



## Meeting of the West Sussex Local Access Forum Wednesday 29 April 2026

A meeting of the West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) was held at **10.30am, Wednesday 29 April 2026, in Conference Room 2, County Hall, Tower Street, Chichester, PO19 1RH.**

### Minutes (Unconfirmed)

#### Present

Graham ELVEY (GE) – Chair  
Carol MONTGOMERY (CM)  
David GREEN (DG)  
David PURCELL (DP)

Phil MILES (PM)  
Monica COLLINGHAM (MC)  
Tricia BUTCHER (TB)

#### WSCC Officers

Steve ALEXANDER (SA) – Forum Officer  
Neil VIGAR (NV) – Countryside Services Manager  
Becci WARD (BW) – Business Admin Scribe

#### 1. Apologies and welcomes

- i) GE opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. All around the table introduced themselves for the benefit of the scribe.
- ii) Apologies received from Geoff Farrell, Nicol Beard, Roy Allen, Emily Delicata (WSCC). Cllr Richard BURRETT not able to attend in full but may drop in to introduce himself.

#### 2. Minutes of the Forum

- a) Minutes of formal meeting of 15 October 2025
  - i. Minutes of the formal meeting agreed.
  - ii. Actions for SA and NV to provide updated Access Ranger map and structure chart completed.

TB spoke on the subject of the Highden 'overbridge' crossing previously actioned to NV to follow up with Ami DYE. TB reports that the route has been inspected and is usable but that it has not yet been dedicated. The winery are keen but she understands that there are issues with the Landowner on the eastern side of the A24. The BHS removed their holding objections to the SDNP Planning Application from the winery but SDNP have given a different diversion under Sec257 and meantime the winery are planting new vines. BW2086 is not currently available and the surface of the bridleway remains unacceptable. Ami DYE (WSCC) is in contact with the BHS and is dealing.

- b) Minutes of informal meeting of 11 February 2026
  - i. Items relating to actions and matters arising are either on the agenda, have an update in the General Report or have been completed.

3. **Any urgent matters to be considered not on the agenda**

No urgent matters raised.

4. **Consultations and advice**

a) **Current consultations**

- i. No current consultations

b) **Consultation responses, advice given**

- i. Bluebell Railway Planning Application - DM/22/3806

SA Reports that WSCC have submitted comments making it clear that the onus is on the applicants and not the PROW Team to secure a change in the permissive paths that retains the PROW network. Both SA and local Access Ranger AT have conducted site visits, met Mr Hillier from Bluebell Railway and relayed this information in person. PM questions whether a formal Planning Application submission has been made by PROW and SA agrees to check.

- ii. Cox's Farm Extinguishment – FP325 Barham

GE recaps that this has gone to public consultation and that had engaged with that process. DP speaks on this application and believes that there have been a significant number of objections. SA confirms that this is so and that Ami DYE is dealing and will provide a general update on the situation.

GE encouraged members to continue to consult on matters such as the A24 Horsham to Dorking corridor consultation as one day there may be the money to carry projects such as this forward.

5. **WSCC Capital Expenditure 2025/26**

SA refers to the General Report which covers capital projects completed 2024/25 and also the projects identified for 2025/26. Highlights the proportion of bridge projects including Kirdford FP603 delayed awaiting EA consent and Byworth FP662.

SA Provides an overview of the scoring matrix system employed to identify which capital projects are taken on in any given year. Highlights that on a capital program a project may be in a design phase in year 1 for delivery in year 2. Further highlights that ED has secured additional funding from revenue to include two additional projects this coming year.

NV Describes how this sits within the larger Highways finances.

SA Provides the example of Felbridge Water, 40aEG, as an example of a minor works project financed through revenue at a cost of approx. £8K.

DP Suggests more information on temporary closures awaiting repairs might include more information on the WSCC PROW website than at present and SA agrees that this would be desirable.

DG Asks how WSCC PROW planning is being affected by the local government reorganisation. SA suggests that business goes on as usual until we are told anything different. NV reinforces that these projects will continue to exist and continue to require attention from the PROW services in whatever form it takes.

## 6. **WSLAF matters**

### i. WSLAF website

GE reviews which changes have now been made and which remain outstanding. E-mail alerts have not worked for some years and SA confirms his focus is on getting the website into the form WSLAF has requested but will consider this in the future. 2025 consultation responses are to go on and 2022 are to come off. Annual Reports were historically put into a template, GE provided the text and WSCC placed in the template with logos and pictures and this would be desirable.

### ii. Members priorities

General discussion regarding who might be approached to speak at a future meeting. DP suggests a presentation on Sec106 and CIL and SA confirms that Donna TRETHERWEY is going to provide an input to the Access Rangers and he will approach her for a future meeting.

SA asks whether an approach to the NFU would be appropriate. General discussion evolves around lack of representation from Landowners and others living off the land. Suggestions include NFU Rep, Estate Manager, National Trust and Forestry Commission. To be researched.

Cllr Richard BURRETT joins the meeting.

## 7. **General Report**

GE reviews the General Report and raising a question as to whether Kevin DEWITT will continue to be involved in the KCIIIIECP. NV provides an overview of how the coastal path is to be managed and SA explains that the coastal path will be on a 12-month inspection cycle as opposed to the 15-month cycle for PROW.

SA highlights an ongoing issue with the iMap where there have been a few missing PROW and some mis-labelling and requests any examples are forwarded to him.

## 8. **AGM – Chair handed to Forum Officer**

### a) Nomination for position of Chair

SA invites nominations for Chair of WSLAF

MC nominates GE

There are no other nominations and GE accepts.

### b) Nominations for position of Deputy Chair

SA invites nominations for the position of Deputy Chair of WSLAF

There are no nominations and the post remains vacant.

## 9. **Dates of Next Formal Meetings**

- Informal: 8 July 2026 - Horsham
- Formal: 21 October 2026 - Chichester

## 10. **AOB**

- i. RB requests an overview of how often WSLAF meets and the difference between formal and informal meetings. GE provides that overview.
- ii. GE explains that they have been approached by South Hants LAF who have produced a statement to advise Mayoral candidates and Cllrs around the role of LAFs and their activities for consideration in the local government reorganisation. There has been a meeting with Suth Downs / East Sussex / Brighton LAFs and a joint statement prepared.

Those present support the continuation of this joint venture and also highlight that the way on which WSCC manages the PROW is considered to be very effective but not reflected in the practices of other authorities.

- iii. TB provides an update on the NR upgrades on the underpass in Hassocks, FP11K. The underpass will link the developments both sides of the railway and provide a PROW link up to the Green Circle and Burgess Hill. The project is still in place but awaits favourable weather.
- iv. PM states that Horsted Keynes PC will be submitting a formal application for the speed limit through the relevant parts of the village to be reduced to 20mph. There will be a formal application and PM seeks the support of WSLAF.

Those present agree.

- v. SA raises the fact that the WSCC Annual Report is routinely on the agenda for the April formal meeting but that it is rarely completed in time. The suggestion is that it be removed from the July meeting agenda and included for either the informal meeting in July or the formal meeting in October.

Those present agree that it should be on the agenda for the informal meeting in July.

The meeting concluded at 12.00