

Date of issue: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

**MEETING**

**LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Councillors Dodds and Parmar

Laurie Tucker (Chair), David Coe, Toby Evans, Margery Hitchman, Ian Houghton, Margaret Innis, Les James, Malcolm Hellings and Ken Wright).

**DATE AND TIME:**

WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY, 2009 AT 5.30 PM

**VENUE:**

COMMITTEE ROOM 2, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH

**DEMOCRATIC SERVICES  
OFFICER:  
(for all enquiries)**

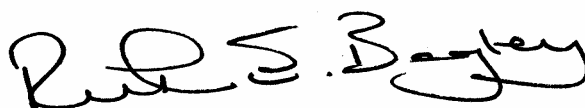
TERESA CLARK  
01753 875018

**LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
SECRETARY**

JACQUI WHEELER, RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER  
01753 477479

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



**RUTH BAGLEY**  
Chief Executive

**NOTE TO MEMBERS**

This meeting is an approved duty for the payment of travel expenses.

**AGENDA**

**PART 1**



<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.	-	
1.	Apologies	-	
2.	Declarations of Interest (Members are reminded of their duty to declare personal and prejudicial interests as set out in the Slough Local Access Forum Terms of Reference.	-	
3.	Minutes of last meeting.	1 - 6	
4.	Matters Arising (other than those to be considered on the agenda). <b>(15 Mins)</b>	-	
5.	Membership Update <b>(5 Mins)</b>	-	
6.	Letter to Eton College <b>(5 Mins)</b>	7 - 8	
7.	Cross Boundary Routes Surrounding Canal and Site Visit with British Waterways <b>(15 Mins)</b>	9 - 12	
8.	South East- LAF Members Meeting on 3rd March- Slough LAF position statements <b>(25 Mins)</b>	13 - 14	
9.	Conference for LAF Members in the South East <b>(10 Mins)</b>	15 - 18	
10.	Annual Report <b>(10 Mins)</b>	-	
11.	Future Work Programme <b>(5 Mins)</b>	-	
12.	Any Other Business	-	
13.	Next Meeting Date	-	

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

**Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Wednesday, 12th November, 2008 at the Mayor's Conference Room, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough**

**Present:-**

**LAF Members**

Laurie Tucker, Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council (Chair)  
Councillor Satpal S Parmar  
Toby Evans  
Malcolm Hellings, Slough and District Civic Society  
Margery Hitchman  
Ken Wright

**Observers**

Les James, Slough District Civic Society  
  
Councillor Tony Haines, on behalf of the Friends of Slough Canal

**Officers, Slough Borough Council**

Ian Houghton  
Alex Deans  
Bruce Hickman, Community Parks Projects Officer  
Kathryn Horsepool  
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer  
Jacqui Wheeler, LAF Secretary

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dodds.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 17th July 2008 were approved as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising**

**Cycle Training**

Laurie Tucker advised that he had spoken to Inspector Boulmer, Thames Valley Police, who would liaise with Claire Robinson, the Council's Bike It Officer.

Cinder Track

Jacqui Wheeler (**JW**) advised that the graffiti near Cumberland Avenue and Sheffield Road had now been painted over.

Checking Accessibility – Canal Tow Path

It was noted that there was no response yet from British Waterways regarding the list of problems encountered during the recent site visit.

Gating Orders

In relation to the proposed Gating Order on the pathway between Mildenhall Road and Lerwick Drive, Members were advised that the results of the informal consultation held with residents were now available. These had indicated that most residents in the immediate vicinity would like the pathway to be gated but as yet there was no formal Council Policy, defining the percentage required before the Order would be approved. Officers had been advised that a percentage above 50% in favour should be recognised as being in favour of an Order. There were further issues around the extent to which consultation should take place geographically.

It was noted that Kam Bhatti had prepared a draft Gating Order but this was dependent on the agreed policy being implemented.

Provision of Cycle Stands in Town Centre

Malcolm Hellings referred to the discussion at the previous meeting in relation to cycle stands. In his opinion there were insufficient stands within the town centre. **JW** advised that these concerns would be relayed to Roger Kirkham and Rajanayagam Amirthanayagam. **Action- JW**

Bridleway 17 (Wood Lane to Eton Wick)

**JW** referred to the suggested widening of the bridleway and the request to Eton College to dedicate extra land for this reason. She was not convinced that the Forum should ask for the bridleway to be widened and referred to paragraph 6.1 of the Forum's terms of reference. As a cyclist, Ian Houghton felt that widening the bridleway would be useful and he agreed that he would look at the area. Bruce Hicks felt that the bridleway would lose its character if it was widened. It was agreed that **JW** would prepare a letter to Eton College and circulate this to Members. **Action- JW**

**5. Membership Update**

Members were advised that there was no change to the membership of the Forum which currently stood at ten Members.

**6. Baylis to Town Centre Walking and Cycling Route**

A list of the items that would possibly be implemented as part of the new walking and cycling scheme were tabled. These included the protection of

## **Local Access Forum - 12.11.08**

walls/fences from graffiti using planting and chain link fencing, the resurfacing of the cinder track, the installation of new dog foul bins and the installation of a new link into Castlevue School. Members considered the list and raised the following questions/comments as follows:-

- It was highlighted that the route did not go all the way to Baylis.
- The cinder track was resurfaced ten years ago – it was felt that it was a waste of money to resurface it again when it was in a good condition.
- It was felt that the part of the route that went under the railway bridge was unsafe. From a cycling perspective it was not safe because there was no line of sight when leaving the tunnel to the north. The Officer commented that the subway had been painted and was better lit than previously.
- A Member wanted confirmation that the new dog foul bins would continue to be maintained when the one year maintenance included in the scheme expired.
- The need to create a new link to Godolphin Junior School was questioned as there was already an access gate. It was agreed that Alex Deans would mention this to the designers.
- In relation to item 13 on the list a Member highlighted that there was uncertainty over the Castlevue School location.

It was agreed that the above comments be forwarded to the relevant Officer.

### **Action- JW**

**JW** discussed the upgrade of the footpath to a bridleway and advised that it would stay on the definitive map as a public right of way. A report would be considered by Cabinet in January, 2009 and it was noted that there were no objections from Local Access Forum Members.

Members discussed the division of the route between walkers and cyclists.

**Agreed -** That the Local Access Forum recommends that the walking and cycling route should be designed as an un-segregated track.

**Action- JW** to forward recommendation to relevant Officer

## **7. England Access Forum**

Members received an update on the development of the England Access Forum and the outcome of the meeting of the South East Region Local Access Forum. It was noted that Matthew Balfour of Kent and Alan Marlow of Hampshire would represent the South East Region on the English Access Forum. Members' attention was drawn to Natural England's outline coastal access scheme. JW commented that Slough should have a voice in this issue even though the Council was an inland Borough. It was suggested that

## Local Access Forum - 12.11.08

the Forum could hold an informal working group meeting to formulate a response to the scheme and other related issues.

### Agreed -

- (a) That Marjery Hitchman would continue to represent the Slough Local Access Forum as a Member of the South East Region Access Forum and that Laurie Tucker would deputise in her absence.
- (b) That JW would check Members' availability and agree a date for an informal meeting of the Forum to consider the coastal access scheme, the Marine Bill and other issues such as Gating Orders. An update report would then be submitted to the next LAF meeting in February 2009. **Action- JW**

**JW** tabled a report outlining Natural England's Draft Policy on Access. If Members had any comments they should forward these to JW by 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Action-** All Members to note.

## 8. Letter from Suffolk Local Access Forum

Members noted the contents of a letter received from Suffolk Local Access Forum concerning the Forum's involvement at a public inquiry relating to a crossing point for non-motorised users over a new section of the A14 trunk road. The Suffolk Forum had requested examples of any recommendations being adopted in respect of Highway Agency road schemes in other LAF areas. **JW** advised that she was not aware of any in the Slough area.

Alex Deans referred Members to a map of the Heart of Slough scheme, for information. It was noted that the town centre almost backed on to the A4 and the scheme would make the town centre more accessible by creating new walkways and for example raising the pedestrianised area in front of the station. Members noted the cycle ways within the scheme and were invited to forward comments about the Heart of Slough scheme to **JW** who would pass these on to the relevant Officer. **Action-** All Members to note.

### Agreed-

- a) That JW would circulate the Heart of Slough plan to Members. **Action- JW**
- b) That JW and the Chair would respond to the letter from Suffolk LAF, outlining Slough's severance issues. **Action- JW**

## 9. Future Work Programme

**JW** did not feel that the current Work Programme worked well and would phone Members to gather their views on this and consider suggestions for an alternative programme.

**Action- JW**

The Chair requested that the Work Programme document be attached to future agenda.

**Action- JW**

**10. Any Other Business**

Friends of Slough Canal

Cllr Haines addressed the Forum on behalf of the Friends of Slough Canal and advised that their remit was to promote leisure, walking and other activities near the canal. It was hoped that the public would treat the canal almost as a park and enjoy a whole range of activities.

There were issues surrounding some footpaths leading off the canal that were situated near to and on the border of South Bucks District Council. In many cases the paths had disappeared and were no longer shown on maps. Cllr Haines asked whether the LAF could work together with South Bucks to deal with such issues.

A Member noted that the issue of such footpaths came up regularly at meetings of Wexham Parish Council. Gerald Pleace advised that he had recently been in contact with South Bucks DC about a similar matter and he could encourage future liaison.

**Agreed-** That the Forum recognises the work of the Friends of Slough Canal and welcomes and endorses the suggestion that links be forged with South Bucks DC to resolved issues around footpaths on its border with Slough BC.

Stoke Basin

In response to a question from Ken Wright, it was confirmed that no response had been received from British Waterways regarding the car parking area at Stoke Canal Basin.

**Agreed-** That JW and the Chair would compile a further letter to British Waterways. **Action- JW**

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009, at 5.30 p.m.** - Venue, Mayor's Conference Room, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough.

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.05 pm)

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21 January 2009

## Slough Local Access Forum

Adrian Harris  
The Bursary  
Eton College  
Windsor  
Berks  
SL4 6DJ

Replies to: Officer to Slough Local Access Forum  
(Jacqui Wheeler)  
Highways Engineering  
Slough Borough Council  
P.O Box 580  
Slough, SL1 3UQ

Tel: 01753 477 479  
Fax: 01753 875 660  
Email: [Localaccessforum@slough.gov.uk](mailto:Localaccessforum@slough.gov.uk)  
Ref: Bridleway 17

Dear Mr Harris,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Slough Local Access Forum (SLAF) about Bridleway no.17 (a.k.a Wood Lane). The SLAF is a statutory group set up under The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to advise local authorities and other bodies on local access issues. The Forum operates autonomously, though is supported by Slough Borough Council at whose offices its meetings are held.

The SLAF would like to express its concerns to you, as landowner about the safety of the bridleway running between the Jubilee River and Moores Lane, Eton Wick. The Forum is aware that this route is regularly used by a variety of people including; cyclists, horse riders, walkers and people with children in buggies.

The relatively narrow width available on the section described exacerbates the usual difficulties experienced on a busy multi-user path. The SLAF would suggest that the path needs to be wide enough to allow those on horse back or cycling or using buggies to pass easily side by side.

The Forum acknowledges Mr Cooley; the farmer's attempts to improve the fencing on this section of bridleway, but would note that barbed wire along the boundary of such a well used path is not ideal, especially when two parties are trying to pass each other. Some additional width would lessen the risk posed by this hazard.

Activity on this route can only increase in the future with the new housing being built in Cippenham placing additional pressure on surrounding leisure and sustainable transport amenities, such as those provided by this bridleway. It is an attractive and relatively direct walking and cycling route to Eton Wick connecting there to further routes leading to the River Thames and Windsor.

Cont.

After discussing all these factors the SLAF would like to ask Eton College to consider dedicating an extra width of land to become part of this Public Bridleway and so provide improved accessibility to this busy route.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

**Laurie Tucker**  
**Chair 2009, Slough Local Access Forum**

Cc. Eton Town Council ???,  
Mr Bill Cooley, Farmer  
The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Local Access Forum

SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009

REPORT ON: CROSS BOUNDARY ROUTES AND ROUTES SURROUNDING CANAL AND LEADING TO AREAS OF COUNTRYSIDE.

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To help inform members about cross boundary issues involving the canal and identify which routes are desirable to pursue improvements to.

## **2. ROUTES SURROUNDING CANAL**

- a) Open up new towpath on north side of canal between Basin and Wexham Road and between Wexham Road and Uxbridge Road. This would allow a circular route around the canal improving its attractiveness to users

**Opportunity:** Liaise with The Friends of Slough Canal and Slough Canal Working Group on how this can be achieved. Recommend to British Waterways that their future plans include a route of this nature.

- b) Promote a circular route incorporating FP46 north towpath by Rochford Gdns into Nursery Lane, joining Middlegreen Road and re joining the canal towpath at the Middlegreen Rd entrance by Bloom Park to walk along the south towpath to regain Uxbridge Road.

**Possible Action:** Liaise with the Friends of Slough Canal, Bucks County Council or South Bucks District Council on what would be required to achieve a route as described.

- c) On Bucks website it looks like Nursery Lane has public footpath status and links to another public footpath leading north to George Green. An off road link to George Green could be desirable and links to Bucks RoW network by Langley Park via George Green Road.

**Opportunity:** Improved links from Slough residential to surrounding settlements via off road routes and to attractive countryside. This route would also link to a cycle lane along Uxbridge Road if one was implemented.

- d) Opportunity to promote route already existing on the ground using Footpath 47a (currently promoted as part of NCN 61) from Minster Way linking to the canal towpath and crossing canal to link to a public footpath in Bucks that leads to Langley Park, Country Park (Off road). It also links to a bridleway and NCN route no.61 leading to Iver.

**Possible Action:** Liaise with Friends of Slough Canal, British Waterways and Sustrans. Assess possible requirements for promoting this route, including signage, upgrade footpath to bridleway to legalise cycling, improved surfacing and then how to promote.

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**From:** Wheeler Jacqui  
**Sent:** 29 January 2009 11:05  
**To:** 'Sam Thomas'  
**Subject:** RE: Slough Arm Grand Union Canal

Dear Sam,

Many thanks for your response to the Sept 08 audit of the canal towpath and the subsequent letter set by our Chair, Laurie.

After receiving your email I spoke to Laurie and he has asked me to inform you that the Slough Local Access Forum will be very happy to take up your offer to meet on site. However, despite asking you to come back to him before the LAF meeting he has realised it will be easier to speak to members about a possible site visit at the next meeting face to face and thereafter contact you to arrange a suitable date to meet.

I hope you can appreciate the need to give all members of the forum the opportunity to be involved in this matter.

Thanks for your forbearance.

Regards

Jacqui Wheeler  
Rights of Way Officer  
Highways Development  
Slough Borough Council  
Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UQ  
Tel: 01753 477 479  
[jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk)

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**From:** Sam Thomas [<mailto:Sam.Thomas@britishwaterways.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2009 14:40  
**To:** Wheeler Jacqui  
**Cc:** \_Local Access Forum  
**Subject:** Slough Arm Grand Union Canal

Dear Jacqui,

Firstly my apologies for not responding to your email of 10/10/08.

I have just received a hard copy through the post from your chair, Laurie Tucker(dated 25/11/08)

If you would like to contact me I would be happy to meet you or one of your team on site,prior to your meeting on 11/2/09.To discuss the British Waterways related issues raised from your Sept 08 audit.

I will try to call your office number and also find out more about the parking situation at the end of the Basin.

Regards

Sam

Sam Thomas

British Waterways

Customer Operations Supervisor

London West

24 Canute House

Durham Wharf Drive

Brentford

Middlesex TW8 8HP

02079857780

07710175286

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SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2009

REPORT IN PREPARATION FOR: SOUTH EAST LAF MEMBERS MEETING ON 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2009 - SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM POSITION STATEMENTS ON GATING ORDERS, COASTAL ACCESS AND SHARED USE ROUTES

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To get members agreement of draft position statements of the Slough Local Access Forum as below to be taken to the next South East LAF Members meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009.

**2. Draft Position Statements**

**2.1 COASTAL ACCESS**

*“The Marine Bill – this will give Natural England new powers to improve access around the whole of the English coastline and to create a long distance route, the “English Coastal route”. The Bill is due to be put before Parliament this autumn with a draft Outline Scheme to be published by Natural England at the same time. The outline scheme will guide decisions at local level on where the new rights will apply, and the SE LAF members agreed that this is an important issue requiring discussion among all LAFs in the region. After all, everyone enjoys a visit to the seaside! Slough LAF needs to decide what action to take on this. Action. (Ref: LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – AGENDA ITEM 7)”*

The Slough Local Access Forum, as a LAF for an inland area views its role in assessing coastal access as being a “visitor” to the coast. As a visitor to the coast the SLAF would want the best experience possible of the coast but without having the local knowledge of a coastal Access Forum the SLAF is not so interested in the detail of the routes. In general terms, the SLAF feels that the “best experience” of the coast will be gained through enjoying the most attractive views and therefore having routes as close to the coast as possible for as much of the time as possible.

As a visitor to the coast, the SLAF also feels it is essential for up to date information about what coastal access is available to be circulated as widely and as accessibly as possible.

**2.2 GATING ORDERS**

*“Gating Orders – This was agreed to be an issue for all LAFs in the South East. As statutory consult tees for Gating Orders, the SE LAF members meeting felt it would need to get a consensus of how LAFs deal with Gating Orders. Action. (Ref: LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – AGENDA ITEM 7)”*

The Slough Local Access Forum will seek to provide advice on statutory gating order consultations in accordance with the legal criteria for making orders laid out in Section 129A Highways Act 1980. This may involve members of the SLAF visiting the site and even meeting as a subgroup if the situation warrants in order to obtain a full view of the problems cited.

The Slough Local Access Forum has asked that Slough Borough Council provide notice in advance of any proposed gating schemes on non-public highway land which could affect

potential through routes. The SLAF will provide advice to the Council according to legal criteria even though a Gating Order is not required.

Through the Safer Slough Partnership, the Council has reported that gating projects on private alleys have been successful in Slough, though only one statutory Gating Order has been made to date. This was for the adopted footpath between Wellington Street and Stratfield Road.

## **2.3 SHARED USE ROUTES**

*“Shared Use of Routes – The meeting felt that it would be useful to get some sort of agreement on attitudes towards shared use routes within the SE. But what does shared use mean in Slough? And how does the Slough LAF feel about it? Action. (Ref: LOCAL ACCESS FORUM REPORT – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 – AGENDA ITEM 7)”*

The SLAF supports the implementation of shared use routes in principle as they widen transport choices for all and increase accessibility to the sustainable network. The SLAF aims to recommend where appropriate that cycle usage of routes is legalised and such routes are improved to provide an adequate width for shared use (SLAF considers this to be XXX metres). Legalisation of shared use routes will allow them to be properly recorded and shown on maps with the correct status.

The SLAF recommends that where horse riding use is expected and the route width available is less than 2 metres, that manure catchers are used to prevent horse manure spreading across the whole width of a path.

The SLAF considers that cycling proficiency /training should be encouraged to improve the standard of cyclist behaviour when in close proximity with walkers/horse riders. SLAF supports the use of a warning bell by cyclists. Promotion of good practice among adult cyclists would improve the safety on shared use routes. The SLAF supports the Healthy Cycling Initiative as it seeks to encourage cycling as a means of healthy activity while at the same time promoting such good practice among cyclists.





8<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Dear colleagues

**CONFERENCE FOR LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS IN THE SOUTH EAST**

I am writing to invite your Forum to take part in a conference for LAF members in our region, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 in central London.

We are aiming to offer an informative, relevant and interactive event, and so workshops are planned on a range of subjects pertinent to LAFs in our area, as well as keynote speeches and plenty of opportunity to chat informally to other LAF members. You are also welcome to bring displays or information about work that your LAF has been doing

Up to four places are available per LAF, open to members and your officer – the event will start at 12:30 with a buffet lunch, and will finish by 4pm. It is free of charge, but your appointing authority is asked to reimburse you for travel costs.

**Please reply by 9th February** using the form overleaf, preferably by fax to 01962 845335 or by email to [cath.hart@hants.gov.uk](mailto:cath.hart@hants.gov.uk)

**As you can see, we'd like to know which subjects would be most useful to you and also if your LAF has some good practice to share, so please do let us know!** We will send a formal agenda to those attending at a later date.

We hope to make it a lively and inspiring day, so we do hope that you can attend!

Yours faithfully

**Cath Hart**  
**Regional LAF Co-ordinator**

Which LAF are you from? ...SLOUGH.....

LAF officer: .....JACQUI WHEELER.....

Tel: 01753 477 479

Email : jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk.....

Who will be attending?

- 1... ..... 2. ....  
3. .... 4. ....

Which of the following workshops would be of interest?

Subject	Of interest?			Could your LAF lead, or contribute experiences?
	Yes	Maybe	No	
LAF role in influencing countryside access for major new housing		√		
LAF role in dealing with gating orders	√			
How and why to work with Parish Councils	√			
Discovering Lost Ways – a role for LAFs?		√		
Are multi-user routes a good thing? What should they look like?	√			
The commons register & managing commons – a LAF role?			√	
Publicising the work of your LAF effectively		√		
How to work with the local community	√			
Equestrian access on Forestry Commission land – are permits needed?			√	
Managing 'off road' motor vehicle use – LAF involvement			√	
Adding informal access land to Ordnance Survey maps		√		
Your suggestion::				
Your suggestion::				

Which of the following presentations would be of interest (please circle)?

YES MAYBE NO Coastal access  
YES MAYBE NO Work of the England Access Forum & South East LAF  
YES MAYBE NO Communication across the region – eg sharing best practice

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**Return by 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, pref by email or fax, to: [cath.hart@hants.gov.uk](mailto:cath.hart@hants.gov.uk); Fax 01962 845335**  
**Cath Hart, Access Development Team, Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council,**  
**Mottisfont Court, High Street, Winchester SO23 8ZF**

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