



What do we want from you?

If you are planning to consult on any matter which has an impact on the countryside or public rights of way or if you are working in an area that you feel may be of particular interest to the Central Bedfordshire and Luton Joint Local Access Forum, the LAF would like to hear from you.

Also, if you are interested in joining the Forum, please contact the Forum secretaries Sarah Smalley and Gabriella Jeavons-Fellows at:

JLAFSecretary@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 300 4934 and 0300 300 6888

Countryside Access Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, First Floor - East, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 5TQ

Further information on the Forum, its meetings and a full member list can be found at:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/jlaf/default.aspx>



Your Local Access Forum

Local Access Forums (LAFs) are independent advisory bodies, statutorily required by Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. Your LAF is made up of independent members appointed by Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council and provides advice on the improvement of public access to land within its area for the purpose of open air recreation.

The LAF also considers the needs of land management and the value of conserving the natural beauty of the area including its flora, fauna and geological features.

Your LAF comprises twenty two appointed members, representing users, land owners and occupiers of access land or land encompassing local rights of way. Members live or work within the Central Bedfordshire or Luton areas, so maintain an interest in local matters and are able to share their knowledge and experiences. The Chair of the LAF is elected by the members and supported by an officer of Central Bedfordshire Council as secretary.





What does your LAF do?

Your LAF consists of members with a wide range of skills. It provides independent, constructive, incisive and informed advice on the following matters:

- Public rights of way, including management of public rights of way, use of motorised vehicles on public rights of way and Rights of Way Improvement.
- Public Access Land relevant to Part 1 of the CROW Act 2000
- Other public access issues including local strategies, plans or initiatives which incorporate or affect access and recreation
- Common Land
- Other forms of access e.g. permissive access
- Land use planning policies and planning applications especially Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)
- National Policy Development

The LAF meets approximately six times per year, with sub-group meetings in between, to provide advice on a wide range of topics. Recent topics have included:

- Luton's Local Plan
- Central Bedfordshire's Outdoor Access Improvement Plan
- Central Bedfordshire Council's Proposed Dog Control Orders
- East Coast Mainline Proposed Level Crossing Closures
- Establishment of a non-motorised user forum for the A5 – M1 link road
- Gating Orders in Luton
- Central Bedfordshire Council's Rights of Way Maintenance Policy

Current priorities include ensuring local authorities progress definitive maps for the excluded areas of Luton, Biggleswade and Dunstable and increased recruitment and representation from Luton members and Councillors.

In addition, the LAF is keen to increase inclusivity and opportunities for all ages within the countryside due to the benefits that this can offer. It is also keen to be able to endorse procedures and guidelines as well as support the Local Authorities in their responses to consultations.

