

1. West Sussex County Council (WSSC) Rights of Way service - COVID update

- 1.1 **Inspection and Maintenance** - Public Right of Way (PRoW) inspections resumed in July, having been suspended in March, and we are grateful for our volunteer Parish Path Inspectors for helping with these. Furloughed contractor staff returned to work in August and routine works, such as signage, surface vegetation clearance and bridge repairs, have been completed as per the revised schedule since then. One team was always kept on standby to carry out work required to protect the safety of the users. The three-month suspension of the routine programme has led to a significant amount of extra work being sent to the contractor outside of the normal inspection and maintenance programme.
- 1.2 **Summer Clearance** - The Summer surface vegetation clearance programme was completed as planned with 360km of path cleared.
- 1.3 **Capital Programme** – The Annual Capital Programme, to repair/replace larger bridges and surface paths, went ahead as planned. A few schemes have slipped due to reasons outside the control of the PRoW service.
- 1.4 **Closed paths** – Paths that had been unofficially closed by landowners have all been investigated and have been reopened.
- 1.5 **WSSC PRoW Staff**
 - Staff continue to work at home where possible, in line with government guidance. Routine inspections, site investigations and a few face to face site meetings are taking place.
 - Rights of Way Officer – this post, whose main role is to process public reports, has been vacant since April. A temporary officer has recently joined the team to provide short-term cover until a permanent officer is in place.
 - Communities and Planning Officer – this post is to be re-advertised shortly
 - Access Ranger Area 6 – A new Access Ranger has accepted the post and is expected to start early February 2021.

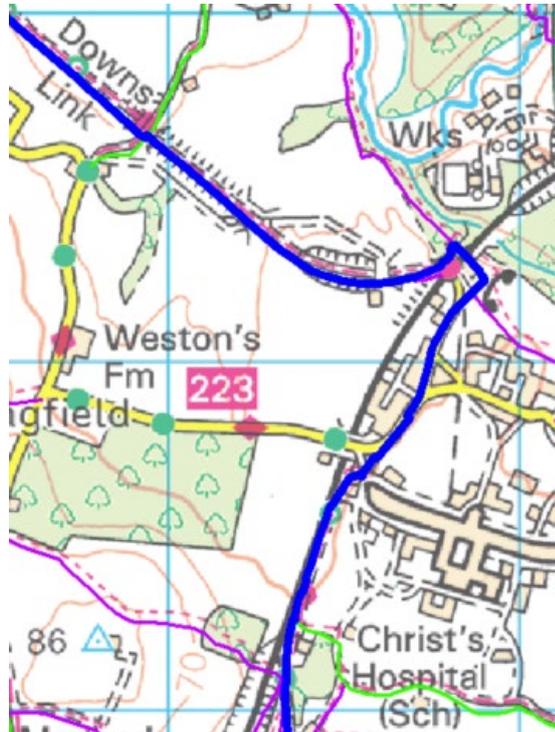
2. West Sussex County Council (WSSC) Rights of Way Committee

- 2.1 WSSC's Rights of Way Committee has merged with the Planning Committee to form the Planning and Rights of Way Committee. The Committee deals with decisions in relation to Public Rights of Way and the registration of common land that are not delegated to Officers, in addition to planning matters. Paul High is the Chairman and Liz Kitchen is the Vice-Chairman. Further information about the Committee including meeting dates, papers, members, how to get involved and a link to the Members' Guide to Rights of Way Law (July 2017) can be found on the [Planning and Rights of Way Committee web pages](#). This Committee meets more regularly than the RoW Committee did which should lead to a quicker turnaround for PRoW matters.
- 2.2 Nick Scott, Principal Rights of Way Officer, along with Legal Services Officers, have provided PRoW training for the Committee members.

3. Improvement Projects (Agenda Item 10)

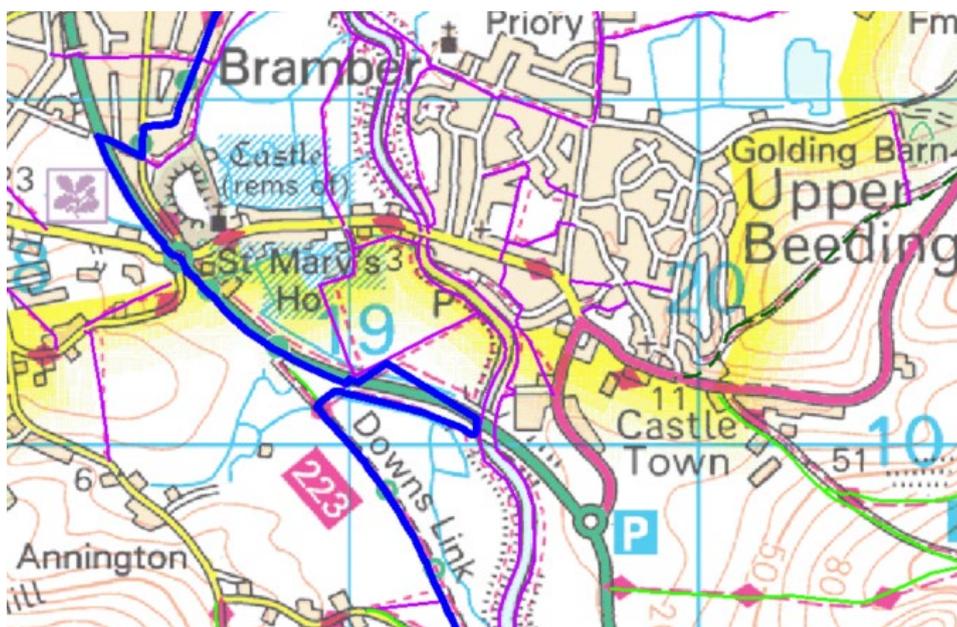
3.1 It has generally been a quiet time for improvements schemes.

3.2 **LW10 – Downs Link - Christ's Hospital** - Works were completed on a new section of the Downs Link at Christs Hospital, South of Horsham TQ148292, in early July, which now means that anyone using the Downs Link between Mill Lane and Christs Hospital Station can do so safely off-road rather than having to use the local road network.



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3.3 **Downs Link, Bramber** - The Downs Link is now signposted along the safe route under the bypass bridge rather than crossing the A283.



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4. WSCC Rights of Way – Definitive Map changes

4.1 Since the last WSLAF meeting the following changes have been made to the Definitive Map which have increased access on all or part of the following paths:

- **Warnham Footpath (FP) 1577, 1578, 3779, Bridleway (BW) 3647_1** – A complex combination of diversion and creation orders resulted in nearly one kilometre of new bridleway being added to the map Definitive Map
- **Billingshurst FPs 1928 and 3778** – a combination of a diversion and a creation order has resulted in about 800m of new bridleway being added to the Map.
- **Thakeham FP 2487 and BW 3780** – development has led to the opportunity to get nearly 800m of new bridleway added the Map, through a combination of a diversion order and a creation order.

5. WSLAF Future Meetings

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

Date	Type	Venue	Proposed Topic / Speaker to include
5/2/2020 (TBC)	Informal	TBC	TBC
1/4/2020	Formal	Chichester	AGM / TBC

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

6. Neighbouring Local Access Forums (LAFs)

6.1 Many LAFS have cancelled meetings due to COVID restriction, however some are starting to hold online meetings.

6.2 **South Downs Local Access Forum** (SDLAF)

The SDLAF has met recently online. The next meetings of SDLAF is:

- January 2021 (date to be confirmed)

6.3 **Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum**

6.4 **East Sussex Local Access Forum** (ESLAF)

6.5 **Hampshire Countryside Access Forum** (HCAF)

The previous meeting of HCAF was:

- 8 December 2020 (virtual)

6.6 **Surrey Countryside Access Forum** (SLAF)

The previous meeting of BHLAF was:

- 23 November 2020

Jane Noble, Forum Officer