

**1. Agenda Item 8 – Improvement Projects – Tricia Butcher**

1.1 Below is an update on Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) projects that West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) has supported and been involved with (from previous RoWIP project lists) and which are ongoing.

**1.2 LW10 – Downs Link (Christ’s Hospital)**

*New bridleway (BW) between BW 3706 (eastern end) and BW 1642, via Christ’s Hospital station car park, to take Downs Link (DL) users off a 1.5km stretch of busy country road. WSCC funding has been secured for works and the design is in place. WSCC is awaiting resolution of land transfer issue with Network Rail to enable works to take place, which it is hoped will be this year.*

**1.3 HW135 – Balcombe (Greentrees Farm)**

*New BW (subject of claim DMMO 5/06) from Greentrees Farm north to BW79W (Worth). Despite issues with Natural England, WSCC completed drainage and surfacing works on the northern section in October 2018. The BW has been closed over the winter but will be opened to all users shortly.*

**1.4 LW12 – Downs Link (Partridge Green)**

*To provide a safer route for the DL at Partridge Green, where it crosses and follows the B2135 for 500m. It is hoped the option of using an alternative route on existing and new PRow can be taken forward this financial year by WSCC Rights of Way service in partnership with the Parish Council.*

**1.5 LW34 – A23 Newtimber BW**

*To create an official BW route from B2117 to BW5N parallel to A23. Highways England continues to investigate feasibility of route; funding still in place.*

**1.6 LW14 – A281 Downs Link Crossing**

*To improve safety at DL crossing of A281 (Rudgwick) ideally with Pegasus crossing. In early 2018 funding was secured to enable improvements including enlarged waiting areas at the crossing, surfacing and installing a new field gate with gap beside for non-motorised users (NMUs). Regrettably, the initial design resulted in safety issues for horse riders. A meeting was held in February 2019 to try and resolve these.*

Short term, it was agreed to move the field gate so the gap for NMUs was not adjacent to the busy road. New white on green DL signs were requested to alert vehicle drivers. WSCC Highways agreed to investigate the possibility of moving the position of speed limit signs as at present they restrict visibility (particularly crossing north to south) for users of the crossing (especially horse riders).

Suggestion of a Pegasus crossing was discussed, but WSCC Highways advised this would have to be taken forward through a CLC Community Highways Scheme and was very unlikely to meet the criteria. The crossing is considered rural rather than urban, so less priority. Needs speed limit change requiring TRO and therefore speed data on new area requiring speed limit. WSCC policy is evidence based (no accident record), and new speed limit must be enforceable. It would need County Councillor, police and Parish Council support, which is unlikely as the Parish Council has already applied for a

scheme in the village that includes a signalised road crossing on safety grounds (near school) and this is the local community's priority.

## **2. Government response to cycling, walking and investment strategy**

- 2.1 In November 2018 the Department for Transport published its response to the Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy safety review call for evidence, aimed at improving road safety for vulnerable road users including cyclists and pedestrians. The measures are designed to combat road rage and encourage greater mutual respect between road users. The strategy can be viewed [here](#).
- 2.2 The government also announced it will review guidance in the Highway Code on how road users should behave in relation to cyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. The review is expected in 2019.

## **3. 2026 cut-off date for adding historic paths to Definitive Maps**

- 3.1 The 2026 cut-off date for adding historic paths to Definitive Maps was debated in the House of Lords in April 2019. The transcript of the debate can be viewed on the [Hansard website](#).

## **4. Storrington and Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan 2018-31**

- 4.1 The Examiner for the Storrington & Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan 2018-31 has formally released his [report](#) on the Horsham District Council website under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

## **5. WSCC – new cycling routes**

- 5.1 In 2018/19 the following cycling routes were created / improved:
  - National Cycle Route 2 Flansham to Climping: 4.5km
  - Chichester Free School: 0.5km
  - Billingshurst Road, Broadbridge Heath (Phase 2): 0.4km
  - Lower Beach Road / Riverside Road, Shoreham Beach (Adur DC public realm imp): 0.1km
  - Surface upgrade to Bridleway 3727 (Worth Forest): 0.4km
- 5.2 The total of 5.9km slightly exceeds the target of 5.75km.

## **6. WSCC Rights of Way (ROW) Committee**

- 6.1 The last meeting of the Rights of Way Committee was held on 5 March 2019. All papers can be found on the [Rights of Way Committee web pages](#). The next meeting is scheduled for 25 June 2019.
- 6.2 Since the last WSLAF meeting:
  - the following map changes have been made to all or part of the following paths:
    - **Steining FP 2732** – Diversion, S119 Highways Act 1980
    - **Crawley FPs 1528/353SY** – Diversion, S247 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Crawley BC - Planning)
  - four new Definitive Map Modification Order applications, which seek to modify the Definitive Map and Statement, have been formally accepted.

## 7. WSLAF Future Meetings

- 7.1 All formal meetings will start at 10.30am (tea/coffee at 10.15am) and are followed by lunch for members and speakers. Dates, venues and items in italics are suggestions to be confirmed at the meeting.

Date	Type	Venue	Proposed Topic / Speaker to include
17/7/2019	Informal	TBC	TBC
23/10/2019	Formal	Horsham	TBC
5/2/2020 (TBC)	Informal	TBC	TBC
1/4/2020	Formal	TBC	AGM / TBC

Suggested speakers: Forestry Commission, Highways Agency, Network Rail, WSCC Officer to explain Infrastructure Project delivery and role of CLCs.

## 8. Neighbouring LAFs

- 8.1 South Downs Local Access Forum (SDLAF)

The next meetings of the SDLAF are:

- Tuesday 30 April 2019
- Thursday 25 July 2019
- Wednesday 23 October 2019

<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/get-involved/local-access-forum>.

- 8.2 Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum

The next meetings of the BHAF are:

- Thursday 25 April 2019
- Thursday 18 July 2019
- Thursday 17 October 2019

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1238738>

- 8.3 East Sussex Local Access Forum

The next meeting of the ESLAF is:

- Tuesday 18 June 2019
- Tuesday 10 September 2019
- Tuesday 10 December 2019

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/localaccessforum/default.htm>

- 8.4 Hampshire Countryside Access Forum (HCAF)

The next meeting of the HCAF is:

- Wednesday 3 July 2019

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/countryside/hcaf>

- 8.5 Surrey Local Access Forum (SLAF)

- Monday 29 April 2019
- Monday 15 July 2019
- Tuesday 14 October 2019

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/land-planning-and-development/countryside/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/countryside-access-forum>

*Jane Noble, Forum Officer*