

## APPENDIX D

### WEST BERKSHIRE ROWIP - ACTION PLAN UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2010

Priorities are: **H** High Priority (guide: years 1 to 2) **M** Medium Priority (guide: years 2 to 5) **O** Ongoing (work already started and ongoing)

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) themes and objectives	ROWIP Reference	Priority	Progress September 2010
<b>A well-maintained and safe access network</b>			
Produce a strategy to reduce the instances of laying of unauthorized tarmacadam surfaces on PROW and a policy to set out the District Council's approach to tarmacadam on PROW.	ROWIP 1	H	
Carry out a complete condition survey of all Definitive PROW at least every ten years.	ROWIP 2	O	Completed 2009.
Investigate the feasibility of a limited scheme to remunerate landowners for carrying out repair, maintenance and improvement works on PROW.	ROWIP 3	M	
Review measures to ensure that landowners maintain all hedges adjacent to PROW so as to prevent obstruction of PROW by overgrowth.	ROWIP 4	M	Underway via use of 2009 survey data
Formally adopt the draft policy governing the maintenance of PROW used for access to residential properties, farms and other private land or establishments.	ROWIP 5	H	Draft produced and being used as a procedure. Adoption in progress.
Produce a design and consultation protocol for the repair, replacement and installation of bridges on PROW.	ROWIP 6	M	
Review PROW sign and waymark designs to reduce future instances of fading and unauthorized relocation or redirection.	ROWIP 7	H	
Remedy all unresolved PROW signage defects by the end of April each year.	ROWIP 8	O	Annual winter signposting programme resumes soon for 2010/11.
Produce a prioritization scheme for physical works, vegetation clearance and enforcement on PROW.	ROWIP 9	H	Prioritisation scheme in progress. Annual maintenance and improvement programme continues, using the 'Milestones Statement' basic prioritisation criteria.
<b>A legally-recorded PROW network</b>			
'Consolidate' and publish the Definitive Map and Statement in a clear and useable format.	ROWIP 10	M	
Each year to complete the processing of the annually-agreed list of applications for modification orders and path orders.	ROWIP 11	O	2010/11 case aprogramme on target for completion.

<b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) themes and objectives</b>	<b>ROWIP Reference</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Progress September 2010</b>
<b>Produce a published prioritization scheme for dealing with applications for modification orders and applications for path orders.</b>	ROWIP 12	H	Draft produced and being followed.
<b>Carry out risk assessments for trees within PROW and formulate a prioritized plan of action to ensure the safety of PROW users.</b>	ROWIP 13	H	In progress using 2009 survey data. To concentrate on hazards and heavily-used routes, mechanism to evaluate the trees yet to be decided.
<b>Consider appropriate legal mechanisms to recognize acquisition of cycling rights along urban public footpaths.</b>	ROWIP 14	M	
<b>An environmentally-sustainable access network</b>			
<b>Investigate methods to prevent fly-tipping and littering of PROW and also improved methods for clearance of litter and fly-tipping when instances occur.</b>	ROWIP 15	H	
<b>Investigate improved sustainable procurement practices.</b>	ROWIP 16	H	An initial meeting with WBC sustainability officer held.
<b>Introduce improved environmentally-sustainable working practices, which also protect and enhance biodiversity and historic landscape and features.</b>	ROWIP 17	H	To be discussed with WBC's ecologist Oct/Nov 2010
<b>Providing information / promoting the use of the access network</b>			
<b>Increase the availability of PROW / access information and promotional material and explore greater use of a wider range of formats, to compliment relevant work carried out by others.</b>	ROWIP 18		WBC web site to be improved to provide more user-friendly information and searches for access information (agreed with Local Access Forum)
<b>Support parish councils, parish plan groups, and others, to increase the range and availability of promotional material for PROW / access.</b>	ROWIP 19	O	Support given (advice, maps and sometimes financial) on a reactive basis.
<b>Education / encouragement of responsible behaviour</b>			
<b>Produce published material to provide information about PROW / access and about the responsibilities of PROW users, landowners and other bodies.</b>	ROWIP 20	H	Initial consideration given.
<b>Produce a formal policy for the management of vehicular use and vehicular surfaces, with the aim of improving the condition of PROW used by recreational vehicles.</b>	ROWIP 21	H	Draft approved by LAF and being followed by WBC as a procedure.
<b>Implement procedures to remove unsuitable PROW from published satellite navigation routes.</b>	ROWIP 22	M	
<b>Continue to contribute access information to the "Greenways" newsletter.</b>	ROWIP 23	O	Contribution made twice a year.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) themes and objectives	ROWIP Reference	Priority	Progress September 2010
Explore opportunities to work with schools within the National Curriculum to increase understanding of the role of access within the countryside and the responsibilities of citizens.	ROWIP 24	M	
<b>Development of new and improved access</b>			
Seek to promote, improve and create (where necessary) safe and commodious links between, within and around population centres, rural and urban facilities, attractions and transport interchanges.	ROWIP 25	O	
Seek to promote, improve and create (where necessary) suitable routes to school and consider an increased maintenance programme for these routes.	ROWIP 26	O	Some improvements carried out following requests from the School Travel Plan Officer.
Seek greater partnership with businesses, landowners and partners, to secure the provision of additional permissive or Definitive access for all users.	ROWIP 27	O	One HLS access scheme has recently been submitted for comment, and DEFRA officers have been made more aware of the need to consider access as an option for HLS payments.
Increase the provision of suitable equestrian routes where existing provision is low or fragmented, and where demand is high, especially routes which facilitate riding to and from livery yards without the need for horseboxes.	ROWIP 28	O	The LAF working group has chosen the Chieveley area as a pilot to implement improvements identified in the Chieveley Parish Plan. WBC rights of way officers are assisting with the work.
Develop circular interlinking equestrian and cycle routes around settlements ("community circuits") which also link to longer rides.	ROWIP 29	O	The LAF working group has chosen the Chieveley area as a pilot to implement improvements identified in the Chieveley Parish Plan. WBC rights of way officers are assisting with the work.
Investigate increased access for equestrians and carriages on West Berkshire-managed commons.	ROWIP 30	O	
<b>Physical improvements to the access network</b>			
Research and implement mechanisms to realign the road user hierarchy in favour of non-motorized transport modes, especially walking (Local Transport Plan 2, policy WI9).	ROWIP 31	O	
Work with partners in rural areas to identify opportunities for improving the safety of the physical environment, in particular for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders (Local Transport Plan 2, policy RSI 7).	ROWIP 32	O	
Implement measures to ensure that all gates on equestrian routes are easily-openable from horseback, using best practice gate and latch designs and gate configurations. Consider the installation of mounting blocks where dismounting cannot be avoided.	ROWIP 33	O	Rights of Way Officer Sallie Jennings is starting this project and will liaise with the BHS.

<b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) themes and objectives</b>	<b>ROWIP Reference</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Progress September 2010</b>
<b>Increase the numbers of PROW signposts indicating destinations, distances and local attractions.</b>	ROWIP 34	O	
<b>Improve the signage of PROW in and around West Berkshire's countryside sites.</b>	ROWIP 35	M	Some Walk4Life waymarks have been installed as part of Natural England's scheme for 1 mile and 1-3 mile routes. More routes likely to be identified and waymarked in the future.
<b>Implement measures to improve signage and promotion of all permitted access.</b>	ROWIP 36	M	
<b>Implement measures to improve management and promotion of open access land and links to and from access land.</b>	ROWIP 37	M	
<b>Improving accessibility for all users</b>			
<b>Identify routes and circuits which are suitable for promotion for use by those with restricted mobility, including within countryside sites. Promote and sign the routes in terms of grading and carry out works, where needed.</b>	ROWIP 38	O	Two projects now underway, led by a volunteer working with WBC. These are at Purley and Tilehurst. The WBC Disability Panel will be consulted on plans in November 2010.
<b>Continue to provide buggies, for those with restricted mobility, at West Berkshire countryside sites.</b>	ROWIP 39	O	
<b>Continue to improve the accessibility of structures on rights of way, and introduce and implement new incentives for landowners to do likewise.</b>	ROWIP 40	O	Ongoing work to replace defective stiles with more accessible structures. In addition, the Ramblers' Work Party continues to install one gate every two weeks.
<b>Implement improved promotion of access to the PROW / access network for Walking the Way to Health participants.</b>	ROWIP 41	H	Some Walk4Life waymarks have been installed as part of Natural England's scheme for 1 mile and 1-3 mile routes. More routes likely to be identified and waymarked in the future.
<b>Establish greater dialogue with ethnic minority groups, children and young people and groups which traditionally do not visit the countryside, to produce an action plan to encourage and maintain participation.</b>	ROWIP 42	M	
<b>Support measures to provide shower, clothes-drying and cycle-parking facilities at schools, work places and other destinations, to encourage non-car transport.</b>	ROWIP 43		
<b>Audit car park barriers on the access network, and seek to ensure that access is possible for horseboxes, where appropriate.</b>	ROWIP 44	H	

<b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) themes and objectives</b>	<b>ROWIP Reference</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Progress September 2010</b>
<b>Seek new car parking, cycle parking and horsebox / trailer parking on the access network, where there is a potential need.</b>	ROWIP 45	O	
<b>Working with partners</b>			
<b>Provide support, where needed, to other bodies whose aspirations compliment those of this ROWIP.</b>	ROWIP 46	O	
<b>Encourage parish councils to use their full range of powers where appropriate and support the appointment of parish council public rights of way officers.</b>	ROWIP 47	O	WBC planning to produce a simple guide for parish councils on what improvements they can make to the access network and where WBC or other bodies can assist. Ongoing support and advice given.
<b>Arrange formal rights of way training for parish public rights of way officers, parish plan teams and voluntary groups.</b>	ROWIP 48	O	
<b>Continue to provide support and direction to voluntary groups and to encourage the participation of volunteers of all ages in access work.</b>	ROWIP 49	O	'ROAR, the two Ramblers' Work parties and parish-based volunteers are all supported despite the recent loss of the Capital Projects Officer who was doing this work.
<b>Support the access work identified within parish plans and 'Area Visions'.</b>	ROWIP 50	O	Support given, work led by Corporate Policy section.
<b>Improving working practices and customer care</b>			
<b>Create a comprehensive PROW / access library incorporating controlled copies.</b>	ROWIP 51	H	The internal WBC electronic library is being improved at the moment.
<b>Use all appropriate internal District Council communication channels to inform relevant parties of developments in PROW / access work.</b>	ROWIP 52	O	
<b>Improve the efficiency and speed of use of available legal powers in relation to PROW.</b>	ROWIP 53	O	Much work has been done in the last two year and this is greatly improved. Further consideration is being given to how to improve the efficiency of legal processes in relation to enforcement.
<b>Improve awareness of land management priorities and procedures amongst District Council PROW staff.</b>	ROWIP 54	H	Ongoing training taking place.
<b>Liaise more closely with West Berkshire's Planning and Transport Strategy group, and other planning consultees, so as to benefit the PROW / access network.</b>	ROWIP 55	O	WBC rights of way officer attends the LTP3 planning meetings and the Cycle Forum. LTP officers are informed of relevant rights of way work.

<b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) themes and objectives</b>	<b>ROWIP Reference</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Progress September 2010</b>
<b>Funding</b>			
<b>Investigate the feasibility of a grant scheme for access work by parish councils, parish plan groups and others, taking into account funding already available.</b>	ROWIP 56	M	WBC planning to produce a simple guide for parish councils on what improvements they can make to the access network and where WBC or other bodies can assist.
<b>Seek to involve community and special interest groups in funding and delivering small access schemes.</b>	ROWIP 57	O	
<b>Investigate opportunities for external and grant funding for PROW/ access projects.</b>	ROWIP 58	O	Some external funding has been secured. Possible sources being investigated as part of present service reviews.
<b>Monitoring / continued consultation</b>			
<b>Continue to receive and consider requests for improved access, and to incorporate them into an annually-updated list of requests for specific access improvements.</b>	ROWIP 59	O	Annual ongoing process of planning and implementation.
<b>The Mid and West Berkshire Local Access Forum to advise on implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</b>	ROWIP 60	O	
<b>Learn and listen to views of others, at the same time seeking and implementing best practice in relation to PROW / access work.</b>	ROWIP 61	O	
<b>Implement an effective internal method of recording good practice and lessons learnt in PROW / access work, for the benefit of present and future staff.</b>	ROWIP 62	H	Shared electronic system being increasingly used.
<b>Produce an annual progress report on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Action Plan.</b>	ROWIP 63	O	Annual progress report on the Action Plan to be presented.