

Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum

Guidelines for Public Participation

Welcome to a meeting of the Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum. The Forum is a statutory independent advisory body established by Oxfordshire County Council since 2003 under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum gives advice to the County Council and others on improving access to Oxfordshire's Countryside. See over the page for a summary of members.

Please take note of these few rules that are there so that people know what they should and shouldn't be doing -

- All public meetings will be advertised in advance on the 'OCAF' section of the County Council's website. www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/OCAF
- Agendas, papers and minutes of the meeting will be available to the public on the County Council's website as above and at our Oxford office (address below), normally at least three days before meetings
- The main meetings of the Forum will be open public meetings, and will be held in venues that are wheelchair accessible. However the Forum's Chair will be able to exclude people in order to suppress or prevent disorderly or disruptive behaviour.
- Members of the public can speak during meetings normally **provided** that they have given 2 working days notice to the Secretariat. This provision may be relaxed at the discretion of the Chair. Speaking will normally be limited to 5 minutes on an item relating to the published agenda. The Chair may reduce this time limit because of the length of the agenda or the number of people wanting to speak.
- In addition an open Question and Answer session will be held at the end of each meeting, normally for fifteen minutes, where members of the public may ask direct questions on any subject related to the work of the Forum. The Chair may reduce or increase this time limit with regard to the number of people wanting to speak.
- When speaking it is necessary to keep to the subject, avoid defamatory, offensive or abusive language, and keep to time.
- **The Chair's decision is final on all matters relating to public participation in Forum meetings**

Forum Contact:

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Oxfordshire Countryside Access Forum members 2017/18

Land Manager interests

- **Andrew Hawkins** Woodland owner, woodland management, conservation, tree management, wildlife, education, walking and cycling.
- **Philip Chamberlain** Third generation arable farmer nr Wallingford. Involved in Home Grown Cereal Authority, the Oxfordshire Farming Group and Rothamsted Research. Hosts educational visits about food production and conservation. Farm includes permissive access.
- **Harry St John** Land Agent, land management, conservation management, land and highway law.

User interests

- **Dave Cavanagh** Keen walker, active participant in PRow maintenance, and member of the Ridgeway Trail Partnership. Vice-chair and Joint Area Footpath Secretary of Oxfordshire Area Ramblers.
- **Christopher Gowers** Solicitor and teacher, countryside law and practice as user and practitioner, local history, highway engineering, commons, fundraising, Citizens Education Trust.
- **John Griffin** Cyclist and walker (for transport and recreation), Parish Councillor, Chilterns Conservation Board member. Planning, countryside, community and sustainability
- **Mathew Judson** Motorised use of the countryside with Green Lane Association. User of rights of way as leader of Scout group and pedal cycle user
- **Stuart McGinness** (*Chair of OCAF*) Off-road cycling. Trail leader and club coach. Chair of Witney Mountain Bike Club
- **Sarah Martin** Walking and cycling, botany, farming. Path and habitat creation and repair. Community fundraising.
- **Troth Wells** (*Vice-chair of OCAF*) Equestrian access to the countryside and urban green spaces. County Access and Bridleways Officer, British Horse Society; Chair of Oxford Area Bridleways Association.

Other interests

- **Gordon Garraway** Executive Committee Member of CPRE Oxfordshire and a CPRE Rights of Way Consultant, working on improving access to the countryside and developing recreational walking routes such as the Oxford Green Belt Way. Member of Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) Panel for Oxfordshire which awards funds for environmental and community projects.
- **Anne Luttmann-Johnson** Solicitor, disability specialist. Wheelchair access to the countryside, education, farming.

Designated Appointing Authority Cabinet Member

- **Cllr Yvonne Constance OBE** Oxfordshire County Council Member for Shrivenham Division. Cabinet Member for Environment

Applications and expressions of interest for new members are welcomed all the time - especially from farmers, people with disabilities, young people, black and ethnic minorities and other interests not currently represented. Contact the Secretary in the first instance