

1. England Coastal Path – Progress in West Sussex (Agenda Item 7)

- 1.1 Natural England has provided this England Coast Path in West Sussex. The county is covered by three sections: South Hayling to East Head (SHE), East Head to Shoreham-by-Sea stretch (EHS) and Shoreham-by-Sea to Eastbourne.

South Hayling to East Head (SHE)

- 1.2 Work is progressing well on the South Hayling to East Head stretch of the England Coast Path. We are currently coming to the end of the 'develop and propose' stage of the project and have undertaken a large number of site visits with landowners and stakeholders across Chichester Harbour. The next step is to refine our proposal for the route of the England Coast Path around the harbour into a report which will be sent to the Secretary of State for consideration.
- 1.3 We have largely decided upon the route throughout the majority of the harbour in West Sussex and to a great extent it will follow the existing coastal Public Rights of Way. The main proposed deviations to this are at Thorney Island, Chidham and Bosham where alternative routes will also be offered when the main paths are shut or covered by high tides, and the use of the Itchenor ferry as the main route of the coast path, with an inland alternative route to the Fishbourne Channel for use when the ferry isn't running. This last choice has only been made possible by the local residents' hard work to extend the operating hours of the ferry to include weekends throughout the winter.
- 1.4 The next step will be to send out a letter with a map detailing our current proposals to all landowners and affected stakeholders on the harbour which we are proposing to do at the end of January, beginning of February - before pulling our proposals together into a report to send to the Secretary of State in early spring 2017. Once the report is submitted there is a formal 8 week period of consultation before the final decision on the route is made by the Secretary of State. After this, dependent upon the Secretary of States final decision and the consideration of any objections that may have been submitted there will be a year of implementation as the coast path infrastructure is installed and where necessary the path is improved to National Trail standards, before it is officially opened in early 2018.

England Coast Path – East Head to Shoreham by Sea stretch (EHS)

- 1.5 A preferred route for the National Trail has now been decided for this stretch of coastline in West Sussex and to a great extent it will follow the existing coastal Public Rights of Way, permissive and informal paths.
- 1.6 Letters including a map detailing our preferred route are currently being sent to all landowners and stakeholders affected by the route and the coastal margin. Meetings are being held with the access authority, West Sussex County Council, to decide on the required infrastructure including access improvements and waymarking the route.
- 1.7 At this stage we are currently preparing our statutory coastal access report to the Secretary of State showing our proposals for the line of the England Coast

Path on this stretch and any associated proposals about the inland boundary of the coastal margin, arrangements for positive management of public use or any formal exclusions or restrictions that are necessary, and any proposals for rollback. This is due for publication in early spring 2017.

- 1.8 Once the report is submitted there is a formal 8 week period of consultation before the final decision on the route is made by the Secretary of State. Following this, dependent upon the consideration of any objections or representations that may have been submitted and the Secretary of State's final decision, there will be a year of implementing the required coast path infrastructure and where necessary the path will be improved to National Trail standards, before it is officially opened during 2018.

2. West Sussex Walking and Cycling Strategy update

- 2.1 Andy Moulard, WSCC, provided this update:
- 2.2 The GIS mapping layer containing the suggested routes has been obtained from Sustrans and corrupt/duplicate entries have been removed. The data is now available to internal colleagues via internal mapping (Local View) and this is already helping to inform discussions about walking and cycling provision for new developments. We hope that the scheduled replacement of Local View will provide us with an opportunity to make the map of suggested routes available to the public via our website later this year.
- 2.3 The final version of the document, including a foreword by the new cabinet member for Highways & Transport, Bob Lanzer, is now available to download from the County Council website (search '[Walking and Cycling Strategy](#)'). Three schemes have been identified for feasibility studies and, subject to approval of the Highways & Transport capital budget, the studies will be undertaken in the new financial year. The schemes are:
 - Shared use path along Ifield Avenue, Crawley (scheme ID 316)
 - Shared use path along the A24 between Findon Valley and Findon (connecting Findon with Worthing – scheme ID 10)
 - Various contraflow cycle routes in Horsham town centre and allowing cycling through the Lynd Cross pedestrianised area (scheme ID 137/139).
- 2.4 In addition, Community Highways applications are being considered for the following schemes and, subject to approval, feasibility work will also be conducted on these schemes in 2017/18:
 - Downslink PROW connection scheme at Christ's Hospital (part of scheme ID 210)
 - Shared use path along Stane Street, Westhampnett (Old Arundel Rd to Chichester bypass, scheme ID 145).
- 2.5 We recently began a series of meetings with district and borough colleagues and the South Downs National Park Authority to introduce the strategy and understand their priorities for walking and cycling, and how these partner organisations may help to deliver the strategy. A steering group has been established to monitor the progress of strategy delivery and to achieve oversight of walking and cycling schemes in West Sussex. The initial meeting took place on Monday 9th January and Geoff Farrell represents WSLAF on the group.

3. Annual South Downs Way Walk set for June 2017

- 3.1 Footprints of Sussex have announced that the 38th annual South Downs Way Walk will take place from 9-17 June 2017. **Bookings open this December** – but you can complete an online form and register your interest now.
- 3.2 Visit the South Downs Way website for booking updates.

4. Sussex Border Path

- 4.1 The front page of the Sussex Border Path website has been updated:
<http://www.sussexborderpath.co.uk/>

5. WSCC Rights of Way staffing

- 5.1 Darryl Hobden has recently started as an Access Ranger, replacing Helen Chalk in Area 3 (Midhurst and surrounding parishes down to Bognor). Nick Scott, Access Ranger for Area 4 (Petworth and surrounding parishes down to Littlehampton, will be leaving in February to take up a Rights of Way post for Portsmouth City Council. WSCC is currently recruiting to backfill the post.

6. WSCC Rights of Way (ROW) Committee

- 6.1 The next meeting is scheduled for 14 March 2017. The meeting scheduled for 11 October 2016 was cancelled. The All papers can be found www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/committees-and-decision-making/statutory-committees/rights-of-way-committee.

7. WSLAF Future Meetings

- 7.1 All meetings will start at 10.30am (tea/coffee at 10.15am) and are followed by lunch for members and speakers. Dates and venues for the coming year are shown in the table below.

Date	Venue	Proposed Topic / Speaker to include
Wed 26/4/17	Chichester	WSCC Annual Report
Wed 19 /7/17	Horsham	To be decided by Forum
Wed 18/10/17	Chichester	To be decided by Forum
Wed 30/1/18	Horsham	To be decided by Forum

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

8. Neighbouring LAFs

- 8.1 South Downs Local Access Forum (SDLAF)

Next meetings:

- 16 February 2017 – South Downs Centre, Midhurst
- 25 April 2017 – South Downs Centre, Midhurst
- 26 July 2017 – South Downs Centre, Midhurst
- 30 November 2017 – South Downs Centre, Midhurst

<http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/get-involved/local-access-forum>.

WSLAF link member Tricia Butcher / Glynn Jones

8.2 Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum

Previous meeting:

- Thursday 15 December 2016

Further dates have not been published on their website

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1238738>

8.3 East Sussex Local Access Forum

The next meeting:

- Wednesday 25 January 2017

Further dates have not been published on their website

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/rights-of-way-in-east-sussex/local-access-forum/east-sussex-local-access-forum/>

8.4 Surrey Local Access Forum (SLAF)

- Monday 16 January 2017 - Guildford
- Monday 24 April 2017 - Kingston Upon Thames
- Monday 17 July 2017
- Monday 16 October 2017

<http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/environment-housing-and-planning/countryside/footpaths-byways-and-bridleways/surrey-countryside-access-forum>

Jane Noble, Forum Officer