SEBR – Footpath Secretary's Report – AGM 4th November 2026

As in previous years, the has been quite a lot of activity on Bracknell Forests Rights of Way and Open spaces. I continue to chair the Local Countryside Access Forum. This forum enables us to keep up to date with and advise on rights of way, open spaces and SANG developments in the borough.

A wish list for new Rights of Way and access routes is maintained – of 18 proposals, 5 have now been implemented and others are progressing.

Activity this year has included:

- Proposals for diversions of Binfield FP 14 & 15 within the planned new housing at Amen Corner South. These are relatively minor and we may end up with more usable paths – albeit within a residential estate.
- The council issued a Definitive Path Modification Order to upgrade Sandhurst FP12 to a bridleway following a submission by the British Horse Society based on the 20-year use rule. Wokingham council came to the same conclusion for the section of the path that continues into their territory. There was an objection from a landowner, so this is likely to go to a planning inspector.
- Crowthorne Parish Council has proposed that Crowthorne FP1 be upgraded to a bridleway – this path runs south from Crowthorne station adjacent to the railway towards Sandhurst. It is already regularly used by cyclists.
- The new footbridge over The Cut on Warfield 7 has opened – part paid by SEBR.

Significant work is going into the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan – a legal requirement to be renewed every 10 years. User surveys have been completed, and a public consultation is expected early in 2027. I am working closely with the council on this.

The council has been active with path maintenance, vegetation clearance, new signage, boardwalk and footbridge repair around the borough. We are fortunate that, despite financial pressures, we continue to have strong support for rights of way and countryside access from both the council and the Crown Estate.

Colin Bird – Footpath Secretary