



BRACKNELL FOREST LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM
4 OCTOBER 2004
(7.00 pm – 8.00 pm)

Present: Diana Pidgeon (Chairman)
Celia Blay
Cllr Anne Haydon
Chris Gardner
Mike Gates
Peter Radband
Stuart Tarrant (Vice Chairman)
Caroline Tomalin

In attendance: James Dymond, Countryside Research Assistant
Helen Tranter, Head of Culture & Visual Environment
Heather White, Countryside & Rights of Way Officer

Apologies for absence were received from:

Taharah Azam
Robert Bonney
Michael Dyer
Cllr Iain McCracken
Mark Osman
Derick Stickler
Simon Weeks

30. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all members of the Forum to the meeting.

31. **Mr Mick Hutson**

The Chairman sadly announced the death of Mick Hutson from Friends of the Earth, who would be dearly missed.

32. **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Forum held on 10 March 2004 were approved as a correct record.

33. **Watersplash Lane (Item 5)**

The Members of the Forum were updated on Watersplash Lane, Warfield. The ford was currently inaccessible and required significant engineering works to resolve the problems. The work would require raising the riverbed and grading back the road. Proposals to carry out the works was presently being considered by the Environment Agency, who would hopefully approve the plans and allow the work to commence in the current financial year.

34. **Syngenta Bridleway (Item 6)**

This project was now at the planning permission stage. A warning had been issued by the agricultural research station that state boundaries would need to be secured. Following a series of meetings, a best way forward had been negotiated. This would require the research station to create a right of way (bridleway), which would be 3m in width with the relevant hedging and pedestrian points included.

35. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) (Item 7)**

A project plan outlining tasks and timescales was circulated. Members of the Forum were advised that work on the ROWIP had now commenced and that over the next few months local consultation would be a major priority.

Information and feedback would be gathered from surveys and questionnaires, which would be copied and distributed to various public venues. The intention was to assess and collate the results by mid-end December. It was hoped that evaluation of provision would be carried out by March 2005 with a plan of action being decided upon by September 2005.

Members of the Forum provided some initial feedback on the questions listed in the survey. It was suggested that:

Question 2 – the survey should begin with the inclusion of a definition on the differences between footpaths and bridleways.

Question 4 – The survey should differentiate between motor cycles and motorised vehicles.

Question 5 – dog walking be included as a reason for use of public rights of way.

It was agreed that an audit on the Rights of Way be carried out to compare against the results of the survey. This would be further reported upon at the next meeting of the Forum.

It was further agreed that the next meeting of the Forum would be brought forward to take place in February.

36. **CROW Access Land/Trespass (Item 4)**

It was reported that 8 regions within England had already had their conclusive maps completed. Those within the South East and Cumbria had now become statutes, and on 14 December Bracknell Forest's map would also be included.

37. **Items for Next Meeting Agenda (Item 8)**

1. Rights of Way
2. Police response to crime – police to attend
3. Updates on projects

38. **Any Other Business (Item 9)**

It was highlighted that a letter had been received from Alun Michael (MP) from the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The letter expressed appreciation for the level of commitment and dedication demonstrated by Forum Members over the last 12 months. The letter also provided information on DEFRA's work over the coming months, and welcomed further ideas and suggestions on improving and developing the role of local access forums.

39 The new Leisure Cycling and Mountain Biking leaflet was circulated.

40. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 22nd February 2005 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.

CHAIRMAN