting mode-shift to car sharing, passenger transport and cycling and walking
- advising businesses on implementing cycle to work schemes and achieving travel plan targets
- providing matched funding to businesses to implement sustainable transport facilities such

- as cycle parking, shower facilities etc
- access to and promotion of the [Cycle Hire Slough](#) and Cycle Hub Slough schemes
- production and distribution of information on our activities, infrastructure, routes and events
- wayfinding totems to advise members of the public and highlight key attractions in Slough.

Councillor Martin Carter, cabinet member for planning and transport, said: “I am very excited for Better by...’s many and varied schemes taking place in the borough. From the cycling programmes to the journey planning and travel advice, Better by... will be all about providing a range of sustainable travel options, while helping people to get out and enjoy the outdoors, as well as improve their fitness.”

There are opportunities for everyone to get involved and learn about how sustainable travel can improve your health, reduce your commuting time, save you money and benefit the environment.

If you’re interested in cycle training, joining a walking group, personal travel plans, applying for travel grants, or engaging with any of our events and campaigns listed above - please get in touch at [Tfs@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Tfs@slough.gov.uk).

#### Upcoming events:

##### **Basic Cycle Skills for Adults**

Salt Hill Park, GD Tennis, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3SR

17 April, 15 May, 12 June: 17:30 – 19:30

28 April, 26 May, 23 June: 09:00 – 11:00

£5.00

##### **Advanced Cycle Skills for Adults**

Salt Hill Park, GD Tennis, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3SR

17 April, 15 May, 12 June: 17:30 – 19:30

£5.00

##### **Cycle Maintenance Training for Adults**

Cycle Experience, 384 Sykes Road, Slough, SL1 4SP

10 April, 5 June: 17:30 – 19:30

£5.00

##### **Urban Cycle Skills for Adults**

Salt Hill Park, GD Tennis, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3SR

17 April, 15 May, 12 June: 17:30 – 19:30

28 April, 26 May, 23 June: 09:00 – 11:00

£5.00

#### [Book your course with Cycle Experience](#)

##### **Free bike surgeries for Slough Trading Estate staff / discount card holders**

Event Plaza, 252 Bath Road, Slough SL1 4EE

2 May, 4 July, 5 September, 7 November: 12:00 - 14:00

##### **Free bike surgeries for Slough Trading Estate staff / discount card holders**

Slough Aspire, 350 Edinburgh Avenue, Slough SL1 4TU

4 April, 6 June, 1 August, 3 October: 16:00 – 18:00

5 December: 17:00 – 18:00

Contact details:

Stows Cycles  
01753 520528  
[cycles@stows.co.uk](mailto:cycles@stows.co.uk)

Cycle Experience  
07539 284976  
[ianp@cycleexperience.com](mailto:ianp@cycleexperience.com)

Sign up for your STE Discount Card here:  
[www.segro.com/slough/discount-card](http://www.segro.com/slough/discount-card)

**Save the date:**

Slough Bike Week 2018: *11 – 17 June*

Ends

**For more information, contact Sandy Dhaliwal in the communications team on 01753 875026.**

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## What is Slough Borough Council's Travel Training?

### Background

The Travel Training Programme is part of Slough Borough Council's Access Fund Programme, 'Better by', which runs from 2017-2020. The Council was awarded funding from a £60 million Government fund to deliver projects to help reduce congestion, improve health and improve sustainable access to jobs, education and training opportunities. The Council are excited by this great opportunity and are looking forward to making a positive difference to the Borough's residents through the Better by project.

### The Travel Training Service

Travel Training is a key part of the 'Better By' project and aims to break down travel barriers to accessing employment and training, and assist jobseekers and young people with both travel to interviews and initial employment.

Travel training is delivered through a **free focussed training session**, provided through the Better by team.



The session focuses on building confidence and the knowledge base of jobseekers and young people so that they know where to access transport information and find travel options that are easier, more flexible and possibly cheaper.



## Travel Training Benefits

There are many benefits of the sessions; both to your clients and to your organisation.

### Jobseeker

- Confidence
- Knowledge
- Aware of travel options
- Broadened 'travel horizons'
- Save time, money and improve health
- Consider a wider range of interviews and jobs
- Sharing experiences
- Use of tools in other aspects of life

### Your Organisation

- Improved staff knowledge
- Information resources for future use
- Fewer jobseekers reporting transport as a barrier to employment
- Improved/enhanced client services
- Improved/enhanced client engagement
- Sharing of best practice

The long-term goal is that you will be able to run the training course internally for your clients, having been on a Travel Training course. This provides a new offer for your organisation and a legacy to the Better by project.

### Our Travel Training session involves:

- Techniques to demonstrate journey planning for a commute or journey to interview;
- Signposting and options for referral to transport partners e.g. Slough Cycle Hire;
- Group exercises to challenge barriers to transport and build confidence;
- A workbook with a travel planning scenario exercise and/or travel quiz; and
- The opportunity for your staff to become able to deliver the session for future classes.

A training session typically lasts 1.5- 2 hours and can be tailored to a group's ability and time available to deliver the session.

### How to organise a Travel Training session

Please contact Ramandeep Gogna at Slough Borough Council, [ramandeep.gogna@slough.gov.uk](mailto:ramandeep.gogna@slough.gov.uk) or 01753 875122, to discuss how the Travel Training sessions can benefit your clients and your organisation, or to book in a session.





## 2018 Bike Week school competition

Schools in Slough are invited to enter the Bike Week 2018 poster design and poetry competition, run by Slough Borough Council's Better by... team.

Whether you cycle or scoot to school, or just at the weekends, or if you would like to try it out...we would love for you to enter our exciting new competition!

Bike Week runs from 9 June to 17 June 2018  
Closing date for entries: 22 May 2018

### How to enter:

Write a short poem or design a colourful poster showing us why you think cycling/scooting is great.

The title for your poster or poem should be **"I love cycling because..."**

Themes for your poster or poem could be around:

- cycle safety
- the environment
- health and fitness

### Winning prizes

#### For the student:

- £150 Stows Cycles voucher
- A3 poster print of the winning design (which will be distributed to Slough schools)

#### For the school:

- Exciting cycling promotional event for your school - Rollapaluza ([www.rollapaluza.com](http://www.rollapaluza.com))

#### Two runners up awards for students:

- £50 Stows Cycles voucher



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### **Slough Canal clean up**

There was a great turnout for the canal clean up on Saturday 28 April.

The team that gathered to tackle the task included SBC staff, three representatives of the Canal and River Trust, 34 volunteers and several kayakers from the volunteer police cadets.

The kayakers were a new addition to the team and were able to deep clean the canal, going out on the water to collect floating and submerged rubbish.

A special 'grappling' team cleared the bottom of the canal.

The Canal and Rivers Trust provided a boat to collect all the rubbish for disposal.

Altogether 143 bags of litter were collected from the towpath, plus lots of rubbish from the canal. The larger items pulled out of the water included a trolley, an oven and a safe!

This was a huge effort by all involved and made a significant improvement to the environment all along the canal between the Canal Basin and Langley.

The event was organised by the Friends of Slough Canal and supported by SBC. The day started with a safety briefing and included light refreshments at the Salvation Army Hall.

Mini canal clean ups take place every month, usually on the first Sunday. These are organised by the Friends of Slough Canal and you can find details on their Facebook page. If you like being out in the fresh air, getting active, meeting new people and doing your bit for the local community, this is a great opportunity to get involved!









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**LAF CHAIR MEETING – 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2017**

**ATTENDANCE**

Local Access Forum	Name
Bracknell Forest LCAF	Peter Radband (Chair) [PR] Graham Pockett [GP]
Bucks LAF	
Mid & West Berks LCAF	Janice Bridger (Chair) [JB]
RBWM LAF	Peter Thorn (Chair) [PT] Andrew Fletcher [AF] Ambika Chouhan (Secretary) [AC]
Slough LAF	Trevor Allen [TA] Jacqui Wheeler [JW]
Surrey LAF	

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

Item	Action / Issue	Action Owner	Outcome
Review of outcomes and actions from last meeting			
1	Attend Environment Agency meeting	JW	JW and Anthony Hurst to attend Environment Agency meeting about Jubilee River
2	Share Highways Agency fund details with all members	AF	The fund is called 'Designated Funds' and more information can be found here:  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds">www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds</a>  The contact at Highways England is John Henderson <a href="mailto:john.henderson@highwaysengland.co.uk">john.henderson@highwaysengland.co.uk</a>
Sharing of LAF meeting			
3	Bracknell Forest to host the next LAF chairs meeting	GP	Meeting arranged for 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Future training			
4	Share details of Restoring the Record training held on 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017	JW	
Any other issues			
6	Check Landscape Institute for publications "Sharing the Post-brexite Landscape"	AC	

**HORIZON SCANNING**

- Green Papers from DEFRA – Sharing the Post-brexite Landscape
- Slough Local Plan

## **KNOWN JOINT ISSUES / BOUNDARY ISSUES**

1. Upgrade of footpath to bridleway across the boundary of Wokingham and Bracknell Forest – Bracknell Forest/Wokingham
2. Slough arm of Canal at Langley Park – Bucks/Slough
3. Ditton Park (in hand at present) – RBWM/Slough
4. Multi-user route extension at Bucks – Bucks/RBWM/Slough
5. M4 Smart Motorway.

## **JOINT SITE VISIT SUGGESTIONS**

**(Invitations to sit meetings be extended to all neighbouring LAFs)**

1. Proposed upgrade of cross boundary Footpath to Bridleway (*Bracknell Forest/Mid & West Berks*)
2. Black Park and Langley Park and crossing of A412 (*Bucks / Slough*)
3. ~~Hawthorn Lane / Hogoak Lane Traffic Regulation Orders (*RBWM / Bracknell Forest*)~~
4. Bucklebury Common (*Mid & West Berks*)
5. Britwell to Burnham Beeches (*Bucks / Slough*)

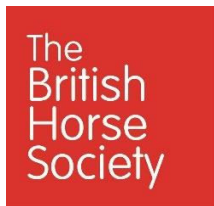
# LAF Chair Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Trumbull Room, Easthampstead Park Conference Centre, Peacock Lane, Bracknell, Wokingham RG40 3DF

## AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and introductions
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Review of outcomes and actions from last meeting
- 4 - Update on MBWLAF efforts on Access & Brexit  
-User group post Brexit access proposals
- 5 - MWBLAF submission to the House of Lords review of the NERC Act
- 6 - Railway level crossing closures
- 7 Future training
- 8 Site visits  
  
- a talk by the Ridgeway Officer, Sarah Wright, on the projects which the Ridgeway Partnership is undertaking will take place on 21st Feb 2pm at Reading Civic offices as the start of the next MWBLAF meeting - all welcome.
- 10 AOB
- 11 Date and host for next meeting

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The Byways and Bridleways Trust



## How public access can be improved post Brexit

Proposals from the British Horse Society, Byways and Bridleways Trust, Open Spaces Society and Ramblers for the redirection of agricultural funds to give public benefit, October 2017

- 1 The United Kingdom's departure from the EU provides an opportunity to model funding schemes for agriculture to ensure that public money achieves maximum public benefit and promotes public wellbeing.
- 2 Public benefit should include public access, whether by paths or open access to land (freedom to roam), because such assets support local economies, and improve people's health, wellbeing and safety. Public access also helps to connect those who use paths for whatever reason (non-motorised transport, for health reasons and for recreation) and those who own and manage the land. Naturally we advocate the public exercise its rights and freedoms responsibly and with respect for landowners, land managers and other users.
- 3 Any new scheme should include financial support for landowners who provide additional access or improvements to existing access.

### Proposal 1. Additional access

- 4 Payments should be available for the provision of new access, either along defined paths or as freedom to roam, or both. It should be well publicised. It should be targeted and selective, with bids from farmers and land managers assessed against criteria, such as public demand, achievement of the objectives of the rights of way improvement plan, linking up existing routes, or improvement of safety (for example, enabling walkers and riders to avoid using roads, especially those which are busy, or have limited visibility).

- 5 Encouragement should be given for creating bridleways or restricted byways so that maximum public benefit is provided. The provision of circular off-road routes is of particular benefit for equestrians as they limit the amount of riding on roads. In the case of access land, there could be an increased number of access points, or additional access points provided across boundaries within the access area, and the provision of higher rights access on access land.
- 6 Providing higher rights on existing rights of way (the difference in subsidy between footpaths and bridleways or restricted byways should be substantial to encourage upgrades where it is appropriate for all users).
- 7 Ideally the new access will be permanent, consisting of definitive rights of way, or land dedicated for access under section 16 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 or as a village green under section 15(8) of the Commons Act 2006. Additional spreading room adjacent to the coastal path in England could be rewarded. However, long-term permissive access is often better than no access at all.

### **Proposal 2. Enhancing existing access**

- 8 There should be rewards for enhancing existing access. For example, this could include:
  - improvement in path widths,
  - regularly mowing a headland path and preventing encroachment by vegetation,
  - mowing and marking a path across grass leys,
  - mowing, regrading and rolling green lanes,
  - improving the accessibility of gates and stiles,
  - additional or improved waymarking and signposting,
- 9 Enhancements of existing access would be optional extras which farmers and land managers could elect to adopt. They would be applied to existing public rights of way and access land, and the farmer would receive standard annual payments per length of path adopted. Because the enhancements would be applied to existing public rights of way and access land, farmers could opt into the scheme without prior negotiation, and the scheme would have low administration costs.

**Proposal 3. Cross compliance**

- 10 It is important that those who receive grants and have existing rights of way on their land should ensure that all legislation is complied with, keeping paths clear of obstruction, reinstating them after ploughing etc.
- 11 It will be necessary to work out a cross-compliance regime that is fair to both land managers and the public, once the future is clearer.

31 October 2017

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**British Horse Society**, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2XZ  
**Byways and Bridleways Trust**, c/o 57 Bowers Mill, Branch Road, Barkisland HX4 0AD  
**Open Spaces Society**, 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA  
**Ramblers**, 2nd Floor Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TW

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Hastings Old Town - winner of the 2018 Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood Award



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Page 31

# Paving the way

The Ramblers manifesto for urban walking



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For more information visit  
[www.ramblers.org.uk/policy/england/urban](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/policy/england/urban)  
or email [policy@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:policy@ramblers.org.uk)

[www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

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**Paving  
the Way**

AGENDA ITEM 10

This May, many towns and cities in England will be electing new councillors, who will help to shape the places they represent. This is a great opportunity to put walking on the agenda.

Ramblers want towns and cities that are designed to encourage people to go about their everyday lives on foot. Cities and towns with high-quality,

well connected, accessible networks of paths and spaces that are rich in natural features encourage walking for both leisure and transport and in so doing improve public health, boost local economies and help create safer, happier, more cohesive communities.

In the run up to the local government elections in England on 3rd May

2018, we want to make sure that all candidates hear the case for walking, for improving walking networks and enhancing the quality and accessibility of green and public spaces in our towns and cities.

Our Charter for Walkable Towns & Cities sets out five

things that councils can do to create urban environments that encourage walking. Even if there are no elections in your area, please contact your existing representative(s) and encourage them to commit to the Charter as well.

## A Charter for Walkable Towns & Cities

### As a councillor I will work to ensure that my authority will:

- Introduce a planning condition, set out in the Local Plan, requiring all new developments to improve local walking networks and contribute to the local green space resource.
- Use available tools (developer contributions, Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans etc.) to ensure that new developments and existing infrastructure are adapted to make the city greener and more walkable.
- Set and work towards a green space standard, so that everyone has access to a minimum amount of green space within a specified distance of their front door.
- Develop a Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan, setting out a long-term approach to developing local walking networks.
- Set out both rights and responsibilities for users and owners of urban public spaces, regardless of ownership, to ensure the highest level of public access.

Your name: ..... Date: .....

Local authority: .....

**Submit your pledge** 

(If the 'submit your pledge' button doesn't work, please save this PDF and send it to [campaigns@ramblers.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@ramblers.org.uk))

