

1. WSCC Public Rights of Way staffing

- 1.1 **Access Rangers** – The Access Ranger team is now at full complement with two new Access Rangers joining WSCC in September. Matthew Williams is covering part of Area 3 (Midhurst and surroundings down to the coast at Bognor) on a temporary contract until September 2023, while Kevin Dewitt is on secondment delivering the England Coast Path in West Sussex, and Mike Luscombe is a permanent full-time Access Ranger for Area 6 (from Crawley to Shoreham in the east of the county).

2. England Coast Path (West Sussex)

- 2.1 Work is underway on the England Coast Path (ECP). WSCC's contractors have recently completed two large capital projects: 125m of boardwalk at Selsey on Footpath 116 and 350m of surface improvement along Footpath 101 around Pagham Harbour.
- 2.2 Contractors are also working on installing infrastructure, mainly signage, along the East Head to Shoreham-by-Sea stretch of the ECP. The contractors will be starting in Shoreham, to link up with the current open stretch of the ECP, and work towards West Wittering.
- 2.3 The ECP Project Officer is also in the process of working with officers from Natural England to identify the infrastructure required for the next stretch of the ECP, from West Wittering to the County border at Emsworth.

3. WSCC iMap

- 3.1 The iMap shows Public Rights of Way within West Sussex and can be located at www.westsussex.gov.uk/imap. Following WSCC changing mapping provider the iMap has changed. It is recommended users read the instructions at the bottom of the page before using the iMap. It is expected this will be replaced in the next year or so to another map system that links to our rights of way management software, which will also display issues logged on the network, including closures and enable people to log issues directly from the map.

4. Improvement Projects – update

- 4.1 **Friars Oak development – Footpath 5k Woodside Underpass, Hassocks**
- A Diversion Order under section 119A of the Highways Act 1980 was made on 27th September 2022 to divert part of public footpath 5k in the parish of Hassocks where it crosses the London to Brighton mainline railway. The diverted length of path will commence at GR 530687, 116408 and continue with a width of 3.3 metres in an easterly direction passing under the railway by way of an underpass. Any representations or objections to the Orders should be sent in writing to WSCC and received not later than 3rd November 2022.

An upgrade of the diverted section of path is still being offered by Network Rail and the dedication agreements are currently with them for signing. This will take place following confirmation of the diversion order.

- 4.2 **NMU crossing of the A283 at Washington (LTIP0173) and Downs Link – A281 crossing at Rudgwick** – Neil Vigar will provide an update at the meeting.

5. **Ford to Hunston Greenway - update from Chris Sprules, Sustrans**

- 5.1 The Ford to Hunston Greenway project is still moving slowly forwards:

1. It's one of Arun DC's active travel routes and it will form part of Barnham, Eastergate, Westergate (BEW) discussions as development at these sites move forward. The southern edge of the development will run along the old canal / proposed greenway between Shripney and Barnham.
2. Ian Myhill, WSCC is currently getting a feasibility study completed for Barnham to Yapton section
3. The Charmans Field application at North Mundham shows the latest plans for the start of the Greenway (Planning application ref: [22/02191/OUT](#))
4. Neighbourhood Plans on route are beginning to detail it in Plans.

We are naturally working closely with friends of canal group as it's the canal we want to protect and repurpose. Any support from WSLAF would be much appreciated.

6. **WSCC Rights of Way – Definitive Map changes**

- 6.1 Below are the changes made to the Definitive Map since the last formal WSLAF meeting:

- **Southwater 3784 Bridleway** (Highways Act (HA) 1980, s25) – 33m of new Public Bridleway
- **Itchingfield Bridleway 3785** (HA 1980, s25) – 150m of new Public Bridleway
- **Itchingfield Bridleway 3786** (HA 1980, s25) – 225m of new Public Bridleway
- **Itchingfield Bridleway 3706_1** (HA 1980, s25) – 150m of new Public Bridleway
- **Madehurst Footpath 3787** (HA 1980 s25) – 300m of new Public Footpath
- **West Grinstead Footpath 1841_1 /2372_1** (Town and Country Planning Act (T&CPA) 1990 s257) – Footpath 1841_1 Diversion and Footpath 2372_1 Extinguished
- **Upper Beeding Footpath 2753** (HA Act s119) – Diversion

- 6.2 Information about the Planning and Rights of Way Committee, including meeting dates and papers can be found on the [Planning and Rights of Way Committee web pages](#).

7. **WSLAF Future Meetings**

- 7.1 All formal meetings usually start at 10.30am. Expected dates for 2023 are below – all are to be confirmed:
- Informal: Early-Mid Feb
 - Formal: Wednesday 19 April 2023 – Chichester
 - Informal: July 2023
 - Formal: Wednesday 11 October 2023 – Horsham

8. Neighbouring Local Access Forums (LAFs)

8.1 Meeting papers and other information about neighbouring Forums can be found by following the links below:

- [South Downs Local Access Forum](#) (SDLAF)
- [Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum](#)
- [East Sussex Local Access Forum](#) (ESLAF)
- [Hampshire Countryside Access Forum](#) (HCAF)
- [Surrey Countryside Access Forum](#) (SLAF)

Jane Noble, Forum Officer