

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

AUGUST 1st 2009– JANUARY 31st 2010

1. ENFORCEMENT

1.1. Problems closed and problems reported

Approximately 53 enforcement problems have been closed during the period from **August 1st 2009 to January 31st 2010**, and approximately 23 new problems were reported during that period. A statistical summary of reported, closed and outstanding problems is included in Annexe A.

1.2. Reported enforcement problems currently being investigated

The list of cases below has been extracted from the Council's public rights of way database and shows unresolved cases that have been actively investigated during the report period. Further details of the status of specific cases on this list are available on request.

Path	Date Reported	Problem
Bray Footpath 34	13/01/2009	Horse use along footpath
Bray Footpath 39	17/02/2009	Horse use along footpath
Bray Footpath 43	17/02/2009	Horse use along footpath
Bray Footpath 59	01/04/2009	Gate is in disrepair
Cookham Bridleway 19	13/11/2009	Unauthorised gate has been erected on the Bridleway
Cookham Footpath 67	22/07/2008	Overgrown hedge obstructing the path
Eton Footpath 12	27/02/2002	Derelict stile
Hurley Footpath 25	30/09/1996	Obstruction of path and unofficial diversion
Hurley Footpath 28	03/09/2008	New stile installed on path.
Hurley Footpath 60	12/01/2010	A metal spike is protruding from the ground
Maidenhead Footpath 2A	07/12/2009	Sign obscured by shrub
Maidenhead Footpath 48	23/06/2009	Barbed wire and iron fence causing potential danger
Maidenhead Footpath 84	09/10/2009	Garden waste dumped on west side of footpath
Sunninghill Footpath 29	26/11/2008	Overgrowth
Sunninghill Footpath 8	26/11/2008	Mud, fencing, horse use and gate issues.
Walth. St. Law. Footpath 13	04/06/1999	Stile issues
Walth. St. Law. FP 40	14/01/2008	Unauthorised barrier
Walth. St. Law. FP 40	18/06/2008	Squeeze stiles difficult to use
Walth. St. Law. FP 41	09/02/2004	Sub-standard stile
Walth. St. Law. RB 20	19/01/2009	Vehicular use of Restricted Byway
White Waltham Footpath 20	08/10/2007	Stile and surface issues.
White Waltham Footpath 20	01/12/2009	Unauthorised field gate and pedestrian gate installed
Windsor Bridleway 1B	29/09/2004	Possible Encroachment on path by building work
Wraysbury Footpath 10	26/01/2010	Bollard has been removed from path
Wraysbury Footpath 8C	08/08/1998	Obstructions removed from path, discussing fencing with landowner to delineate boundary.

1.3. Reported enforcement problems that have been closed Aug 1st '09 – Jan 31st '10

Path	Date Reported	Problem
Bray Bridleway 23	28/07/2006	A new vehicular access has been created: <i>this is not an issue with the path but a planning question.</i>
Bray Footpath 1	16/01/2006	Post and rail fence obstructs footpath: <i>access Improvements on Cresswells Farm</i>
Bray Footpath 16	07/11/2008	Farm gate blocking footpath: <i>gate removed by landowner.</i>
Bray Footpath 38	27/01/2009	Stile issue: <i>stile has been replaced with kissing gate.</i>
Bray Footpath 49	03/12/2008	Report that path impassable due to deep mud caused by water works: <i>path restored by utility company.</i>
Bray Footpath 49	04/03/2009	Unauthorised gate installed: <i>removed by landowner.</i>
Bray Footpath 49	13/04/2009	Stile is rotten and unstable: <i>landowner has repaired stile.</i>
Bray Footpath 51B	23/02/2007	Report that path not on definitive line: <i>path appears to run on correct line during BVPI Nov 09 survey</i>
Bray Footpath 52	23/02/2007	Manure heap on path: <i>no issue when inspected.</i>
Bray Footpath 52	04/03/2008	Unauthorised stile appears to have been installed on the path: <i>reported resolved by East Berks Ramblers.</i>
Bray Footpath 58	18/12/2008	Path has been temporarily blocked by SE Water works: <i>path has been reinstated by SE Water</i>
Bray Footpath 58	08/09/2009	Report that southern end of the path has been blocked by culvert works: <i>culvert works have not affected the definitive line of the path at this location.</i>
Cookham Footpath 60	06/09/2004	New fence has been erected at the Bounty PH: <i>fence is in an agreed position.</i>
Cookham Footpath 60	05/05/2008	Planting issue: <i>landowner advised of responsibility to keep shrubs cut back, planting to be monitored.</i>
Eton Footpath 1	13/06/2007	Definitive line at "Athens" is overgrown: <i>no issue found on Thames Path Risk Assessment survey.</i>
Eton Footpath 19	24/06/2009	Crops on path: <i>path reinstated by Council, costs charged to landowner.</i>
Eton Footpath 2	29/10/2007	Stile issues: <i>stiles repaired by landowner.</i>
Horton Bridleway 4	19/05/2005	Field gate locked, possibly too narrow a gap adj. to gate: <i>gap acceptable.</i>
Hurley Footpath 28	07/11/2006	Possible obstruction by planting: <i>no further action required</i>
Hurley Footpath 50	04/03/2008	Garden waste on path: <i>not currently a problem.</i>
Maid. Footpath 25A	23/07/2008	Signpost obscured: <i>hedge cleared by householder</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 46	12/01/2010	Garden waste: <i>rubbish cleared</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 67	11/05/2003	Hurdles along path: <i>reported as resolved by EB Ramblers Survey Autumn 2009</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 67	19/03/2004	Path muddy through horse use. <i>Issue reported as resolved by EB Ramblers Survey Autumn 2009</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 7	15/05/2004	Plastic fence protruding into path: <i>fence in satisfactory condition when inspected.</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 83	07/01/2008	Encroachment onto footpath: <i>no further action required.</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 84	07/10/2008	Garden waste dumped on east side of path: <i>garden waste cleared by landowner.</i>
Maidenhead Footpath 9	20/04/2007	Complaint regarding cycles and small motorcycles using the path: <i>"No cycling" signs installed.</i>
Old Windsor Footpath 2	24/07/2008	Barbed wire fence close to path: <i>no barbed wire issues noted on inspection</i>
Old Windsor Footpath 4	20/08/2008	Low branches and overgrowth: <i>cleared by Council contractor (unable to trace landowner)</i>
Shottesbrooke FP 12	27/11/2006	Gate catch hard to open: <i>gate operating satisfactorily.</i>
Shottesbrooke Restricted Byway 4	13/02/2006	Complaint re: gap alongside gate in Shottesbrooke Park: <i>gap satisfactory.</i>
Sunninghill Byway 17	03/04/2008	Possible damage by contractors: <i>no further action needed</i>
Walt St Law. FP 25	05/04/2007	Uneven concrete surface: <i>no problem on site inspection.</i>
Walt St Law. R. Byway 30	11/03/2009	Motor cycle use: <i>Restricted Byway signs replaced.</i>

Path	Date Reported	Problem
White Waltham FP 19	14/06/2007	Gate/car obstruction: <i>no problem noted when inspected.</i>
Windsor Footpath 7	25/05/2006	Tree branches encroaching onto footpath: <i>no significant issue noted on Thames Path Risk Assessment</i>
Wraysbury Footpath 11	02/06/2007	Possible path encroachment: <i>no further action required.</i>
Wraysbury Footpath 8C	05/01/2007	Fence leaning into footpath: <i>fence repaired by landowner</i>

2. MAINTENANCE

2.1. Problems resolved and problems reported

Approximately 168 maintenance problems have been resolved during the period from **August 1st 2009 to January 31st 2010**, and approximately 119 new maintenance problems were reported during that period. Additionally, approximately 186 items of routine maintenance have been carried out during the period.

The following major projects have been completed over the reporting period:

Bray BR 44 Gays Lane	Surface improvements (phase 2)
Bray FP 39	Replacement of barrier with gate to prevent motorcycle use
Bray FP 75	Surface repair
Cookham FP 55 (Thames Path)	Bench installation (funded by East Berks Ramblers) and creation of log bench
Cookham FP 55 (Thames Path)	Riverbank repair/protection, surface improvements (phase 2)
Hurley FP 16	Surface improvements
Maidenhead BR 46	Path widening, and bollard installed to prevent vehicular use
Old Windsor FP 7	Access improvements at path entrance from Straight Road
Sunningdale FP 13	Drainage and ditch clearance works
Waltham St. Lawrence FP 38	Footbridge replacement
Datchet FP 6	Surface improvements

2.2. Works due to be carried out

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

Waltham St Lawrence FP 31	Surfacing works and replacement of 2 stiles with gates
Eton FP's 2,3,5,12	Replacement of 4 stiles with gates
Bray FP's 27 & 28	Replacement of 2 sleeper bridges
Hurley Footpath 17	Path widening project including fencing and gates.
White Waltham FP 20	Replacement of 1 stile with gate

3. REMOVAL OF STILES

During the period **August 1st 2009 to January 31st 2010** stiles were removed from the following footpaths:

Bray FP 38	1 stile replaced with kissing gate
Datchet FP 6	1 stile replaced with kissing gate
Wraysbury FP 11	2 stiles replaced with kissing gates
Hurley FP 28	1 stile replaced with kissing gate

The Rights of Way officers are liaising with the East Berks Ramblers regarding priorities for further stile removal projects.

4. DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT

There are currently 15 outstanding 'claims' for paths to be added to the Definitive Map and Statement, as shown in Annexe B.

Claims currently being investigated

4.1 Shottesbrooke claimed footpath 501(Pundles Lane)

A Definitive Map Modification Order application was received on 30th May 2007. The claimed footpath runs from Shottesbrooke FP 12 to Waltham St Lawrence FP 38. The application was refused in February 2010.

4.2 White Waltham claimed footpath 501

A Definitive Map Modification Order application was received on 22nd August 2008. The claimed footpath runs from White Waltham Restricted Byway 4 (School Lane) southeast to and around a small copse, then north to join White Waltham Footpath 9.

4.3 Wraysbury claimed footpaths 501 to 505

Five Definitive Map Modification Order applications were received on 15th June 2009. The claimed footpaths cross land at Thamesfield, north of Wharf Road, Wraysbury.

4.4 Cox Green claimed Footpath 501

A Definitive Map Modification Order application was received on 8th July 2009 to add a footpath running from Culley Way to Farmers Close.

5 PUBLICATIONS

5.1 Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-2015

The Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan is part of the Borough's Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.

The Improvement Plan was published in 2005 as a requirement of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Plan was produced following wide ranging consultations, and identifies a range of potential improvements to the public rights of way network. Annual updates are published as part of the Milestones Statement.

5.2 Milestones Statement 2010/11

The Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan review for 2010/11 is being submitted to the Rights of Way and Highways Licensing Panel on 15th March 2010 for approval. The document reviews progress made on public rights of way work in the previous year sets out a range of targets and objectives for the current year.

5.3 Borough Website

The Public Rights of Way pages on the Borough website contain comprehensive information about public rights of way in the borough, including contact details, problem report forms, downloadable leaflets, registers of Definitive Map Modification Order applications (path claims) and Highways Act S.31 landowner declarations.

A copy of the full Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way is now available on the Borough website, and is also included in the “Maps Online” interactive mapping service.

The Public Rights of Way web pages have recently been improved to include clearer links in and around the website. Further improvements planned include the provision of more information on “Easy Going Routes” and access for people with restricted mobility.

The following publications are now available on the website:

- Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2005-2015
- Milestones Statement 2009/10
- 6-Monthly Path Progress Reports (past two editions)
- Public Rights of Way information booklet
- Public Rights of Way: gardens, hedges and trees leaflet
- The Green Way
- Knowl Hill Bridleway Circuit
- Ascot and Sunninghill Circular Walks
- Cookham Bridleway Circuit
- Foot and Cycle Paths in and around Datchet
- Holyport Health Walk
- Cookham Easy Going Route
- Waltham St Lawrence Parish Paths and Circular Walk Leaflet
- White Waltham Parish and Paths Leaflet

The public rights of way web pages can be found at:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_index.htm.

6. PARISH PATHS INITIATIVE (PPI)

The Royal Borough continues to operate the Parish Paths Initiative (PPI). All parish and town councils in the borough are members of the scheme. The British Horse Society, East Berks Ramblers and National Trust are also members. Grants are provided to Cookham and Old Windsor Parish Council's who organise path clearance works in their parishes.

Over the past six months the PPI has arranged for some major tree works to be carried out in Old Windsor, and it has also provided a reprint of a parish walks poster to Sunningdale Parish Council. Minor tree works have been undertaken in Bisham and some surfacing improvements have been made in Hurley.

Further surfacing projects are planned in Bray, Wraysbury and Waltham St Lawrence, along with some smaller reactive projects.

7. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

The Local Access Forum was set up in 2003 to advise the Council on improvement of public access to land in the Royal Borough for open-air recreation, as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The Forum has adopted the following vision statement: *“a partnership to promote and develop sustainable access for the growing benefit of the environment and all in our community”*.

The forum membership is listed at Annexe C. The Forum currently meets twice a year, with additional informal meetings or site visits as required. The minutes of the meeting held on **1st December 2009** are included in Annexe D.

A list of Forum members, and downloadable minutes, agendas and annual reports are available on the Local Access Forum web pages at:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm.

Anyone interested in applying to join the Forum should contact the LAF Secretary, Andrew Fletcher (01628-796122).

8. THAMES PATH NATIONAL TRAIL

Cookham Footpath 55 (Cliveden Reach)

Major improvement works were carried out along the Cliveden Reach section of the Thames Path National Trail (between Maidenhead and Cookham), including path widening, levelling and surfacing work, and erosion control works along the riverbank.

The works were part funded by a £15,000 grant from Natural England. A proposal to create a new linking path to join the Thames Path south of Cliveden Reach is currently being investigated (see 9.1 below).

9. MILLENNIUM WALK

9.1 Missing link between Lower Cookham Road and Thames Path National Trail

Discussions are currently taking place with the landowners and the Environment Agency on a proposal to create a new public footpath from Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path. As well as filling a “missing link” in the Millennium Walk (which runs across the north of the borough from the Thames at Hurley to the Thames north of Maidenhead), this footpath would provide a useful new link to the Thames Path and a link in various circular routes based around the Thames Path and the Green Way.

A funding contribution of £50,000 towards the cost of creating the new footpath has been secured through a S.106 Planning Agreement relating to re-development of the former ‘Stiefel Laboratories’ site off Lower Cookham Road. (As a result of negotiations with the applicants this contribution was increased from £25,000 that had been offered as part of a previous application.)

9.2 Missing link between Hurley Footpath 18 and Bisham Footpath 20 (Speen Hill)

A permitted path agreement is being negotiated between the Berkshire College of Agriculture and East Berks. Ramblers. A crossing point over the Henley Road between the permitted path and Temple Golf Club is currently being investigated and landowner permission is being sought.

10. THE GREEN WAY

10.1 Maidenhead Footpath 77 (York Road to Maidenhead Library footbridge)

A surface upgrade has been carried out on the section of the Green Way between York Road and the footbridge adjacent to Maidenhead Library. The works were funded and undertaken by the developers of the “Mallards Reach”, Bridge Avenue, development.

10.2 Signage improvements

Damaged or missing signs and waymarks along various sections of the Green Way have been replaced.

ANNEXE A

Reported problems on Public Rights of Way in the Borough

	Outstanding at 31 st July 2009	Reported 1 st Aug 2009 to 31 st Jan 2010	closed 1st Aug 2009 to 31st Jan 2010	Total Outstanding at 31st Jan 2010
ENFORCEMENT				
Ploughing and lack of marking	1	0	1	0
Obstruction by crops	2	0	1	1
Fence encroachment	43	1	6	38
Fence obstruction	9	1	1	9
Building obstruction	3	0	0	3
Other obstructions	41	9	13	37
Stiles	58	4	11	51
Gates	12	2	2	12
Bulls/ other animal problems	0	0	0	0
Unauthorised use by horses	7	0	1	6
Unauthorised vehicular use	6	0	2	4
Electric fencing	2	0	0	2
Misleading notices	1	1	0	2
Intimidation	0	0	0	0
Overhanging vegetation	35	3	7	31
Other Enforcement Problems	42	2	9	35
TOTAL ENFORCEMENT:	262	23	54	231
MAINTENANCE				
Vegetation	35	23	15	43
Rutting	7	1	4	4
Drainage	27	2	7	22
Fallen trees	11	11	20	2
Erosion	43	9	16	36
Tree problems	13	0	8	5
Bridges	31	6	9	28
Safety barriers	16	1	7	10
Steps	3	1	2	2
Roadside signposting	50	14	15	49
Signposting at path junctions	69	10	19	60
Waymarking	52	24	23	53
Rubbish/ waste	10	2	4	8
Other Maintenance Problems	63	15	19	59
TOTAL MAINTENANCE:	430	119	168	381
TOTALS OF MAINTENANCE AND ENFORCEMENT	692	142	222	612
ISSUES RESOLVED OUTSIDE REPORTING PERIOD (SEE NOTES BELOW):				14
Routine maintenance: work items completed 01/08/2009 – 31/01/2010:				186

Note: For case management purposes it is desirable that the date when an issue is added and/or resolved is as accurate as possible, but as a result of this issues are sometimes added and/or resolved in the database retrospectively. The table in Annex A includes these figures, but they are not included in paragraph 1.3

ANNEXE B

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 OUTSTANDING CLAIMED PATHS FEBRUARY 2010

Parish	Claim no	Claim date	Path description		Comment
			From	To	
White Waltham	FP 501	2008	White Waltham RB 4	White Waltham FP 9	Claimed Footpath
Cox Green	FP 501	2009	Culley Way	Farmers Close	Claimed Footpath
Wraysbury	FP 501-505	2009	Various paths at Thamesfield		Claimed Footpath
Eton	FP 502	1977	N of Somerville Rd between numbers 23 and 25	FP 8 Eton	Claimed for DRM
Eton	FP 505	1977	W end of Common Lane	Bell Lane at entrance to Bell Farm	Claimed for DRM
Eton	FP 506	1977	Bend in FP46	Common Lane	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 508	1977	Moorfield Terrace	FP 4 Maidenhead	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 506	1977	Ray St	FP 4 Maidenhead	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 523	1977	Castle Hill	The Crescent	Claimed for DRM
Maidenhead	FP 524	1977	Fane Way, through Desborough Park	Rixman Close and FP56	Claimed for DRM
Wraysbury	FP 500	1977	Staines Road	River Thames	Claimed for DRM, currently 'permitted' by Ankerwycke

Shaded sections indicate claims currently being investigated

Note: DRM = Draft Revised Definitive Map of Berkshire (1976) No evidence or formal applications have been received in respect of these paths, however the paths were included in a list of paths submitted to Berkshire County Council by the Ramblers Association when the Draft Revised Map was produced in 1976.

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEMBERSHIP

MARCH 2010

Name	Main Interests
Peter Thorn (Chair) (BCA Burchetts Green)	Land management
Dorothy Allard (Shottesbrooke)	Land management
Guy Badman (Maidenhead)	Cycling
Teja Bains (Maidenhead)	Running
Councillor Malcolm Beer (Old Windsor)	Old Windsor Parish Council, walking, cycling
Margaret Bowdery (Maidenhead)	Walking
June Brayne (Hawthorn Hill)	White Waltham Parish Council
Mike Bruton (Maidenhead)	Disabled rambling; access for disabled
Bill Cathcart (Crown Estate, Windsor)	Land management
James Copas (Maidenhead)	Land management / farming
Margaret Cubley (Bisham)	Bisham Parish Council, CPRE, walking, open spaces
Loren Eldred (Princes Risborough, Bucks)	Land management, Woodland Trust
Hillary Essen (Maidenhead)	Walking for Health, footpath warden.
John Foulger (Fifield)	Bray Parish Council, walking
Christine Gadd (Sunningdale)	Sunningdale Parish Council, walking, cycling
Harry Hancock (Burnham, Bucks)	Walking, open spaces
Gordon Harris (Cookham)	Cookham Parish Council, footpaths and open spaces
Helen Howard (Bray)	Horse riding
Councillor Asghar Majeed (Maidenhead)	RBWM Councillor
Andrew Randall (Maidenhead)	Land management / farming
Councillor John Stretton (Cookham)	RBWM Councillor
Chris Westacott (White Waltham) <i>[membership pending]</i>	Land Management/ farming

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING MINUTES

1 December 2009

ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Interest area
Peter Thorn	Chairman, Land Management
Dorothy Allard	Shottesbrooke Farm
Guy Badman	Cycling, Sustrans
Teja Bains	User Interests (Running & Jogging)
Councillor Beer	Walking
Margaret Bowdery	Walking
Bill Cathcart	Land Management
James Copas	Land Management
Loren Eldred	Woodland Trust
Harry Hancock	Walking, Open Spaces
Gordon Harris	Footpaths, Open Spaces
Helen Howard	User Interests (Horse Riding)
Andrew Randall	Land Management
Christopher Westacott	Hurley Parish Council
Andrew Fletcher	Local Access Forum Secretary
Tanya Leftwich	Clerk to the Forum

APOLOGIES

Name
Mike Bruton
Margaret Cubley
Hilary Essen
John Foulger
Christine Gadd
Councillor Majeed

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
1 December 2009
MINUTES

ACTION

1 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions, Declarations of Interest, Minutes

Peter Thorn welcomed everyone to the twentieth meeting of the Local Access Forum.

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Majeed, Mike Bruton, Margaret Cubley, Hillary Essen, John Foulger and Christine Gadd.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

The Forum approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 June 2009 subject to the following changes:

- Page 2 - To read "In relation to the item 'Path Improvement Plan' Margaret Bowdery suggested that it would have been useful if the date of the Council resolution (28/9/09) had been included in the minutes as this would have provided some context. Members had been unaware that the presentation had been made after the decision **not** to go ahead with a creation order had been made."
- Page 2 – To read "[5.1]. Margaret Bowdery expressed concern that officers were not currently able to process outstanding **path claims**."
- Page 3 – To read "In relation to **Town Moor**, Andrew Fletcher reported that he had met with the leisure department who ran the consultation and agreed that all future public consultations would include the LAF."
- Page 5 – To read "**Margaret Bowdery** quoted the Natural England National Trails Policy that 'National Trails were the flagship of the Public Rights of Way Network and the needs of users should be considered foremost.'"
- Page 5 – To read "The Local Access Forum RECOMMENDED to the Council that the Disabled Ramblers' Association be consulted before paths were upgraded for easy access routes"

2 Membership Update

Andrew Fletcher reported that five people had recently joined the Forum:

- Teja Bains (user interests – in particular Running and Jogging)
- James Copas (land management interests)
- Helen Howard (user interests – in particular Horse Riding)
- Andrew Randall (land management issues)
- Christopher Westacott (Hurley Parish Council)

Members noted that Geoff Hill (the Vice-Chair) had resigned due to ill health, Curley Carver had retired and Claire Harding-Brown had resigned on time grounds.

Andrew Fletcher explained that the current balance of the Forum was 12 user interests, 7 land management interests, 2 appointed Councillors and 1 other interests. It was noted that total membership of the Forum was 22 which was the maximum permitted by the Local Access Forum regulations. **Andrew Fletcher** confirmed that a contact list would be distributed to all Members of the Forum in due course.

Andrew Fletcher

It was noted that the previous Vice-Chairman had a user interests background and **Andrew Fletcher** asked everyone present to consider whether they would be interested in putting themselves forward for the position, which would be elected at the meeting in June 2010.

Andrew Fletcher explained that Curley Carver was a member of the 'Fast Response Team' which responded to requests between Local Access Forum meetings, and

requested all LAF members with land management interests to consider if they would be willing to be a member of the Fast Response Team.

It was AGREED that all members with Land Management interests would consider whether they wish to be a member of the Fast Response Team and contact Andrew Fletcher after the meeting All

It was AGREED that all members would consider whether they wish to put themselves forward as a candidate for the Vice-Chairman position in June 2010. All

3 Update from each Forum Member

Andrew Fletcher explained that due to the outcome of the Local Access Forum survey it had been requested that each member of the Forum be given the opportunity to give an update on anything affecting their interest area that was not already listed as an agenda item.

- **Bill Cathcart** explained that there had been several upgrades on the cycle way / park tracks through the Windsor Great Park which he felt was in need of resurfacing.

Members noted that the 'Horses for Heroes' event was approaching, that it hoped to raise £1million and was in conjunction with Ascot Racecourse and Horse Power.

- **Margaret Bowdery** spoke to the Forum and explained that the completion of the Thames Path National Trail in Maidenhead was the most important project in the Path Improvement Scheme and had been the subject of two recommendations to Council. Members noted that at the last Meeting in June 2009 it had been agreed that members of the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel should be provided with information on the quality standards for National Trails. **Margaret Bowdery** wanted to raise the following questions:

- Why was this information not released to the Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel until 21 September 2009 long after the Panel decided to go ahead with the double road crossing on the 3 August 2009?
- Why did our LAF members, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Rights of Way Panel not take part in the discussions with the National Trails Officer from Natural England on the 17 July 2009?
- Why were both these LAF members absent from the specially convened meeting on 3 August 2009, and this important case delegated to other Councillors?

Members noted that the double road crossing was not going to go ahead due to the unanimous opposition of the Ward Councillors. **Margaret Bowdery** asked how this issue was being resolved when the next Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel meeting having been cancelled due to lack of business.

In response **Peter Thorn** suggested that a report be prepared and looked at by the Rapid Response Team in the early New Year.

- **Guy Badman** updated the Forum by explaining that two new cycle routes were being looked into at Newlands School (Newlands Drive) and in the Ascot area.
- **Councillor Beer** felt that with regard to the Bracknell boundary there was no formal path that extended into Ascot.

Andrew Fletcher / FRT

- **Teja Bains** informed Members that he was involved with a group in Cookham regarding the 'Run for England' scheme and was keen to build up links with both Cookham and Maidenhead.
- **Loren Eldred** explained that the Woodland Trust were working to improve the access to Woodlands across the country and that the website would soon be updated.
- On **Mike Brutons** behalf, **Margaret Bowdery** explained that as a Borough Councillor and active rambler he was keen to progress the wheelchair routes and that he intended to inspect the new towpath repairs on Cookham Footpath 55. Members noted that **Mike Bruton** proposed a small working group of wheelchair users meet to recommend potential new easy access routes and bring comments forward to the next meeting in June 2010.

**Mike
Bruton**

4 Feedback from LAF advice

(a) Forestry Commission advice

Andrew Fletcher confirmed that the Fast Response Team had responded to the Forestry Commission consultation on behalf of the Forum and that no feedback had been received to date.

(b) Hedgerow leaflet

Andrew Fletcher confirmed that the Hedgerow leaflet would appear in the January addition of the Around The Royal Borough newsletter.

Members congratulated both **Andrew Fletcher** and **Hilary Essen** on the production of the Hedgerow Leaflet.

(c) Public Rights of Way Website Maps

Members noted that a PDF extract of the definitive map would be available shortly and that the Forum's suggestions regarding the MapsOnline interactive map had been passed on the Council's website management team, but timescales were unsure at present.

Peter Thorn explained that the Ordnance Survey produced a leaflet which explained how to use road maps, and stated that this was very useful. **Councillor Beer** suggested that a link to the Ordnance Survey leaflet be included to explain how to read maps.

Members noted that the above information had already been distributed to all LAF members.

5 Milestones Statement 2010-2011 Consultation

Andrew Fletcher explained that the Council had produced a Milestones Statement & Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan Annual Review which set out priorities, targets and service standards for public rights of way work for the coming year and also reviewed progress made in the previous year. **Peter Thorn** informed the report was an ongoing document and that the Forum needed to be realistic in the targets it set, and ensure it took into account the available resources.

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that with regard to the milestone targets for 2009/10 the following had been achieved:

Well Maintained

- WM1 – the target was 95% and it was noted that just over 90% had

been achieved to date. It was felt by the some members of the Forum that 95% would not be achieved, as a few paths would not pass the test.

- WM2 – the target was 10 and it was noted that 10 had already been completed this year showing an improvement on previous years.
- WM3 – the target was 5 and it was noted that a new bridge on F/P 38 had been completed.

The Forum RECOMMENDED that next years target be kept at 5.

Legally Defined

- LD1 – the target was 4 and it was noted that Andrew Fletcher was currently dealing with 2 applications and the Principal Rights of Way Officer was also dealing with 2.
- LD2 – the target was 1. It was noted that it costs between £1000 and £2000 plus officer and legal time per resolution which if there were 20 a year could cost up to £20,000.

Well Publicised

- WP1 – it was noted that the target of 1 had been achieved.
- WP2 – the target was 1 new publication, it was suggested that local companies could sponsor publications after the recession.

Improving Access and Connectivity

- AC1 – the target was 1 and it was noted that no new routes had been completed to date.
- AC2 – the target was 27 and it was noted that 10 had been completed to date. Members were informed that, on average, 19 stiles had been replaced with gates every year and that by the end of 2015 it was thought that 50 stiles would remain in the Royal Borough. Members were informed that this work had been done in close consultation with the East Berks. Ramblers' Association. **Andrew Fletcher** explained that in general the Public Rights of Way team approached landowners to see if they would be prepared to remove the stiles and replace them with gates, with the Council funding the cost of the gate if the Landowner were to install the gate. This approach had worked reasonably well to date. The Forum were informed that Eton College had agreed to replace all their stiles which would hopefully be completed by the end of the financial year. **Margaret Bowdery** explained that West Berkshire and the Chilterns Society set up a partnership in 2006 where members of the public are invited to donate a gate costing £250 on a buy-one-get-one free basis with volunteers doing the installation and the Council paying for the second gate. This has generated over £25,000 worth of income and replaced well over 300 stiles with gates in the first 3 years of the scheme. She felt **Andrew Fletcher** could investigate further. It was noted that the Principal Rights of Way Officer felt that a target of 19/20 was reasonable.

**Andrew
Fletcher**

The Forum RECOMMENDED that the target be reduced to 20 for the coming year.

Enforcement

- EN1 – the target was 24 enforcement issues and it was noted that this target could possibly currently be exceeded by 4.

The Forum RECOMMENDED that this target be changed to 40.

It was suggested that Parish Councils work alongside the Rights of Way Officers to increase coverage and **Andrew Randall** suggested that a phone call be made in the first instance would be a better way to approach farmers.

**Andrew
Fletcher**

The Forum noted that the new targets agreed today would go to the next Rights of Way and Highway Licensing Panel for agreement. It was requested that any other suggestions or comments regarding the priorities and service standards be emailed to **Andrew Fletcher** as soon as possible. **Peter Thorn** requested that the Disabled Ramblers Association be added under the Service Standards section.

All

Andrew Fletcher

6 LAF website

(a) Comparisons with other authorities

Members noted that the Council had recently undertaken a survey of the LAF web pages from a variety of other Local Authority websites and made some suggested improvements, which had been distributed, to the Forum.

Peter Thorn suggested adding links to our website to other authorities and/or private websites which **Andrew Fletcher** agreed to look into. Members were requested to send **Andrew Fletcher** any useful links that they would like added to the RBWM website.

Andrew Fletcher

All

(b) Development of the website

Margaret Bowdery stated that with regard to the potential online Forum people with no access to computers would be excluded. **Andrew Fletcher** informed the Forum that currently the website was not being heavily viewed at approximately 20 hits per month and that the membership was made up of half who had the agenda link emailed to them and half who had a hard copy posted to them.

Members noted that Andrew Fletcher was the officer who updated the website and that he planned to programme in suggested improvements in order for the website to become more effective.

It was **AGREED** that all members give comments and feedback to **Andrew Fletcher** by the end of the week with regard to:

All

- Existing Pages – recommended changes that need to be made and whether any pages needed to be removed.
- New Pages – any additional pages that needed to be added.
- Potential online Forum – whether it would be a useful and effective way for LAF members to communicate with each other / discuss ideas and whether the Forum felt the Council should implement such a system.

It was **AGREED** that a code of practice for dog owners when walking across land be added to the RBWM LAF webpages.

Andrew Fletcher

7 LAF Members' Survey outcome

(a) Actions following survey

Andrew Fletcher explained that the Council had recently conducted research into how the Forum could be improved and developed to make it a more effective advisory body. Members noted that the outcomes of the survey had been circulated to all members and had included:

- The need to encourage wider participation.
- Agenda items frequently ran off target.
- The Forum needed regular feedback as to the outcome of its recommendations.
- The LAF should hold more site visits.

(b) Themes for future LAF meetings

Andrew Fletcher requested that all members give comments and feedback to him in advance of the next meeting in June 2010.

All

Margaret Bowdery felt a permanent display of the LAF information needed to be put on display in the Town Hall to help generate new interest.

Members noted that health issues, in particular with regard to children's BMI's, were an interest area that people could contribute to during a future meeting. It was suggested that this be added as a standard agenda item and it was agreed that this would be added to the work programme for the coming year.

Andrew Fletcher

Councillor Beer expressed his concern that a themed meeting could deter interested parties and he felt the Local Access Forum should remain within its current format.

(c) Planned future site visits

Nothing new was reported.

It was **AGREED** that all members give comments and feedback to **Andrew Fletcher** in advance of the next meeting in June 2010 with regard to: **All**

- **Recommended changes that could be made to improve the effectiveness and operation of the Forum.**
- **Themes for future LAF meetings and reasons why.**
- **Future site visits to be scheduled for the Forum and reasons why.**

8 Millennium Walk

Andrew Fletcher updated the Forum on the outcome of the recent Millennium Walk missing link site visits along with an update on the expected Planning Application at Whitebrook Park.

Members noted that at the meeting in June 2009 the Forum had decided that the Millennium Walk would be a priority for 2009-2010 and two site visits were therefore arranged in order to look at the main missing links of the Millennium Walk. **Andrew Fletcher** explained that a site visit to missing link 1 (Lower Cookham Road to the Thames Path at Whitebrook Park) was made on the 4 October 2009, whilst the path was opened for the annual Maidenhead Boundary Walk. It was noted that it had been useful for Members to see the link in person where various issues had been discussed.

Andrew Fletcher went on to explain that a site visit was made on the 4 November 2009 to missing link 2 (Hurley Footpath 18 to Henley Road) and was led by the Chairman. Members noted that the entire proposed link could not be walked, but the particular issue of the road crossing at Temple Golf Club was examined and discussed. It was explained that various options were discussed at the meeting that had led to a potential solution being developed for a crossing point, subject to a bid for capital funding. **Peter Thorn** felt that the crossing would reduce the risk of what was potentially a dangerous path and **Margaret Bowdery** suggested building the path halfway.

It was requested that **Andrew Fletcher** send a map of the Millennium Walk to **Christopher Westacott** and **James Copas**.

Andrew Fletcher

Andrew Fletcher informed the Forum that a revised planning application was expected to be submitted for Whitebrook Park and that **Margaret Bowdery** had suggested this be examined by the Local Access Forum Fast Response Team and be fed back to a future meeting. Members noted that it was felt that potential gains could be made by an agreement with the developer. **Margaret Bowdery** requested that a land valuation took place and suggested that the environmental agency surveyors could possibly supply this information. **Andrew Fletcher** was requested to look into this further, discuss with the Principal Rights of Way Officer and report back at the next meeting.

Andrew Fletcher

It was **AGREED** that:

- **The Forum wished to authorise the Fast Response Team to respond to the planning application on the Forum's behalf.**
- **The Forum did not wish to be involved in planning applications unless they affected Rights of Way issues.**

9 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Local Access Forum was provisionally scheduled for **Tuesday 15 June 2010**.

The meeting which started at 6.30pm, ended at 8.20pm.

The Forum wished to give a vote of thanks to **Andrew Fletcher** for all his hard work with regard to the Local Access Forum.