General Report **WSLAF 21 October 2026**

1. PRoW Team

1.1 Access Rangers – Kevin DEWITT, who has recently returned from his secondment to KCIIIECP, has secured a role with Hampshire CC and will be leaving WSCC in November. Lysiane DALLEN has commenced her new role as PRoW Project Support Officer and so there will be a recruitment process for the vacant Access Ranger role.

1.2 Previously, reports of specific issues with the PRoW network could be reported by E-mail via the PRoW in-box, on-line via a Granicus Form or through the WSCC Call Centre. As of 2nd October the PRoW in-box has been closed to such reports. It remains in use for other matters but not for the reporting of issues. Johnathan KAYE who has, for many years, managed the in-box has been re-deployed to the Business Admin Team where he will continue to support PRoW.

1.3 Laurie BROWNING, who has been supporting PRoW on a temporary contract to Business Admin has secured a permanent post meaning that the Business Admin Team has grown and continues to support the Access Rangers in tasks which result in the Access Rangers spending more of their time out on site, directly liaising with Landowners and users of the network.

1.4 As previously reported, all members of the Access Ranger Team are pro-actively seeking opportunities to meet landowners in person to seek resolution off issues without recourse to legal action. Anyone reporting issues to the PROW Team is encouraged to include any information they may hold regarding the relevant landowner.

2. KCIIIECP

Work within the WSCC area is complete. A number of Volunteer Inspectors have been identified and training is to be provided in order to ensure that the 12-monthly inspections are completed both efficiently and effectively.

3. Bridleway Bridge Project

We are conducted a trial on Area with 3 x types of anti-slip planking for bridleway bridges, GRP strips, anti-slip grooved decking and manually applied grit. Feedback will be requested through the BHS.

4. Foot Bridge Temporary Repairs

For the first time, we have deployed a GRP trench cover onto a footbridge in Area 4. The bridge has 2 x broken planks which have been covered with the plate which is rated to take the load of a HGV. This allows us to keep the bridge open while it awaits a full repair.

5. Structures Survey

Following the PPI refresher training in October, we intend conducting a 15-month survey of all timber structures in order to better inform future plans and to provide the base information required for repair / replacement works.

6. Capital Annual Works Programme 26-27 (Completed)

4.1 The following schemes have been delivered to date:

Surfacing

- Colgate (BCP) FP1545 – surfacing and drainage
- Henfield (Downs Link) BW3513 – surfacing and drainage
- Patching BW2174 – surfacing and drainage
- Pyecombe BW4Py - surfacing and drainage
- South Stoke – FP2269 - surfacing and drainage
- Southwater (Downs Link) BW3568 - surfacing and drainage
- Wisborough Green BW774_1 - surfacing and drainage

Bridges

- Ansty & Staplefield FP65CR – bridge replacement
- Elsted FP3355- bridge repair
- Petworth FP622 – bridge repair
- Shipley FP3217 – bridge replacement
- West Hoathly FP27WH – bridge replacement
- Wisborough Green FP785 – bridge repair
- Woolbeding FP1128 – bridge replacement
- Kirdford FP603/1 – bridge replacement (previously awaited EA consent)

7. Capital Annual Works Programme 26-27 (Outstanding)

4.1 The following schemes are in progress / await delivery:

Surfacing

- Henfield FP2563/2
- Horsham FP1584

Bridges

- Arundel BW342 – bridge replacement
- Henfield FP2774 – bridge repair
- Loxwood BW2847 – bridge repair
- Rudgwick BW1352 – bridge replacement
- Slinfold FP1401 – bridge design
- Tillington FP1057 – bridge replacement
- Walberton BW342 – bridge replacement
- Harting BW880 – bridge design
- Horsham FP1639/1 – bridge repairs (previously awaited NR consent)

There is a significant number of bridges due for repair / replacement this financial year which reflects the risk carried by WSCC in relation to structures. Please could any specific enquiries on these capital works be sent to the Forum Officer in good time for the meeting.

8. WSCC Rights of Way – Definitive Map changes

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

- FP 814 (part) Loxwood - Section 119 Diversion

- BW 2587 Henfield - DMMO additional length of BW
- BW 3809 Slindon – Section 25 dedication
- FP 3810 Rogate – DMMO new length of FP
- FP 2475 (part) Thakeham – Section 119 Diversion
- BW 3807, 3808 – DMMO new BWs
- FP 152 (part) Aldingbourne – Section 257 Diversion
- FP 3811 Henfield – DMMO new FP
- BW 1550 (part) Crawley Section 257 Diversion
- FPs 3812, 3812_1 & 3812_2 Southwater – DMMO x3 new FPs

8.2 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.

9. WSLAF Future Meetings

7.1 All formal meetings usually start at 10.30am. Future dates:

- Informal: Wednesday 10 February 2027 - Horsham
- Formal: Wednesday 28 April 2027 - Chichester

10. Neighbouring Local Access Forums (LAFs)

8.1 Meeting papers and other information about neighbouring Forums can be found by following the links below. Any details have been obtained from the websites:

- 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)

Steve ALEXANDER, Forum Officer