



Meeting of the West Sussex Local Access Forum Wednesday 19 October 2022

A meeting of the West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) was held on Wednesday 19 October 2022 at Buchan Country Park, Crawley.

MINUTES – UNCONFIRMED

Present

Graham Elvey (GE) – Chairman	Geoff Farrell (GF)
Tricia Butcher (TB) – Vice-Chairman	Ian Hunt (IH)
Helen Baldwin (HB)	Phil Miles (PM)
Monica Collingham (MC)	Carol Montgomery (CM)

Officers

Jane Noble (JN)	Forum Officer, WSCC
Neil Vigar (NV)	Countryside Services Manager, WSCC
Mike Luscombe (ML)	Access Ranger, Area 6, WSCC

1. Apologies and welcomes

Apologies had been received from: Andrew Baldwin (AB), Nichol Beard (NB), Janet Duncton (JD), David Green (DG), Christine Johnson (CJ). Donna Trethewey, WSCC's Planning and Communities PRoW Officer, also sent her apologies.

Duncan Crow, who represented Districts and Boroughs on the Forum, has resigned and a replacement will be sought.

GE welcomed Mike Luscombe, the new Access Ranger for Area 6, covering the east of the County. Mike explained his background, which includes volunteering for WSCC Countryside Services.

2. Minutes of the Forum

a) Minutes of formal meeting of 4 May 2022:

- i. The minutes of the formal meeting held on 4 May were approved as correct.
- ii. Items relating to actions and matters arising from the May meeting are either on the agenda or had been completed other than:

Item 2a)ii.– Old Ford to Hunston Canal (Greenway) – JN had been in contact with Chris Sprules and an update on the proposed Greenway has been included in the General Report. Members agreed that a letter should be sent saying the Forum welcomes projects that improve access for NMUs.

Action – GE/JN to write to Chris Sprules

Item 2a)ii. - A259 Chichester to Bognor Regis Corridor Feasibility Study (WSCC) - GF reported he will input again once WSCC has made further progress with the project.

A259 – Flansham to Littlehampton (WSCC) – GF has attended two meetings of the Working Group, which focused on the new crematorium junction and potential development for 450 houses on the current Bognor Golf Club site, when the Golf Club would move north of the A259. Footpaths 165 and 166 cross the A259 and if the development gets approval could potentially have a refuge and landings either side, but plans are still very fluid. There has also been a DMMO application to upgrade Footpath 166 to a bridleway that is still waiting determination.

Further east near Littlehampton Footpath 206 runs along the River Arun. There are proposals to create a shared-use path along the embankment.

Item 11. Hybrid meetings – JN explained a hybrid meeting involves a mixture of in-person and remote on-line attendees. WSCC currently has limited rooms with this capacity but she will continue to explore if this is an option for future meetings. TB reported she had remotely attended a hybrid meeting of the South Downs LAF which went very well, with those online feeling very involved.

b) Minutes of informal meeting of 13 July 2022

- i. The minutes of the informal meeting held on 13 July were approved as correct.
- ii. Items relating to actions and matters arising from the July meeting are either on the agenda or had been completed other than:

Item 2 – Changes to the Definitive Map training – Ami Dye, WSCC's Senior Rights of Way Officer (Path Orders), has offered to provide training.

Action – JN to invite AD to the next meeting

3. **Any urgent matters to be considered not on the agenda** - None

4. **Consultations and advice**

a) **Current consultations/workshops**

- i. **B2144, Oving Road, Chichester, between A259 Needlemakers and A27/Oving Road junction, WSCC** –closing date 7 November 2022. GE suggested this may be mainly of interest to those who live locally or use the road. HB commented that the proposed improvements are welcome but possibly doesn't go far enough.
Action – GF and HB to liaise and decide if WSLAF should respond
- ii. **A27 De-trunking enhancement workshop (Arundel bypass)** – The de-trunking of the A27 is dependent on delivery of the Arundel Bypass but is a separate process. An initial workshop will take place on 7 November. NV said Nick Scott, WSCC Principal Rights of Way Office, has been involved and has put forward suggestions for improvements/ opportunities for NMU access.

PM reported that that the Mid Sussex District Plan review consultation is expected shortly. Details will be circulated.

b) **Consultation responses, advice given**

The following WSLAF responses, previously circulated to members, were noted:

- i. Shoreham Cement Works Annual Action Plan, South Downs National Park (25/7/22)

- ii. Barnham Rail Crossing Footpaths Diversions, National Rail (18/8/22)
- iii. A259 Chichester to Bognor Regis Corridor Feasibility Study, WSCC
- iv. Glam Manhood Peninsular Mini-Holland, Ian Sumnall (10/9/22) – HB reported that a positive and helpful meeting had taken place recently with Ian Sumnall. Walkers and equestrians have issues regarding the GLaM 'mini-holland' proposals and would like to have greater input into GLaM policies. There was agreement that these concerns would be raised as an Agenda item at the next GLaM meeting in December. HB will update the Forum at its next meeting.
- v. Steyning Active Travel – Greening Steyning Sustainable Transport Group (7/10/22)

5. Update on schemes

- a) i. **Downs Link – A281 crossing at Rudgwick** – NV provided an update from Ian Myhill, WSCC. Work on the Pegasus crossing and bridge options are continuing in parallel. Further work is being carried out on the feasibility of a Pegasus crossing and there are issues to resolve, such as lighting, slopes and possibly the position of a bus stop.

Horsham District Council has submitted a bid to the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) for a bridge, the outcome of which is likely to be known around January 2023. A bridge is likely to cost in the region of £2m, with 50% from the LUF if successful and the rest expected to come from WSCC and Sustrans, if their criteria are met.

- ii. **NMU crossing of the A283 at Washington (LTIP0173)** – NV reported that this project is currently on hold. There is some conflict between the levels of lighting required by WSCC and the South Downs Dark Skies designation. Some Members expressed disappointment and suggested flexibility is needed.
- b) **Rampion 2** – TB updated members following attendance at a stakeholders' meeting. A further consultation has just been announced which will run from 18 October to 29 November – details will be circulated. This is being held to receive feedback on the changes made to the onshore cable route and proposed sub-station at Wineham following the previous consultation. Offshore the number of wind turbines has been reduced by 26 and the taller ones are being sited furthest away from the shore. It is too early to know if any mitigation funding will be available for Rights of Way, however last time some routes were improved, including parts of the Downs Link. MC reminded members that WSLAF has already commented to say that the treatment of Rights of Way during Rampion 1 works was exemplary and recommends that approach.

Action – TB to circulate consultation details

6. WSLAF matters

- a) **Annual Report 2021-2022** – Copies of the report, written by GE, were circulated. JN asked for members to send her any pictures, ideally of people enjoying the countryside, that can be used for WSLAF promotion (all people in photos must consent to their image being used).
- b) **Web site** – JN has requested website changes to include updating the list of members, meeting dates and papers. A meeting of the website working group (CM, JN, TB, GE) will be arranged to consider the website and the Forum's leaflet. It was requested for JN to circulate WSLAF's Terms of Reference (TOR).

Action - JN to arrange the Publicity Working Group meeting

Action – JN to circulate the WSLAF TOR

7. General Report

The General report was noted.

Access Rangers - A map of Access Rangers (AR) areas was requested.

Action – JN to circulate AR map

WSCC iMap – Members asked if the labels could be offset from the paths, as detail is being lost, and if the background map could better reflect the OS Landranger style.

Action – JN to request changes to labels and base mapping

Footpath 5K Woodside Underpass, Hassocks – The new underpass has now been constructed to bridleway standard. WSLAF and other organisations are pushing for the path to be upgraded to a bridleway. Network Rail have now made a diversion application to WSCC, which is currently out for consultation. WSCC is supportive of an upgrade to bridleway. The next step will be to work with other landowners. TB will continue to monitor.

8. Dates of Next Meetings

Expected dates for 2023 are below – all dates and venues are to be confirmed:

- Informal: Wednesday 8 February
- Formal: Wednesday 19 April – Chichester
- Informal: July
- Formal: Wednesday 11 October – Horsham

WSLAF Member priorities – GE reminded Members to forward priorities to him for topics and speakers for meetings and training. Suggestions for future meetings included Ramblers – Don't lose your way, Sustrans, British Horse Society (BHS) and National Highways – designated funds.

9. AOB

Urban paths /dual classified paths - GF commented that Felpham PC, working with Felpham Village Conservation Society, part funded improvements to a path last year, and may be able to do similar this year. He commented that some paths are 'urban paths'. JN explained that all Rights of Way within selected urban areas are inspected annually by colleagues in Highways, rather than by Access Rangers or trained PRow volunteers, as they are already there inspecting the roads and footways (pavements). They report all defects to PRow to deal with, unless the path also has a Highway classification, in which case Highways will deal with the issue. Reports submitted to WSCC, where the PRow or Highways, will be forwarded to the relevant officer as required.

Action – JN to liaise with GF

Transport Focus Report – TB pointed out there were several errors in the original report, but these had been quickly changed once she alerted the organisation.

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The meeting was followed by an optional short walk into Buchan Country Park to see surfacing works to improve access within the Park.