

Minutes of Meeting 46: 30 October 2012

Meeting commenced 10am

Members

Present: David Ashcroft (Chair), Sue Coles, Cllr Ray Ellis, Graham Flatt, Paul Knipe, Mark Maclay, Patrick Manuel (Vice-Chair), Alan Marlow, Sue Montila, Linda Prior, Richard Sturgess, Alan Taylor, Jim Weeks, Nigel Wolstenholme

Apologies: Jo Hatton, Frank Pearson, Stuart Robertson, Cllr Phil Smith, Helen Witt

Observers/Visitors

Present: David Blakeway (*SCC – Rights of Way Officer*), Richard Brooks (*MOD*), Sarah Manchester (*New Forest National Park Authority*), Robert Self (*South Downs Society*), Tim Squire (*South Downs National Park Authority*)

HCC Officers attending all or part of meeting: Cath Hart (*Shipwrights Way Officer*), Amanda Hull (*Forum Officer*), Sam Jones (*ACAM – Southern Area Team*), Emma Noyce (*Countryside Access Team Leader*), Alison Perry (*ACAM – Central Area Team*), Mark Wilson (*HCC – Environment*)

Apologies: Janice Bridger, Cllr Chapman (*Hampshire County Council*), Martin Gilchrist (*Natural England*), Jayne Rodgers (*PCC – Walking and Cycling Officer*),
HCC Officers: Matt Beal (*ACAM – Northern Area Team*), Andy Smith (*Head of Countryside*), John Tickle (*Assistant Director Culture and Heritage*)

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of meeting 45 (25th July) were accepted as a true record. Matters arising:

Highways and the List of Streets letter (action 0212.01/ 0212.02/0712.01) – the Highways sub-group had met on 3rd February 2012 and discussed the importance of engaging with Highways, to raise the Forums profile and advise how Highways can better accommodate non-motorised users. It was decided that the List of Streets is an issue that needs to be addressed. It was agreed that a letter should be written to request that Highways and the Countryside Service work together to: properly define the legal status of the list of streets designations; identify overlaps and gaps (between the List of Streets and the Definitive Map); and provide integrated, useful mapping available for public use. A letter had been sent to Colin Taylor and John Tickle as Assistant Directors of their respective Departments and the Forum is awaiting a response. Emma Noyce reported that she had discussed the letter with Highways officers who had expressed concern about the request. Largely because the List of Streets is a list, and whilst there is a digital representation of this used internally, its accuracy and robustness would be questioned if it were to appear as online mapping.

Sue C stressed the importance of the request. The List of Streets is an access resource that is not being fully utilised, and without knowledge of it, routes will be lost. She noted that members of the Forum would be happy to meet with Highways to discuss the issues and concerns in more detail.

Emma reported that she would be discussing the requests with Highways in more detail and it is anticipated that a response will be sent to the Forum shortly after.

Letter to Chief Executive (actions 0212.03/0712.02) – it had been agreed at its February meeting that a letter should be written to the Chief Executive introducing the Forum and its work. It was felt that this should be sent following the appointment of a new Chair.

ACTION 1012.01: Sue C – send a letter to the Chief Executive introducing the Forum and its work.

Huddle (action 0212.04/0212.05/0712.03) – it was reported at the May meeting that the number of LAF members permitted to sign up to Huddle has now increased to five per LAF. A letter had been sent to Richard Benyon expressing concern about the limited access and reinforcing that Huddle will only be useful if all LAF members are allowed access. Since sending the letter it has been announced that the cap on Huddle licenses has been lifted. All members had been asked to inform Amanda if they are happy to accept the Huddle Terms and Conditions so that access can be granted and a logon provided. Sue C reported that she had received log on details however other members had not. Amanda agreed to chase this up with Natural England. All other members were urged to accept the terms and conditions as soon as possible so that log on details can be provided.

ACTION 1012.02: Amanda – chase Huddle logon details for HCAF members requested.

ACTION 1012.03: All – send email to Amanda confirming that you accept the Huddle Terms and Conditions.

Itchen Navigation (action 0512.01/0512.02/0712.04) – at its May meeting Members agreed that the Forum should issue advice to HCC to request that the CAP working group look into the issue of multi-user access along the navigation. It was also agreed that a letter should be written to the Steering Committee, advising that management solutions should be looked into. Alison Perry reported that the letter was discussed at the last Steering Committee meeting and a response is being compiled. Amanda reported that the CAP working group will be looking at the issue and prioritising multi-user access on the route at its meeting next week. Following this HCC will feedback the results and suggested next steps.

East Dean Marshalling Yard (0712.05) – it was agreed at its last meeting that the outcome of the review of the access land restriction was disappointing and it was decided that further representation should be made to Natural England about it (with a copy also sent to Defra, the local County Councillor, the District Councillors and the Parish Council). Nigel had agreed to draft some key points and circulate to the Forum for comment.

ACTION 1012.04: Nigel – draft key points on the outcome of the review of the access land restriction at East Dean and circulate to the Forum for comment.

2. FORUM OFFICERS REPORT

Amanda welcomed questions on the items within the Forum Officer's report and provided updates where appropriate.

Small Grants Scheme

The £50,000 budget for 2012/13 has now been allocated. A summary of all applications funded was circulated with the agenda.

Sue M informed the Forum of an application from Portsmouth Water and the Forestry Commission for improvements to Havant Thicket. Sue M has suggested an enhancement to this project, to improve the gate at point C, to allow access for horse riders and cyclists. This will remove the need for users to negotiate two roundabouts. Sue M's bridleways group has offered £500 as a contribution to the gate. Cath Hart reported that they are talking to the landowners about this improvement but noted that there is concern about motorbikes accessing the site from this location. All agreed that cyclists and horse riders should not lose out because of illegal use, this is a policing issue not an access issue.

Forum Membership

Recruitment will begin soon to fill the Forum vacancies for representatives of landowners/managers and motorised users. Members were asked if they consider there to be any other gaps in membership and/or if the Forum would benefit from further representation in any area. Members suggested representation for countryside sports, young people, tourism, conservation (bird societies etc.) and produce growers.

Consultation round-up

Shortheath Common

In October 2011 the Forum responded to the first stage of consultations on the future management of Shortheath Common. This included comments advising 'against the use of cattle grids as a means of stock control, ... especially if there is the likelihood of horses, ponies or deer in the vicinity. Consideration should also be given to disabled users, as cattle grids can be very unnerving for wheel chair users and walking aids can be easily lost'.

HCC is now consulting on the detail of the management options. The consultation documents include infrastructure plans detailing the location and types of gates and fencing to be used. The Forum was asked how it would like to respond to this consultation. The deadline for responses is 17th November 2012.

Sue M reported that she had received an email from a horse rider local to the Common, expressing concern that the fencing proposed will ruin the open access of the common and that the proposals may lead to the Common being over managed (use of cattle grids and gates). She also reported of a common grazed with English White Cattle, using temporary solar fencing and noted that this may be a less obtrusive option than permanent fencing. David A noted that this fencing can be temperamental.

Alan T noted that any advice given should be constructive and steered in a positive direction. It was suggested therefore that the Forum reinforces the previous advice given regarding the use of cattle grids, and suggests that if cattle grids are used that they consider the installation of wooden post and rail wings to the cattle grid to help minimise the dangers. It was also agreed that the British Horse Society gates research should be shared and advice given that damaging self-closing gates should not be used.

ACTION 1012.05: Amanda – draft response to the Shortheath Common consultation and circulate to the Forum for comment.

National update

Emma Noyce updated the Forum on some recent national developments:

- The ***Growth and Infrastructure Bill*** has been published this month. This will affect the work of access providers and the Forum. It includes changes to:
 - *The registration process for Town or Village Greens* – for example applications cannot be made if planning permission has already been granted on the land, if the land is designated for development in Local Plans or draft Local Plans. This may lead to a short term increase in the number of applications received.
 - *How rights of way are dealt with in planning permission* - it will allow diversions to be applied for before planning permission is granted putting them at the forefront of the planning process.
 - *s31(6) deposits* – it will allow statutory declarations to also include protection against applications for Town or Village Greens. The renewal period will be extended from 10 to 20 years. An administration charge may also be made by the Local Authority for deposits. It is expected that this change will be popular with landowners, resulting in an increase in the number of deposits received.
- Defra is keen to promote the importance of the ***review of ROWIPs***, as it is understood to be a very important document in the work of Local Authorities. Defra may be interested in finding out how plans are used and what support Local Authorities would like to see in the development of the next set of plans.
- There is still no indication of when the ***decadal review of CROW land*** will be taking place.
- The ***Paths for Communities*** Panel is to meet next month to assess 5 applications to the scheme.

3. ACCESS ON MOD LAND

Richard Brooks, MOD Senior Environmental Advisor (Access and Recreation), was welcomed to the Forum to address key issues regarding access on MOD land.

Richard introduced the work of the Access and Recreation Team in the MOD, which has now been in existence for nearly 8 years, prior to which there was no specialist knowledge on access. Richard is the Head of this Team, supported by regional officers. James Nevitt, the officer responsible for Hampshire, will be asked to attend a future HCAF meeting as an observer. Richard will also forward on to James any specific regional questions that he is not able to answer, and will feedback to the Forum via Amanda at a later date.

The Forum was reminded that there is one purpose for the use of MOD land and that is for military training, on Salisbury Plain for example there are over 3000 troops training daily. There may also be an intensification of training on the Estate in the near future as troops return from Germany. If the land ceases to be of use for military training, it is likely to be sold.

MOD byelaw review update

In 2005 the Forum was informed that the review of byelaws would be imminent - this is still the case. The bylaw review project was set up in 2006 and started with priority sites (e.g. those with security issues etc). Many have resulted in legal challenges which have proved difficult because it is based on legislation from 1892. They are now reaching the stage where byelaws relating to access will be looked at. Three simple cases are being trialled first to clarify the legal process, following which a roll out of reviews will take place. It is unknown when the reviews will be done for Hampshire but they will go to full public consultation, with the LAF as a statutory consultee.

Interpretation / Information provision

The Access Team is currently working on a project to improve the information provided to visitors. At all access points signage will be reduced and replaced with simple, clear information boards about safety and what can be expected at the site. They will be steering away from interpretation boards (heritage, wildlife information etc) at access points. This has already been done for some of the sites within National Parks (Dartmoor, York) and will be rolled out at other sites across the country in consultation with the Local Authority.

Dogs on the MOD estate

Loose dogs and dog fouling is a major problem on training sites. Primarily due to obligations to protect ground nesting birds and the health issues caused by soldiers being exposed to dog fouling during training, which involves crawling/lying on the ground in areas where dogs may have messed. A dog fouling information campaign is soon to be launched at sites.

Organised activities on the MOD estate

Byelaws will effect what can and cannot be done on a site. The majority of sites, outside of live site areas, are dry training areas meaning live rounds are not fired, but a startle effect is still possible. This is a particular concern with horse riders.

Walkers have access to the majority of the Estate, however horse riders are restricted to rights of way, but permits and licenses are issued for wider use. This allows numbers to be controlled and ensures people are insured and aware of the risks associated with going off the rights of way. No money is made from the issuing of licenses, the fee only covers administration.

Alan M noted a number of incidents reported to him where walkers had been stopped in the Aldershot/Minley area and told they needed a permit. Richard confirmed that in theory an organised activity off of a right of way does require a permit. It was queried at what point it may become an organised activity. Richard confirmed that an organised activity requiring a permit is for commercial purposes. He felt that this would include a group of Ramblers as it is a paid member organisation. It was argued whether walks organised by the Ramblers would still apply – they are organised, however the

Ramblers is a charity and not a commercial organisation. All agreed that greater clarity is needed as to what constitutes an 'organised activity'.

Cycling

Many of the byelaws affecting access on MOD land do not cover cycling. There are many problems with cyclists on the training estate, predominately through the creation of ramps etc, which cause problems in terms of liability. Photos were circulated to the Forum illustrating this. There are also problems with groups of cyclists accessing the estate at night using head torches. There are fewer problems with cyclists using the estate for A-B access. James is working with cycling groups to ensure there is greater understanding about what the land is used for.

It was felt that the photos are an extreme situation and not representative of cyclists using the estate for informal access not in groups. The responsible majority should not be disadvantaged by the irresponsible minority.

Motor vehicle users

Patrick noted that MOD land is a rich resource for fully licensed events for motor vehicle users and queried whether this resource will be changed. Richard confirmed that there are many large events that the land is let for. One of the benefits of this is that there is an opportunity to get a message to users about responsible use. Whilst it is difficult to prevent people coming on to the land afterwards, through communication with user groups it is possible to get a message across that if they do come back without permission, they stand to lose the resource for events. He noted that on Salisbury Plain responsible users are very quick to report irresponsible use.

It was felt that it may be more beneficial to accommodate and manage users on a day to day basis rather than for large events, similar to the approach adopted by the Forestry Commission.

Promoted access

It was queried whether there is a policy held by the MOD preventing access from being promoted. Richard confirmed that access promotion will be looked at on a case by case basis. There are instances of locally promoted routes where waymarking has become an issue. One of the major problems is that if the route is not on a public right of way, there is no guarantee that it will always be available as military training will take precedence. Dedications have been made on the estate to allow promoted access however this cannot be done in all cases. It was queried whether an approach could be taken to manage access on the days that a particular activity is to take place, however it was felt that this would be difficult.

Sue C reported of a request made recently to use a track through part of the Estate in Bordon to allow a promoted route to avoid a busy and dangerous road. The track in question is 3-4 m wide and appears to have minimal military use. This request was refused, quoting similar reasons to those given to the Forum in 2005 (liability, conflict with military movement etc.).

Alan T queried the internal communication within the MOD when such a request is made. Richard reported that it is MOD policy for requests to be dealt with locally, unless it is an issue that is raised repeatedly or is contentious, in which case it is policy to involve the access team.

CROW Act s28 Review

HCAF received notification of a Section 28 direction review on MOD land. Section 28 of the CROW Act allows the Secretary of State for Defence to exclude or restrict access by direction to any land if this is felt necessary for the purposes of Defence or National Security. At Cove Radio Station in Farnborough it is proposed to remove the access restriction because they do not believe there is a sufficient level of military use. Richard noted that even if the restriction is removed, the site may not be made accessible to the public as it is managed by an external company.

Countryside Access Plan Revision

James Nevitt will be meeting with HCC next week regarding the revision of the CAPs in Hampshire.

Forum members were directed to the public access website, which contains general information about access on the MOD Estate as well as information about individual sites – www.access.mod.uk.

Richard was thanked for his time. David confirmed that any further questions that the Forum may have will be fielded through Amanda.

ACTION 1012.06: All – provide Amanda with any additional questions regarding access on MOD land.

4. REPORTS FROM OTHER LAFs

New Forest Access Forum

Sarah Manchester was welcomed to the Forum to provide an update on behalf of the New Forest Access Forum (NFAF). The minutes of the last meeting (3rd September) had been circulated with the agenda. Key items on the agenda included:

- A presentation from Clive Chatters from the Wildlife Trust on the results of a study on open space provision in Hampshire.
- Feedback about the New Forest HLS agreement. Improvement to access is one of the objectives of the agreement however there has been no progress with this yet and wetlands and commoning is a higher priority in terms of meeting the funding criteria.

Richard queried the item raised by Joan Cundill under AOB, regarding the locked gates on the all-ability path at Ashurst Recreation Ground. He noted that he would be interested to know the outcome of this when Joan hears back from the Parish Council.

David queried what the key topic was for NFAF at present. Sarah confirmed that the dog walking issue had now been resolved, through greater permissions or controls and through dialogue and increased understanding. A key topic for the Forum is now cycling. All of the crown land falls under s15 of the CROW Act. There are many engineered surface tracks but only a small percentage are given over for permissive cycling, and those cycle tracks present do not form a cohesive network.

South Downs Local Access Forum

Tim Squire was welcomed to the Forum to provide an update on behalf of the South Downs Local Access Forum (SDLAF). The agenda of the last meeting (9th October) had been circulated with the agenda. The minutes would be circulated when available. Key items on the agenda included:

- Glynn Jones was re-elected as Chair and Sue Dunkley as Vice Chair.
- Sue C delivered a presentation about the PATHH project and the SDLAF expressed interested in expanding this across the entire South Downs area.
- The issue of access on MOD land was raised by a Forum member, in particular a situation in Liss where the Parish Council had approached the MOD to request permission to use one of the tracks across the Longmoor training area as a promoted route. This was refused.

Sue C queried whether HCAF or the SDLAF should be dealing with situations that may arise in Liss or other parts of Hampshire that also fall within the SDNPA. Although this will fall under the remit of the SDLAF, Tim agreed that it would be good practice for the SDLAF to ask HCAF for advice on local issues if necessary (as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the LAFs). For situations that may be useful for both LAFs (e.g. deciding a view on how access on MOD land is managed in general), it was also felt that it would be beneficial for the LAFs to work together to establish one message.

David A highlighted a problem with BOATs within the NPA in Hampshire. He felt that this should be looked at by the SDLAF, and that the NPA should be giving encouragement to HCC to address these issues. The solution adopted on Cradle Lane is a proven example of how it can be done.

Tim noted that the SDLAF had discussed the issue of BOATs and TROs but the Forum could not reach a consensus on the issue so it was not taken forward. As the Management Plan for the South Downs is currently being drafted, there is no policy covering the use of TROs yet. Tim did note however that the NPA would not implement any TROs without the support and cooperation of HCC.

5. PATHH

Minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of 15th August had been circulated with the agenda. An additional meeting was held on 29th October. Sue C provided an update on progress:

- Research is now complete and has been entered into a database in its final format (as written evidence with supporting photos and maps).
- The routes have been reviewed by the ACAMs to check their validity, deliverability and to establish the priority of the CAP aspiration. This has resulted in 54 prioritised category A routes and 42 category B routes.
- The routes are now to undergo an external review to check the validity of the historical evidence.
- The education and outreach element of the project is now almost complete. This has turned out to be one of the most successful parts of the project.
- A leaflet has been produced summarising the project. Members were encouraged to circulate this to their contacts.
- Nearly all the budget has been spent and there will be just enough to complete the project as planned.
- The next stage is to decide how the output will be progressed. This is to be discussed at the next Committee meeting following which a proposal will be presented to the Forum.
- A thank you event is being held on 27th November for the volunteers involved in the project. Sue extended an invitation to all HCAF members to attend this event.

David A extended his thanks and congratulations to Sue C and Alan M for their successful management of the project.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING

Mark Wilson, HCC Environmental Projects Officer, was invited to the Forum to introduce work undertaken with Parish Councils to improve the environmental aspect of community led planning. This has included access related work e.g. routeway characterisation, improving villager/land manager relationships and understanding, improving understanding and enjoyment of the parish and improving access for all.

A copy of the presentation was circulated to the Forum for reference. Further information and guidance 'Advice to communities on undertaking a Local Landscape Character Assessment: Assessing and Maintaining Local Distinctiveness', is available on the website: www.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage.

Comments and questions noted below:

- Mark suggested that the characterisation work could be extended to routeways, linking to the work of the PATHH project. This work has not been requested by parishes, but it may be something that will be considered more in the future.
- It was queried whether there had been wider public meetings about this work. Mark confirmed that local meetings had only taken place in the pilot areas but this had generated significant interest.
- It was noted of the positive influence of the initiative on improving communication between landowners/farmers, parishioners and the Parish Council.
- Graham noted that this work has potential relevance to the Forum as it could be a mechanism to encourage a long term strategic view of the rights of way network, supporting CAP work and encouraging good practice at a local level.

- The Forum acknowledged the need to ensure local plans take account of access issues. However it was not clear how the Forum could assist with this. It was suggested that this be considered as a topic for inclusion in the 2013 work programme.

The Chair thanked Mark for attending the meeting and informing the Forum of this work.

7. CAP WORK

Sam Jones (Southern Area Countryside Access Manager) introduced potential workshop topics for the Forum to address in future meetings and sought ideas from the Forum on any other workshop topics they would be interested in addressing.

Suggested workshop topics included:

- Next steps for the CAP working groups and how they can be used to progress CAP work beyond the prioritisation stage
- Improving Parish Council / local community engagement
- Standard Specifications
- Volunteers on ROW and how they can be engaged in our work
- The review of the CAPs 2014-19 and the proposed approach

Alan T queried the usefulness of addressing a number of these topics with the Forum, in particular volunteering and standard specifications. It was felt that there is a limit to what HCAF would be able to input into these topics when there is already a great deal of expertise within the County Council.

Support was received for advising on the approach adopted for the review of the CAPs and for Parish Council/local community engagement. The following workshop topics were also suggested:

- Meeting statutory requirements to keep the existing rights of way network open – how this is done, what models of delivery there are to make sure statutory duties are met e.g. working with partners, volunteers, parish councils.
- Engagement with landowners
- Working with County Estates to ensure HCC is leading by example.

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair would consider the workshop topics in the setting of the work programme for 2013.

8. ANNUAL REPORT

Regulations require that every LAF produce an Annual Report. Last year Natural England introduced an Annual Report Pro-forma. HCAF completed this for 2011 alongside its usual Annual Report.

Natural England has now changed the reporting year, to follow the financial year, so the requirement is now for a pro-forma to be submitted for the period covering April 2011 – March 2012, so there will be some overlap in the information provided in the pro-forma last year. Amanda agreed to work with the Chair to draft the pro-forma.

For continuity, a draft Annual Report to cover the work of the Forum in 2012 has been prepared and was circulated with the agenda. The Forum approved the Annual Report and offered no comments on its content.

The Forum was asked to consider whether it would like to continue with this format in following years, or whether it would prefer to just complete the Natural England pro-forma.

It was noted that the New Forest Access Forum had decided not to submit the pro-forma but will continue with its standard public facing annual report. Members expressed support for the stance adopted by the New Forest and queried the usefulness of the pro-forma and whether the information is used, as it was noted that LAFs had not received any feedback from Natural England on the pro-forma submitted last year. Members were inclined to just continue with the normal Annual Report format, which contains information which will be of more interest to the public and partners, but agreed on this occasion to submit the pro-forma and review next year.

Sue M circulated a leaflet produced by the Leicestershire LAF and suggested that HCAF consider producing something similar, noting that it would be a useful tool for members to promote the Forum and its work.

ACTION 1012.07: Amanda/David A – complete the Annual Report pro-forma and submit to Natural England.

9. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

David Ashcroft has now served two years as Chair and will be standing down. Patrick Manuel has served two years as Vice-Chair but unfortunately will not be able to take on the role of Chair as he will be resigning from the Forum following this meeting. Patrick expressed regret that he would not be able to continue on the Forum, because unfortunately, due to work pressures, he is unable to devote the time needed to do the job he would like to do. Thanks were extended to the Forum for welcoming him as a motorised user and for all he has learnt from other members. He wished the Forum and its members all the best for the future.

The Forum offered a round of applause to David and Patrick and thanked them for all their work over the past two years.

At the July meeting of the Forum, it was suggested that a previous Chair stand for an interim period of one year, assisted by a new Vice-Chair (or two), with the intention that the Vice-Chair will then take on the role of Chair at the end of this interim period. There was general agreement that this would be a sensible way forward.

Members had been asked to inform Amanda if they would be willing to stand for either role. Sue Coles had offered to stand as interim Chair and Nigel Wolstenholme and Graham Flatt as joint Vice-Chair. All were nominated by Sue Montila and seconded by Richard Sturgess. A vote was held unanimously supporting this nomination and all were confirmed in post for 2013.

10. MEETING PROGRAMME FOR 2013

In 2010 the Forum agreed the 3-5 year Forward Plan. In 2011 a workshop was held to prioritise the Forward Plan, to assist with the development of meeting programmes in subsequent years. The 3-5 year forward plan was circulated to the Forum with the agenda for reference. The meeting programme for 2012 was also circulated with the agenda, marked to show what had been addressed within the year.

Sue C suggested that the Forum consider whether the Forward Plan is still valid before the meeting programme for 2013 is decided. This was agreed by all. Members were therefore asked to review the forward plan independently and submit any comments to Amanda by 25th November. The Chair, Vice-Chairs and Forum Officer will then meet to review the comments and draft a meeting programme for 2013. This will then be shared with the Forum for comment.

Meeting dates for 2013 were confirmed as: 19th February; 14th May; 18th July; 22nd October (AGM).

Members agreed that a Winchester venue for all meetings would be appropriate. It was agreed that this could be changed to accommodate a site visit if necessary.

ACTION 1012.08: All – review forward plan and submit comments to Amanda by 25th November.

ACTION 1012.09: Sue C, Graham, Nigel – review forward plan; draft meeting programme for 2013.

11. AOB.

Emma Noyce extended thanks to Patrick on behalf of the Countryside Service for all the work he has done for the Service over the years, as a member of the Forum, the Small Grants Scheme Panel and helping with specific cases. He has always been an exemplar representative for motorised users, giving considered advice as well as helping make practical improvements through running work parties on rights of way. His involvement in the work of the Countryside Service will be greatly missed.

Cllr Ellis echoed the sentiments expressed by Emma and wished Patrick the best for the future.

NEXT MEETING: 19th February 2013

Meeting closed at 3.30pm

Minutes by: Amanda Hull (01962 847165)