



Rights of Way
Bedford Borough Council
Borough Hall
Cauldwell Street
Bedford
MK42 9AP

24 December 2018

Dear Parish Council

Rights of Way in Bedford Borough

The Borough of Bedford Local Access Forum is an independent mandatory body, run by volunteers and set up to advise Bedford Borough Council on Access and Rights of Way.

Please find below an introduction to the accompanying Borough's briefing note / paper on identifying 'Lost Ways', a section on the Parish Maps you have been sent and if you haven't done so already please nominate a contact for access and rights of way matters / issues.

Lost Ways.

The Government has allowed until 1st January 2026 for any 'Lost Ways', i.e. paths that have been used in the past but not captured on the Definitive Map of the Local Authority, to be identified.

After this time no old paths or tracks will be allowed to be added to the Definitive Map using historical evidence. This move should remove uncertainty for developers as to whether any developments could be disrupted by the identification of a historic path or track through the development which could then lead to the creation of a new public right of way.

Please find attached a briefing note / paper generated by Bedford Borough Council which describes how 'Lost Ways' might be identified and what sort of information is required to enable the Borough Council to start the process of incorporating any Lost Ways into the Public Right of Way Network.

Whilst resources prevent Bedford Borough proactively looking for Lost Ways they will, if there is sufficient interest, hold a Workshop on how Parish Councils or individuals might gather sufficient information for the Borough Council to take identified paths through the legal process required for them to become Public Rights of Way.

Please can you advise the BoBLAF secretary as to whether your Parish Council or a local resident would be interested in attending such a workshop

Parish Maps

Your Parish Council has previously been sent a map of your parish which showed all the public rights of way in your parish. Please can you advise the BoBLAF whether there were any problems loading the Parish Map sent to you onto your Parish Council's or other local website. Please can you also confirm the zoom feature of the map worked correctly.

Below is a link to the Borough Council's Definitive Map which will give visibility as to how the rights of way shown in your parish map link up with those in surrounding parishes.

http://www.bedford.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside/public_rights_of_way/online_maps.aspx

Contacts.

If you haven't done so already please could your Parish Council nominate a point of contact / champion for access and rights of way matters and provide their contact details. If you would prefer your Clerk to be this prime point of contact then please can you inform the BoBLAF secretary accordingly.

Please can you respond to this letter by 31st January as the BoBLAF have an early February meeting and it can address any problems highlighted.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Jacobs

BoBLAF Chair