



Meeting of the West Sussex Local Access Forum Wednesday 25 July 2018

A meeting of the West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) was held at **10.00am Wednesday 25 July 2018** at **County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RQ**.

Confirmed Minutes

Present

Graham Elvey (GE) – Chairman
Tricia Butcher (TB) – Vice-Chairman
Helen Baldwin (HB)

Geoff Farrell (GF)
Jason Lavender (JL)
Derek Whittington (DW)

In attendance

Jane Noble (JN) Forum Officer, WSCC
Jo Dixon (JD) Countryside Services Manager, WSCC
Jon Perks (JP) Principal Rights of Way Officer, WSCC
Fliss Drewett (FD) Highways England Deputy Route Sponsor (South Central Sussex)

Observers

Sally Kerr, carriage driver (SK)

Action

		Action
1.	<p>Welcomes and apologies</p> <p>GE welcomed Felicity Drewett, Highways England (HE), Deputy Route Sponsor South Central – Sussex Highways, who had stepped in at short notice as Peter Phillips was unable to attend.</p> <p>Sally Kerr, carriage driver, was welcomed as an observer.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Pete Bradbury (PB), Paul Brown (PEB) and Duncan Crow (DC).</p> <p>JD was thanked for her help and support over the last year as this is her last meeting. Charlotte Weller is returning as Countryside Manager, from her maternity leave, on 1 August.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the Forum</p> <p>The minutes of the WSLAF meeting held on 31 January 2018 were approved as correct.</p>	
3.	<p>Actions and matters arising not covered by agenda</p> <p>All actions from the previous meeting had either been completed or would be covered later in the Agenda, other than:</p> <p>5b. A27 near Arundel Bypass Scheme – Possible adjacent NMU A27 crossing improvements (Potwell Copse/Poling Crossroads) – action to apply to HE for funding to be added to Forum’s Work Programme.</p> <p>12b. Work Programme: JN to establish if National Rail (NR) is proposing closures in Forum’s area – two, possibly three, applications</p>	GE/JN

	<p>from NR are awaiting investigation and determination by WSCC, as shown in RoW Committee papers. NR has not chased. JN will ensure they are brought to the Forum's attention at the appropriate time.</p> <p>14. Dates of meetings – Next meeting will be Wednesday 31 October at Buchan Country Park.</p>	
4.	<p>Any urgent matters to be considered not on the agenda</p> <p>DW raised the Environment Agency's proposals for the footpath close to Shoreham Airport. <i>(DW raised this with JP after the meeting).</i></p> <p>SK raised issues with the new Restricted Byways in Stoughton. <i>(SK raised this with JP after the meeting).</i></p>	
5.	<p>A27 Arundel Bypass; Preferred Route – Fliss Drewett, Deputy Route Sponsor (South Central – Sussex), Highways England</p> <p>The discussion and question and answer session covered:</p> <p><u>A27 Arundel Preferred Route</u></p> <p>There are significant traffic issues in and around Arundel and, following consultation, HE has identified a preferred option for a bypass, option 5a (modified), which goes to the south of the town. There has been an application for a judicial review questioning if HE followed the proper process. A review could result in amendments to the route. If the application is allowed, a date will be confirmed for a hearing (probably in the Autumn), and this will result in a delay to the scheme. FD confirmed that regardless of the outcome there will be another public consultation on detailed route/s, probably in early 2019. This would give interested groups and individuals another opportunity to comment.</p> <p>There was a discussion about how consultation statistics are derived, about increased traffic generated by new/improved roads and whether alternative solutions had been seriously considered. It was acknowledged that new development generates a need for roads, and that if it is easy to travel people will. Some felt a bypass would itself become congested in a decade or so. One member stated that road schemes bring about economic benefits.</p> <p>FD highlighted there is a walk/cycle route next to the road as part of option 5a and that HE will look at crossings. GF had provided FD with some questions and she said she would take them away and do her best to find answers.</p> <p>TB requested that the walk/ cycle route shown along the northern side of the present A27 be a multi-use route (MUR), as this will provide a key link to the wider Rights of Way network. There was some discussion about non-motorised users (NMU) routes next to carriageways, and although all preferred them to be offset, it is generally felt that some provision is better than no provision. FD gave some examples of good MURs (bridges with parapets of a height suitable for horses, routes off-set etc). FD stated she hadn't seen details for option 5a, and will raise NMU provision with those involved in the design. FD highlighted that a new HE NMU group is to be established specifically for the Arundel Bypass scheme. It is important that interest groups make their wishes known via this group. JN to provide members contact details to FD so they can be invited to participate.</p>	<p>FD</p> <p>FD</p> <p>JN</p>

	<p>A23 – Bridleway provision at Newtimber</p> <p>HE has produced a feasibility report outlining preferred options for bridleway provision from the A23/B2133 junction going south, on both the east and west sides. FD explained there has been a legal challenge in connection with their preferred route on the eastern side. This matter is currently being considered by HE's legal team with the expectation that HE will liaise/consult WSCC PRow team as appropriate, and FD will pass on Jon Perks' details.</p> <p>GE thanked FD, in particular for stepping in at short notice.</p>	FD
6.	<p>WSCC Public Rights of Way Annual Report – Jon Perks, WSCC</p> <p>The WSCC PRow Annual Report had been previously circulated giving a flavour of the works completed last year. To show the breadth and scale of work WSCC carries out JP showed a video of the new 20m, single span, footbridge being installed over the River Adur, on the Ashurst/Henfield border. This is the county's first fibre polymer (FRP) bridge. The footpath had been closed since 2014 due to the previous bridge being rotten and unusable at high tide.</p> <p>A question and answer session followed.</p> <p>Q - What happens to low priority issues?</p> <p>A – They are logged into CAMS (PRow IT management system). An outstanding issues report and map is used by the Access Ranger or volunteer Parish Path inspector (PPI) carrying out routine inspections, so all issues are monitored. If a problem is no longer present on site the issue is closed, or if the condition has deteriorated works will be carried out by the maintenance contractor or the landowner notified. Where appropriate, and resources allow, WSCC feeds back actions to the person who reported the problem.</p> <p>JL – The system worked well and he received good feedback from WSCC regarding a dangerous tree he reported.</p> <p>Q – Would a path off-line get reinstated?</p> <p>A – Use does not change the legal 'definitive' route. If a path is unavailable, where there is an alternative route or if no one has reported it, it is a lower priority. WSCC does try to resolve off-line path issues where opportunities arise but it can often be time consuming.</p> <p>Q – What is the progress on the Downs Link at Christs Hospital?</p> <p>A – It is a long standard ambition to re-route the Downs Link at Christ's Hospital. WSCC has monies secured and support from the landowner. A revised route is now being looked into due to the adverse impact on an ancient woodland of the original planned route. The timescales at present are uncertain. See Item 10.</p> <p>GE thanked JP.</p>	
7.	<p>Current / future consultations and advice given</p> <p>a) Current Consultations</p> <p>i. Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation – Arun DC (closing date 5pm on Friday 17 August)</p>	

	2018). Member to send comments to GE by Friday 10 August.	All
	<p>b) WSLAF response to consultations and advice given since the last meeting. The following responses were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Land West Of New Monks Farm, Mash Barn Lane, Lancing, West Sussex – amend plans, ref AWDM/0961/17 – Adur and Worthing District Councils (Feb 2018 + response to revised planning application June 2018) ii. Main Modifications to the Arun Local Plan (2011-2031) – Arun District Council (Feb 2018) iii. Heath Common Design Statement – Horsham District Council (April 2018) iv. Health and Harmony (Farming post Brexit) – Defra (May 2018) v. A27 Crossings – WSP (May 2018) vi. Local Plan Review – Issues & Options – Employment, Tourism & Sustainable Rural Development – HDC (May 2018) vii. National Planning Policy Framework – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (May 2018) viii. Rosier Wood Management Plan (May 2018) ix. 2018 Strategic Transport Investment Programme (STIP) scheme suggestions – WSCC (July 2018). DW queried the grid reference provided for one of the schemes. JN to check <p><i>Copies of the above have been circulated to Forum members separately and can be viewed on the Forum web pages: www.wslaf.org</i></p>	JN
	<p>c) Local Plan update (TB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Arun Local Plan – Arun District Council adopted the Arun Local Plan (2011-2031) at the Full Council meeting on 18 July 2018. ii. South Downs Local Plan - The Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. 	
8.	<p>Stewardship Higher Level Scheme access in West Sussex – GE</p> <p>WSLAF's post Brexit Access paper was submitted to DEFRA during the Government's consultation in May.</p> <p>There are 11 Defra Countryside Walks in West Sussex outside of the South Downs. GE/JN will circulate a map and details of these. Members are asked to volunteer to inspect them.</p>	All
9.	<p>Rights of Way Management Plan (RoWMP) – JN</p> <p>JN handed out hard copies of the West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan 2018-2028, which is also available on the WSCC web pages. She explained it was a live document and that a short progress report would be produced annually.</p> <p>Forum members commented that they felt it was much better than the draft and that it was good to include Action 11b – WSLAF support.</p>	
10.	<p>Improvement Projects (TB)</p> <p>LW34 - A23 Newtimber Bridleways – HE's initial feasibility study has been completed and the report is very positive. JP and TB have submitted comments which are being taken into account for the next stage, however FD</p>	

reports (see Item 5) that HE has recently received a legal challenge to its plans which is being considered.

LW10 - Downs Link at Christ's Hospital – due to a change in regulations the originally planned route (from the old station platforms down the embankment to the tunnel) is being re-designed due to its impact on ancient woodland. This has delayed the design process.

HW3 – A264 Kilnwood Vale Pegasus crossing - works are completed and the Pegasus crossing, and the bridleway links on both sides, are open for use. Unfortunately, a vehicle has demolished one of the signal posts and fencing on the middle island. However the crossing appears to be working well and there is evidence of use by all NMUs.

RoWIP Projects lists – TB outlined that both WSCC and WSLAF have devoted many hours of work into investigating and maintaining the project lists, which came from 'blue sky thinking' for route improvements over a decade ago as part of the development of the original Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). There is no duty to deliver RoWIP schemes and there has been no ring-fenced funding to do so. TB now feels that in light of WSCC Highways change of procedures approximately 2 years ago, regarding accessing funding (particularly S106 and CIL developer funding), and the development of a better relationship with Highways Officers, it is time to look again and consider where the optimum delivery mechanism for projects will be.

TB suggested that schemes WSLAF think feasible and would like to see delivered (including upgrades) are now incorporated into other appropriate projects lists, such as the Local Transport Investment Programme (LTIP), or the Strategic Transport Investment Programme (STIP) (both of which are essential for funding). Additional feasible schemes can be held in the Walking & Cycling Strategy, or on an Equestrian project list that TB is developing. TB believes the remaining North of the Downs and Coastal Plain project lists, should be kept by JN (for any future reference), but will not in the future be worked on or updated.

The Forum still has concerns that the scoring criteria associated with LTIP and STIP are weighted against RoW projects in the countryside which have more leisure, recreational, safety and health benefits. The criteria appears to greatly favour urban, utility projects with more economic value. There needs to be a balance which is seen to be fair to users, and WSLAF will endeavour to highlight this whenever possible.

GF stated that Nick Scott has returned to WSCC as a LTIP Project Officer. Already WSCC is benefiting from better management of developer funding.

DW commented that it is not just about large schemes and referred to a Safe Route to School project, where a path has been tarmacked behind a hedge so children can avoid using the road. Landowner agreement was key. Projects need to be deliverable.

TB confirmed that WSLAF will continue to monitor and report on key schemes that the Forum has been involved with, which already have funding and are at the point of being delivered.

Forum members agreed to this approach.

11.	WSLAF Work Programme GE explained GE, TB and JN had met and updated the work programme, which had been circulated to members. He asked if there were any additions, amendments or deletions required and for members to identify other speakers or site visits. A new item has been added; to pull out key policies from Local Plan documents to make it easier to respond to consultations. JP, WSCC, is already working on Mid-Sussex. The following volunteered: NB/HB (Chichester), TB (Arun, Adur, Crawley) and GE (Worthing and Horsham).	GE/TB/ HB/NB/JP
12.	General Report Members were not aware Christine Luff had retired and wished her well in the future. Members noted the new name for G-class highways.	
13.	Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 31st October 2018 (morning) - Buchan Country Park. JN to circulate further meeting dates	JN
14.	AOB – None	

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

Action Summary

	Item	Who	When <small>NM-next meeting</small>
3.	5b. A27 near Arundel Bypass Scheme - Possible adjacent NMU A27 crossing improvements (Potwell Copse/Poling Crossroads - application for HE for funding - to be added to Forum's Work Programme.	GE,JN	NM
5.	A27 Arundel bypass, preferred route - FD to provide answers to GF's questions - FD to pass on Forum's comments to NE designers regarding provision of MUR - JN to pass WSLAF contact details so they can be considered for the NMU group	FD FD JN	NM
5.	A23 – Bridleway provision at Newtimber – FD to pass on JP's contact details.	FD	
7ai.	Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Consultation – Arun DC. Members to send comments to GE.	All / GE	10/8/18
7bix	WSLAF response to 2018 Strategic Transport Investment Programme (STIP) scheme suggestions – JN to check grid reference.	JN	NM
10.	Higher Level Scheme Stewardship access in West Sussex - Assist assessing existing access	GE,TB,NB	NM

	Item	Who	When NM-next meeting
11.	Pull out key policies from Local Plan documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mid-Sussex - Chichester - Arun, Adur and Crawley - Horsham and Worthing 	JP NB TB GE	
14	Dates of meetings – JN to circulate further dates	JN	