

Notice of Meeting

Local Countryside Access Forum

Colin Bird (Chairman)
Richard Mosses (Vice-Chairman)
Mike Abbott
Councillor Michael Brossard
Richard Elsbury
Councillor Alvin Finch
Hugh Fitzwilliams
Geoff Paxton
Sylvia Thomas
David Warren
Simon Yates
Jenny Yung



Officers:

Stephen Chown, Head of Natural Estates
Graham Pockett, Parks and Countryside Development Manager
Robert Solomon, Biodiversity Officer
Rose Wicks, Project Officer, Parks & Countryside

Tuesday 13 October 2020, 7.00 - 9.00 pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Agenda

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| 1. | Welcome & Apologies | |
| 2. | Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising | 3 - 8 |
| 3. | Impact of COVID-19 | |
| 4. | ROWIP2 Actions - PRow Improvements | 9 - 20 |
| 5. | Winkfield FP19 Diversion | |
| 6. | Multi-user Path Sign | |
| 7. | PRow and Local Developments | |
| 8. | Any Other Business | |
| 9. | Public Question Time | |
| | (Maximum 10 Minutes) | |
| 10. | Date of Next Meeting | |

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**LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM
9 JUNE 2020
6.00 - 8.00 PM**

Present:

Members:

Colin Bird (Chairman)
Richard Mosses (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Michael Brossard
Richard Elsbury
Councillor Alvin Finch
Hugh Fitzwilliams
David Warren
Jenny Yung

In attendance:

Graham Pockett, Parks & Countryside Development Manager
Chris Swatridge, Senior Ranger
Rose Wicks, Parks & Countryside Project Officer

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mike Abbott
Geoff Paxton
Stephen Chown, Head of Parks and Countryside
Robert Solomon, Ranger (Countryside and PROW)

151. Welcome and Apologies

The forum would benefit from a new representative from The Crown Estate to sit on the forum. Hugh would raise this with the contact he was due to meet soon.

(Action: Hugh Fitzwilliams)

It was noted that the forum hadn't heard from their new member, who joined late last year. It was agreed that she should be contacted to check she was ok and if there was anything that she needed to help better facilitate her time on the forum.

(Action: BFC Democratic Services)

152. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting of the Forum held on the 4 February 2020 were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amends.

Point 140, change reference from Wellers Lane to Church Lane.
Point 148, change reference to South East Berkshire Ramblers.

The action points from the minutes not included elsewhere on the agenda were reviewed and progress/ updates noted. Members/officers noted how the coronavirus pandemic had significantly impacted on being able to deliver of many of the actions.

- The proposed site visits to Bucklers Forest SANG and the Blue Mountain SANG were put on hold, and the forum would look at these again when safe to do so.
- Work on the mapping of path furniture remains in abeyance while Rose is on extended secondment with the comms team. To carry forward to next meeting.

(Action: Rose Wicks)

- Colin has made some progress with the work to create a list of RoW improvements and suggestions for the creation of new paths, recreational routes and links. For example, getting routes added to the Definitive Map. There are nine suggestions currently on the list, which Colin will provide so they're distributed with the meeting minutes.

(Action: Chair/Rose Wicks)

- Action on publicity around new SANGs opening, keeping website news items up to date and more use of social media. There has been a huge surge in people using outdoor spaces for fresh air and exercise, which has been putting pressure on facilities. Comms messages have been focused on COVID-19 and the need for safe and responsible use of local parks and countryside. This action to be carried forward.

(Action: Rose Wicks)

- David Warren was contacted by Nicola Greenwood about promoting local routes and events connected to horse riding. Nicola sits on the Mid and West Berks LAF and is an access and bridleway officer in the BHS. David Warren to liaise with Jenny Young about how we can promote horse riding in Bracknell Forest.

(Action: Jenny Yung and David Warren)

- It should be possible to make a creation agreement to formalise the designation of the bridleway at Horseshoe Lake. The timing hasn't been the best while the site is currently very busy, so this action needs to be carried forward.

(Action: Graham Pockett to add to future work programme)

- The Chair had deferred calling a get together to discuss, review and grade accessible routes in the Borough. One of the suggestions had been a proposed route through Garth Meadows. To put on hold until a site meeting can be set up, starting from Quelm Lane.

(Action: Chair)

- The sub-regional neighbouring LAF Chairs meeting proposed would be impractical to do in person given the current circumstances, but Graham Pockett would look at setting this up via Microsoft Teams. It worked effectively for the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) meeting he attended.

(Action: Graham Pockett)

- The proposal to seek an access to SANG 2 at Church Lane once all the land required was in the ownership of the Council should be added to the spreadsheet of suggested new routes.

(Action: Chair/Graham Pockett)

- Crowthorne FP 8 on the Broadmoor Estate – proposal to replace steel stiles with more accessible furniture. Still no response to enquiries sent to North West London Mental Health Trust. Carry this action forward.
(Action: Chair/Graham Pockett)
- Hugh extended his congratulations to whoever is responsible for improving accessibility of the FPs in Warfield, by removing scissor stiles. Rob Solomon has been doing a lot of work on this.
- Members discussed the path alongside the Blue Mountain SANG, which was having significant drainage issues, being caused by the nearby earthworks. This was being investigated with the Drainage Engineer and developer, including whether any conditions of planning permission had yet to be met regarding provision of the SANG, before any proposals for improvements were brought. BFC were also looking at an improvement project to FP10, using s106 funding, that would improve accessibility and links.
- Ambarrow path diversion – the new dedicated path is now a RoW on the Definitive Map. Signage needed to be completed, and action in this regard was slowed due to COVID-19. (Post-meeting note: Work completed on 22/06/2020)
(Action: Graham Pockett)
- Volunteer walks wouldn't continue, which was a decision taken before COVID-19. There were plenty of other local walking groups people could get on board with. Hugh wasn't prepared to run the walks, while BFC didn't take accountability for them.
- Design for a sign for multi-user paths has been produced by TRF in consultation with some LCAF members and BFC officers. To get approval from BFC and to also run this past BHS and South East Berks Ramblers. BFC have the right to install signs on highways, but out of courtesy would need to check with the landowners of where they're looking to install the signs.
(Action: David Warren, Jenny Yung, Colin Bird and BFC)
- Cabbage Hill Path new route – to contact Thames Water to get this moving again.
(Action: Chair)
- Bracknell Forest Local Plan and Jealott's Hill development. BFC website said there was a delay in progressing the local plan to the next round of consultation, as they were still processing consultation feedback from the last round. September – expect to have the LP ready for the pre-submission consultation, which is when LCAF should provide input to RoW. BFC to keep LCAF updated on timescales.
(Action: Graham Pockett and Rose Wicks)

153. The challenges in managing access to outdoor spaces during COVID-19

The meeting was presented with slides showing examples of how the council had been experiencing issues such as littering, fires and other forms of anti-social behaviour in our parks and open spaces, and what they'd been doing to tackle these. BFC were also sharing messages encouraging people to stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic.

154. Safe and sustainable use of parks and open spaces

Areas looked at included:

- Encouraging walking and cycling where possible – deter inappropriate parking on the highway
- Respect our parks and open spaces – don't litter or light fires (working with the royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service). Huge pressure on the number of people using parks litter bins
- Follow social distancing guidelines – keep dogs on leads.
- Protect wildlife
- Wear and tear of facilities
- Cycling
- Raising awareness of what BFC are doing i.e. #ThankYouLocalGov campaign.

David Warren signposted Rose Wicks to a book called Nudge, which has scientific examples of how to persuade the public to follow comms messages.

(Action: Rose Wicks)

Chris Swatridge gave an overview of the damage being done to a heavily used boardwalk and public FP at Wildmoor Heath. This is caused by increased use by pedestrians and cyclists when traveling at speed.

BFC were carrying out running repairs to the boardwalk to keep it safe, but a longer-term solution was needed. BFC had been investigating options to limit cycling along the boardwalk and how they might replace it where it was being most impacted by heavy use and age. The expense was proving to be a big challenge.

Site meeting to be organised between Rob Solomon, Natural England, BBOWT and contractor to discuss plans. BFC have looked at removing the boardwalk and raising the path, but there could be issues with using imported material which if not carefully managed might negatively impact the sensitive ecology of Wildmoor Heath. As the site is SSSI and SPA anything would need to be approved by Natural England.

(Action: BFC officers)

Michael Brossard flagged up increased amounts of anti-social behaviour in this area and the damage being done by mountain bikes and quadbikes, which had also been flagged up by the Sandhurst Residents Association. Michael also updated members on what he had been doing to address the issue of dog poo caused by more walking in the area. This is particularly bad at the end of Thibet Road. The supply of dog poo bags was one of his suggestions.

Rose provided an update on behalf of Phillip Burke (BFC Senior Transport Coordinator) about the increased amount of people cycling during COVID-19, which was generally welcomed, but it was highlighted that this had the potential for more conflict between people walking and cycling, when trying to maintain social distancing. There was also an issue of some people not always cycling responsibly, which BFC were trying to address via signage and comms.

In May the Government announced an Emergency Active Travel Fund of £250 million, focused on measures to support walking and cycling which local transport authorities could bid for a portion of.

For the Tranche 1 bid BFC submitted a proposal to improve the junction of Warfield Road, Sandy Lane and Holly Spring Lane to make it more cycle-friendly. This is a key junction on a main North/South corridor linking housing areas to the town centre, as well as an East/West corridor linking housing to a Primary and Secondary school. BFC are working on additional schemes to improve cycle infrastructure for when the larger Tranche 2 bidding round is announced.

Alvin said that the developments in that area should be paying towards safety improvements to the junction. Rose to follow this up with Phillip and asks that he responds to Alvin's query.

(Action: Rose Wicks)

The signage for the Bracknell Forest section of National Cycle Network route 422 – which connects Newbury to Ascot, via Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell – has now been installed. Envisaged as a predominantly leisure route, NCN 422 will also be useful for people considering cycling to work across local authority borders.

Colin flagged up how some of the cycleways, particularly next to roads, were becoming narrow because of overgrowing vegetation. London Road down from the Mercedes Garage was one of the places where this was an issue. Chris explained how COVID-19 had impacted on contracted work to maintain grass areas, by strimming. Colin said that this was a longer-term issue and asked if there were funds to help address this.

Chris would follow this up with CLL and Colin would provide feedback to Phillip Burke.

(Action: Chris Swatridge and Chair)

Colin to send Rose some potential improvements to cycleways, to be sent to Phillip.

(Action: Rose Wicks and Chair)

155. **Crown Estate Land**

The Look Out car park had re-opened on a trial basis, opening between 9am and 6pm.

Restricted capacity for visitors- 50% of its normal capacity. Additional measures in place to direct the flow of people and cyclists on the site. This includes signage and directions provided for visitors to ensure the safe movement of people around the site. The entrance is closed when car park reaches capacity. There is no opportunity for vehicles to queue on site or on the access roads, and traffic wardens will be in attendance to address illegal parking. Remains chargeable as normal and parking machines are accepting contactless card payments only.

The Look Out facilities, including the Discovery Centre, coffee shop, toilets, play areas and the other businesses based on the site will remain closed in accordance with government guidelines.

Swinley Forest - rare and valuable wildlife habitat, which is sensitive to disturbance. The use of barbecues or campfires on site is strictly forbidden and people need to take litter home with them. Broken glass bottles pose a threat to visitors and their dogs; they trap wildlife and can magnify the sun causing forest fires. Cyclists should ride within their limits and recognise that the area will be busier than normal with walking activities and family visits. Any accidents in remote areas will put pressure on the NHS and the emergency services, taking resources away from the COVID-19 response.

156. **Developments, public access and SANGs**

Pedestrian access to Wellers Lane SANG 2 was covered earlier in the meeting (under point 140).

Members were given an overview of SANG improvement works, which Rob had kindly provided photos for e.g. sculptures along The Cut Countryside Corridor, pond viewing platform at Pope's Meadow and surfaced paths.

157. **Monitoring and maintaining PRow**

Graham gave an overview of the signage for Ambarrow rail crossing diversion. He showed pictures of the new 3 Castles Path signs which have since been installed.

Winkfield FP19 – There had been several complaints about the obstruction to this FP, which BFC had been working to resolve. The contractor has now applied for a Temp TRO to commence of the 10 June.

Warfield FP5 – BFC continuing to address the obstruction to this FP by unauthorised gates.

Multi-user paths sign – covered earlier in the agenda.

158. **Building on increased awareness and usage of PRowS and open spaces**

An update on this matter had already been given by BFC officers under point 142.

In addition, Rose advised members that the Countryside Code had recently been updated and now contained advice about visiting the countryside during COVID-19.

There was also a new website where people can search for outdoor activities, including walking, cycling, family activities etc.

<https://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/guides/covid-19-update>

159. **Any Other Business**

Alvin Finch referenced the FP that runs down to where the old Garth Hill College was, coming from Warfield Road. Some people have visited the new housing estate and can see where the line of the FP used to exist. Alison Saunders, previous employee at BFC had investigated this previously. Hugh referenced how Bracknell Development Corporation were diligent about removing FPs in the local area.

(Action: Graham Pockett)

Jenny Yung gave some positive feedback about the local green spaces she had been visiting for exercise during COVID-19 her area, particularly Englemere Pond which had undergone significant improvements, including a pond viewing platform.

Hugh fed back that future meeting structures should be more defined, and they should move through the agenda items more quickly.

To provide papers before the next meeting, so members and officers can prepare in advance.

160. **Date of Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 13 October at 6:30pm. Venue TBC.

CHAIRMAN

Appendix 2:

Report to DMT: The Second Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP2), progress against key priorities in 2019/2020

The RoWIP is a 10-year strategic document that sets out how we intend to work with others to improve the management, provision and promotion of the Bracknell Forest Rights of Way (RoW) network.

There are ten RoWIP policies as follows:

1. Rights of way for all
2. Fulfil legal duties
3. Routes and links
4. Information and marketing
5. Responsible use
6. Preserve rural character
7. Sustainable benefits
8. Working in partnership
9. Raise strategic profile
10. Monitor and review

In summary, the actions required to make progress against all policies are underway, including:

1. Work is being completed by the council staff and volunteers to continuously capture data about the condition of the network and to prioritise works.
2. The Definitive Map is being maintained, TRO notifications and restrictions are being implemented and reported defects are being addressed.
3. New and adjusted links on the network are being explored and implemented.
4. Publicity about the network is ongoing with a vibrant Local Countryside Access Forum (LCAF) meeting regularly.
5. Work underway to engage with local landowners, and tackle issues such as fly-tipping, amongst other communications.
6. Where required input is made to the planning process to shape the protection and enhancement of the network.
7. Sustainable benefits are delivered wherever possible, through schemes such as school access routes and joint events with Public Health for instance.
8. Extensive work completed and in progress with Parish and Town Councils along with Police and other agencies, such as Natural England.
9. Various works to raise profile completed, including creating a logo for LCAF and embedding the network within the council's local plan.
10. Completed on a cyclical basis, through regular officer meetings, LCAF meetings, Quarterly Service reporting and these annual updates to DMT.

The detailed actions delivered in 2019/20 against each RoWIP policy are annexed below for reference. It should be noted that the capacity to deliver RoWIP actions has been affected during 2019/20 by several factors, including:

- Secondments of two P&C officers to other work/teams.
- Reduction in revenue budgets in the third and fourth quarters due to council-wide savings needed. This meant that works not already contractually or financially committed have been deferred to the next financial year.
- The impact of COVID-19 in the fourth quarter.

Update on actions delivered in 2019/20 against RoWIP2 policies

1. Rights of Way for All

Increase accessibility of the RoW network.

| 1.1 Identify and remove hindrances to using Rights of Way, such as stiles, unclear signage, poor surface condition, overgrown vegetation, etc. | |
|--|---|
| Where? | Actions delivered |
| Warf FP12 | 2 new accessible gates replacing a step-over stile and squeeze gate. |
| War FP23 | Improvements to surface including a raised section of footpath and new edging |
| Bin RB17 | Surfacing around western end |
| Crow RB12 | Surface improvements to Devil's Highway (see further update under fulfilling legal duties). |
| Sand FP14 | Surfacing to bottom 50 yards to alleviate waterlogging |
| Wink FP19 | Repair to footbridge sleepers |
| War BW19 | 20 ton of road planning to lane |
| War FP24 into Wink FP28 Bin BR22 Warf BR24 / Bin BR22 | Culvert crossing/bridge repairs |
| Wink FP19 | Repair to footbridge sleepers |
| Sand FP24 Sand FP13A | Boardwalk repairs |

1.1 Identify and remove hindrances to using Rights of Way, such as stiles, unclear signage, poor surface condition, overgrown vegetation, etc.

| Where? | Actions delivered |
|---------|---|
| Various | Vegetation maintenance - contractors completed approximately 15kms of verge flailing and 16km of strimming/hedgecutting twice per year. |

2. Fulfil Legal Duties

Deliver statutory functions of Rights of Way.

2.2 Maintain the surface condition of Rights of Way to a level that's appropriate for its type of use.

| Where? | Actions delivered |
|------------|---|
| Crow RB 12 | <p>Restrictions came into force on the 18 November, which restricts motor vehicles from using the section of Devil's Highway leading to Crowthorne Woods.</p> <p>The Right of Way is open to authorised users, which includes pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and carriage-drivers. Essential access is also available for carrying out forestry work, for emergency services and to homeowners with private access rights to their property.</p> <p>The restriction is necessary to prevent damage to the RoW surface along a route that is not constructed for motorised traffic. These changes will also help to protect the rare and valuable wildlife that can be found in Crowthorne Woods and Swinley Forest, which are part of the wider Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBH SPA).</p> |

2.3 Ensure footbridges and culverts on Rights of Way are maintained.

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| Various locations | <p>Footbridges and culverts are visually inspected through six monthly BVPI surveys as well as volunteer inspections. Formal inspections are completed by Atkins as part of BFC Highways department inspections.</p> <p>See above</p> |
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2.4 Ensure that paths are free from obstructions and misleading signs or notices.

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| Warf FP5 | The council continues to seek a permanent solution to the unauthorised diversion and obstruction of the footpath, working with the various landowners involved. |
| Wink FP19 | The council is seeking reinstatement of the unauthorised diversion and obstruction of the footpath across the polo pitches. |

3. Routes and Links

Provide additional PRow network linkages and safe circular routes, expanding this to a wider Green Infrastructure network.

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| 3.1 Provide safe links between Rights of Way along roads and improvements in standards of safety where paths cross the road and rail network. | |
| Where? | Actions delivered |
| Sand FP9a | <p>The only level crossing in the borough is in Sandhurst, across the mainline from Ambarrow Court.</p> <p>Network Rail and the council consulted on closing this unguarded crossing (Rail Crossing Diversion Order) which is on a public footpath.</p> <p>The Section 119A Order to close the level crossing at Ambarrow Hill and divert Sandhurst FP9A was made on 14 November and was confirmed as an unopposed order (no objections received) on 20 December 2019. The Order came into force on 27 January 2020.</p> <p>The National Trust has constructed a length of new path, funded by Network Rail. The footpath has been diverted over an existing bridge over the mainline, with the right of way diverted through the National Trust woodland at Ambarrow Hill. Access via footbridge much improved with new gates, FP surfacing and directional signage. The National Trust and Wellington College – as adjoining landowners, co-operated in enabling the diversion over their land.</p> |
| 3.3 Provide a more joined up and useable network by identifying and addressing missing links and gaps in the network which will enhance existing access provision. | |
| Various to the north of the borough | Paths and routes that are included within new public open spaces created as a result of development have created new links and extensions to the network, most notably around the Warfield development where the Cabbage Hill SANG, East-West Green Corridor and The Cut riverside park have created paths that connect to existing byways and quiet lanes. |
| RoW and open spaces in Sandhurst | BFC working with Three Castles Path and LCAF to explore proposal for a footpath dedication in Ambarrow Hill to link with Sand FP10. |
| RoW and open spaces in Warfield | BFC working with LCAF and Thames Water to explore proposal for a new link between Cabbage Hill and Hazelwood Lane. |
| 3.5 Improve routes between urban areas and the countryside. | |
| War BW8 | Multi-use crossing constructed for Avery Lane byway where new access road crosses the byway, with segregated waiting area for horse riders. Required for new highway leading to the Newell Green housing development. TRO closed byway to motorised traffic. |

4. Information and Marketing

Provide access information on Rights of Way and promote the network to encourage use.

| 4.1 Encourage use of Rights of Way via events, publicity and marketing. | |
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| Where? | Action delivered |
| Borough-wide | Volunteers lead several free walks each year, which were advertised via P&Cs 6-monthly events leaflet, on BFCs events web page and via social media. |
| 4.2 Promote Bracknell Forest as a prime destination for walking, cycling and horse riding. | |
| Lily Hill Park | P&C publicised traffic free cycle routes and a health and wellbeing initiative (social prescription) on viewing screens at an Outdoor Cinema event last summer. |
| 4.4 Provide adequate waymarking on Rights of Way. | |
| Sandhurst | The Three Castles Path has been affected by the level crossing closure in Sandhurst. We have been working with the Ramblers and Open Spaces Society to ensure that the diversion from the published route is clearly signposted on site. (see also 3.1 above) |

5. Responsible Use

Promote and publicise legal and responsible use of Rights of Way and access to the countryside, supporting landowners and land managers regarding public use of their land.

| 5.1 Work with landowners to secure improvements to Rights of Way and ensure their legal obligations are being maintained. | |
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| Where? | Action delivered |
| Bin BR24 / War BR11 | Thames Water resolved flooding issues to Hazelwood Lane caused from their property. |
| War BW17 | Surfacing to Western end of Pendry's lane completed by landowner |
| War BW18 | Stone supplied to residents of Goughs Barn Lane who intend on moving the stone and surfacing the lane themselves |
| Wink FP5 | Footpath surface to be reinstated by landowner following vehicle track damage. |

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| 5.2 Reduce conflict between cyclists, walkers and horse riders on multi-use routes. | |
| Warf FP6 | Installed No Cycling signs |
| N/A | Working with LCAF and Trail Riders Fellowship to design new multi-user path signs to encourage courteous behaviour and make users aware of rights and responsibilities. |
| 5.3 Reduce the vulnerability of the PRow network to fly-tipping. | |
| Warf BW20 | New metal bollard installed along western end of Hawthorn lane |
| 5.5 Facilitate legitimate use of byways by recreational motor vehicles where this does not cause unacceptable surface or environmental damage and is unlikely to conflict with the enjoyment of other users. | |
| Byways in Warfield/Winkfield | Use of width restriction TROs instead of total prohibition of motorised vehicles on some byways in Warfield/Winkfield enables continued use by trail riders. |

6. Preserve Rural Character

Protect the rural character of Rights of Way in the countryside.

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| 6.1 Where a path is presently earth or grassed it shall not be surfaced with tarmac or aggregate unless there is a demonstrable strategic need, or to address issues such as erosion or flooding. | |
| Where? | Actions delivered |
| Warfield FP12 | Newell Green, reconsult on Scotland House planning application, where rural path across field would be embedded in tarmac of new highway, contrary to RoWIP and Defra Rights of Way Circular (1/09). |

7. Sustainable Benefits

Manage a countryside and access network that delivers benefits to health and wellbeing, economy and biodiversity.

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| 7.1 Identify and promote the potential of the network to promote health and well-being. | |
| Where? | Actions delivered |
| Borough-wide | BFC supported volunteers to lead several free countryside walks, which contribute towards improving resident's health and wellbeing. |
| 7.3 Improve and enhance the traffic free Rights of Way network around urban areas to increase the use of sustainable transport for accessing work, schools and services. | |
| See update provided under Rights of Way for all | Improving access to Right of Way, particularly to their surface, encourages more sustainable forms of travel (e.g. by foot, bike, wheelchair/mobility scooters, horse and carriage). |

8. Working in Partnership

Develop volunteer initiatives and partnerships with other organisations to help make resources go further; collaborate with neighbouring authorities to deliver solutions to cross-border maintenance, legal and improvement issues.

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| 8.2 Provide an integrated approach to highways, housing development and Rights of Way management. | |
| Where? | Actions delivered |
| N/A | We're working closely with Planning and Highways and are involving them more with LCAF related work. |
| 8.3 Recognise existing support and encourage increased future parish /town council involvement in the management of public access. (Producing end of financial year report for town/parish council's) Regular reports on rights of way to Parish, Parks and Public Realm meetings. | |
| N/A | Copy of future DMT reports sent through to parish councils and updates provided at Parish, Parks and Public Realm meetings. |
| 8.4 Make greater use of volunteers/ user groups' involvement in management of public access. | |
| War FP12 | Volunteers used to remove and install gates |
| Various | Volunteers inspect 63kms of PRow twice per year spending roughly 105.2 hours. Local volunteer groups have spent 70 hours on PRow improvement works. |
| Sandhurst | Community Payback Service used to clear soil and leaf build up along Sandhurst footpaths |

9. Raise Strategic Profile

Increased awareness of organisations and policy and decision-makers about the importance of Rights of Way and the wider green infrastructure network will enable better planning and development of neighbourhoods.

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| 9.1 Promote the key role that Rights of Way play in maintaining Bracknell Forest's high quality of life within other strategies e.g. health and well-being benefits. | |
| Where? | Actions delivered |
| N/A | RoWIP is already embedded in council plans including Local Plan, LTP3, BAP etc. to promote the key role that RoW play in maintaining Bracknell Forest's high quality of life. |
| 9.3 Improve the enhancement and protection of the PRow network through the planning process. Ensure RoWIP2 is quoted as a reference during planning applications affecting public Rights of Way. | |
| N/A | RoWIP is quoted in internal planning consultations where appropriate, to protect the network, prevent or reduce the effects of urbanisation and to prevent unauthorised obstruction or diversion. This includes pre-app advice where RoW are on or adjacent to sites. |

10. Monitor and Review

Monitoring the condition of the PRow network and assessing progress made with RoWIP actions.

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| 10.1 Monitoring the condition of Rights of Way and benchmark this data against that obtained from other neighbouring Local Authorities. | |
| Where? | Actions delivered |
| Various | BVPI inspections carried out last summer, covering approximately 8 kms of PRow per year. |
| N/A | BFC provides information to IPRoW surveys and Ramblers FOIs, as well as comparing information with other unitary authorities and county councils through ADEPT South East Rights of Way Managers Group. |
| 10.2 Review progress made with completing actions in the RoWIP. | |
| N/A | RoW team meet on a regular basis (either in person or via Microsoft Teams) to review progress made with delivery of RoWIP actions. Updates are provided as part of BFC's Quarterly Service Reports and the three LCAF meetings held each year. Report review outcomes to DMT annually. |

Appendix 3: RoWIP actions delivered since the last meeting.

Progress made on projects underway will be reported as part of agenda item no. 4.

Signage

New Ambarrow path diversion signs are now installed on site at all the junctions and corners along the diverted length of the footpath.

The signs, which are the same size as BFCs standard green footpath finger signs, were designed in conjunction with the Open Spaces Society and funded by Network Rail.

Further path surface improvements have also been carried out by the National Trust in Ambarrow Hill.



Surface works

Road planings from highway works have been made available to residents at Hazelwood Lane/Goughs Barn Lane to use for byway repairs. Work has also been carried out at Penfurzen Lane using a P&C tractor.

Communications

A new Parks and Countryside newsletter has been launched, which is sent out every fortnight to subscribers who have expressed interest in updates about Bracknell Forest parks and countryside.

In the last two editions, there have been updates about improvements to rights of way and promotion of countryside routes i.e. The Cut Countryside Corridor. Extracts featured below.

The third edition will promote membership to LCAF. Suggestions welcome from members about updates in future editions.

Rights of way for all

We've been working in partnership to improve access to our local rights of way.

Three new accessible gates now replace older and less accessible squeeze stiles along a footpath in Warfield (FP7), which links Malt Hill Road to Warfield Church.

The improvements are part funded by the [South East Berks Ramblers \(SEBR\)](#) with the work carried out by our rangers and the [Bracknell Conservation Volunteers](#).

These improvements help to meet targets in our [Rights of Way Improvement Plan](#).



Art to enjoy on your walk



Have you spotted our two fantastic sculptures in [The Three Copses](#) near The Cut river?

The wood carvings at Jock's Copse in Binfield and [Lark's Hill](#) in Warfield celebrate the management and wildlife of these

amazing spaces, which form part of The Cut Countryside Corridor.

Visit our [website](#) for details of countryside walks. Please remember to follow the [Countryside Code](#).

Appendix 4: Proposals to Bracknell Forest LCAF for new / modified PRowS

| | PRow proposal | Comments | Proposer |
|---|---|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Footpath from Cabbage Hill SANG to Hazelwood Lane ((Binfield BR24) crossing land owned by Thames Water. | Would make a direct walking route from north Bracknell to the network of PRowS north of Bracknell. Discussions with Thames Water have been ongoing since 2018. | Colin Bird |
| 2 | Link from the end of Lower Church Road to Sandhurst FP19 at Horseshoe Lake. | Improved access to Horseshoe Lake from Sandhurst without having to walk along narrow Mill Lane | Richard Mosses |
| 3 | Diversion of Binfield FP11 along to the north of the Amen Corner development into Piglittle Fields. | Avoids footpath running through housing development. Would also require corresponding change to STNH FP 251 (Wokingham) with which it connects. | Richard Mosses |
| 4 | Cross border connection from RBWM footpath 25 (which runs south from Shurlock Row) to Binfield Bridleway 22 (Spinning Wheel Lane) and another south to Billingbear Lane to connect with Restricted Byway Binfield 21. | Connects isolated parts of PRow network in north Binfield avoiding the need for walking on busy, twisting roads. Would require new paths private land. | Richard Mosses |
| 5 | From Warfield 3 from where it turns south to Church Lane to Malt Hill. | There is a concrete track along this route and access to Malt Hill is round the gate and is used by dog walkers. There is a planning application for this route to be part of a SANG together with a car park on Malt Hill. | Richard Mosses |
| 6 | A link between Winkfield FP8 and Winkfield FP10 without having to walk along Braziers Lane. | Avoids the need to walk along busy, narrow Braziers Lane. Could either be improvement of verge or along the field edge which is just south of where Winkfield FP8 comes out onto Braziers Lane and then it would require a bridge just north of where it could join Winkfield FP10. | Richard Mosses |
| 7 | Access to Frost Folly SANG2 from Church Lane, Warfield (near jnc with Osbourne Lane. | Alternative pedestrian access nearer to housing developments | Hugh Fitzwilliams |

| | PRoW proposal | Comments | Proposer |
|----|---|--|-----------------|
| 8 | Add Horseshoe Lake Bridleway to definitive map. | Bridleway has been in place for some years but is not on the definitive map | Graham Pockett |
| 9 | Add diverted link through Ambarrow Hill/Court from rerouted railway crossing to definitive map. | Closure of Railway crossing on Sandhurst FP9 with diversion over railway bridge. New path to re-join original route should be a PRoW | Graham Pockett |
| 10 | Restoration of original path from old Garth Hill College site to Warfield Road. | This was part of a pre-New Town footpath that may have been extinguished by the Development Corporation | Alvin Finch |
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