

1. West Sussex County Council Rights of Way service, staffing

- 1.1 **Staffing** - Staff continue to work at home where possible, in line with government COVID guidance otherwise it is business as usual, with volunteers assisting with inspections. The Rights of Way service is now fully staffed.
- 1.2 **Volunteer tasks** – Volunteer tasks resumed in mid-April and are mainly concentrating on bridge work that was unable to be carried out in 2020.

2. West Sussex Transport Plan Review Survey

- 2.1 West Sussex County Council is undertaking a review of the West Sussex Transport Plan (WSTP). During autumn 2020 it invited stakeholders, such as local groups, authorities and transport providers, as well as members of the public, to complete a survey to gather information about their key issues and priorities. WSLAF decided not to submit a Forum response, however, members were made aware so they could submit individual responses if they wished. A summary of the survey feedback has now been published and, together with an information about next steps for the Plan Review, is also available on the [West Sussex Transport Plan Review webpage](#).
- 2.2 The survey results are helping to shape the draft version of the plan, which will be published for public consultation in summer 2021. WSCC aims to adopt the plan in early 2022.
- 2.3 The current plan, which covers the 2011-26 period, needs to be reviewed to take account of changes to national and local policy, such as the Government's legally binding commitment to achieve net zero carbon by 2050. The new plan will set out how WSCC aims to continue supporting the economy and communities while protecting the environment. The best approaches to tackle key transport issues such as congestion, road safety and pollution and being considered, and will include all modes of transport.
- 2.4 If you have any questions, or would like to get in touch with the team, please contact lt@westsussex.gov.uk; 01243 642105.

3. WSCC Roadworks and Road Projects

- 3.1 The [WSCC Roadworks and projects webpages](#) provides links to details of current and scheduled roadworks, and updates on major road projects in West Sussex. The [Highways, Transport and Planning Delivery Programme pages](#) provide details of the Capital-funded programme for 2021/22, including public rights of way, and links to a map showing the locations.

4. England Coast Path - East Head to Shoreham-by-Sea

- 4.1 The Secretary of State has approved proposals for improving coastal access under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for the East Head to Shoreham-by-Sea section of the England Coast Path, as set out in [Natural England's report](#). The Secretary of State's decision letter has previously been circulated to WSLAF members.

5. Countryside Code

- 5.1 The new, refreshed [Countryside Code](#) was launched by Natural England before Easter. Key changes to the Countryside Code include:
- New advice for people to 'be nice, say hello, share the space' as well as 'enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory'.
 - A reminder not to feed livestock, horses or wild animals.
 - To stay on marked footpaths, even if they are muddy, to protect crops and wildlife.
 - Information on permissions to do certain outdoor activities, such as wild swimming.
 - Clearer rules for dog walkers to take home dog poo and use their own bin if there are no public waste bins.
 - A refreshed tone of voice, creating a guide for the public rather than a list of rules – recognising the significant health and wellbeing benefits of spending time in nature.
 - New wording to make clear that the code applies to all our natural places, including parks and waterways, coast and countryside.
- 5.2 The pandemic has changed people's relationships with nature. [Evidence from Natural England](#) shows the importance of nature to people's health and wellbeing, with 85% of people surveyed saying that being in nature makes them happy.
- 5.3 Natural England are also setting up a long-term Countryside Code campaign to increase awareness of the Code through 2021 and beyond. The campaign will focus on encouraging behavioural change amongst public audiences to act responsibly when visiting outdoors, by respecting those who manage the land and adhering to the Code.

6. WSCC Planning and Rights of Way Committee and Definitive Map changes

- 6.1 Advertised dates of meetings scheduled for 2021 for the Planning and Rights of Way Committee are shown below:
- 8 Jun 2021 10.30 am
 - 29 Jun 2021 10.30 am
- 6.2 Papers can be found on the [Rights of Way Committee web pages](#).
- 6.3 Since the last WSLAF meeting the following changes have been made to the Definitive Map:
- **Shipley 2360 Footpath 2360** – The path has been diverted. This resolves a long term issue with the used route being off-line.
 - **Colgate Permissive footpath P21 to Buchan Country Park** - The route has been realigned and the permissive path agreement updated.

7. WSLAF Future Meetings

- 7.1 All formal meetings will generally start at 10.30am. Planned dates and venues may change due to COVID guidance.

Date	Type	Venue	Proposed Topic / Speaker to include
14 July 2021	Informal	Online	Work Programme and future speakers
20 October 2021	Formal	Online/Horsham	
January (TBD)	Informal		
27 April 2022	Formal	Online/ Chichester	

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

8. Neighbouring LAFs

8.1 Most neighbouring LAFs are now holding meetings online.

8.2 **[South Downs Local Access Forum](#)**

The next meeting of SDLAF is scheduled for:

- 19 May 2021

8.3 **[Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum](#)**

The next meetings of B&HLAF is scheduled for:

- 19 May 2021
- 17 June 2021
- 23 September 2021

8.4 **[East Sussex Local Access Forum](#)**

8.5 **[Hampshire Countryside Access Forum](#)**

The previous meeting of HCAF was 9 March 2021. The next meetings are scheduled for:

- 8 June 2021
- 7 September 2021

8.6 **[Surrey Countryside Access Forum](#)**

The previous meeting of SCAF was on 26 April 2021. The next meetings are scheduled for:

- 19 July 21
- 18 October 2021

Jane Noble, Forum Officer