

AGENDA: Tuesday 14th May 2013

VENUE: Wellington Room, Elizabeth II Court, Winchester - directions overleaf

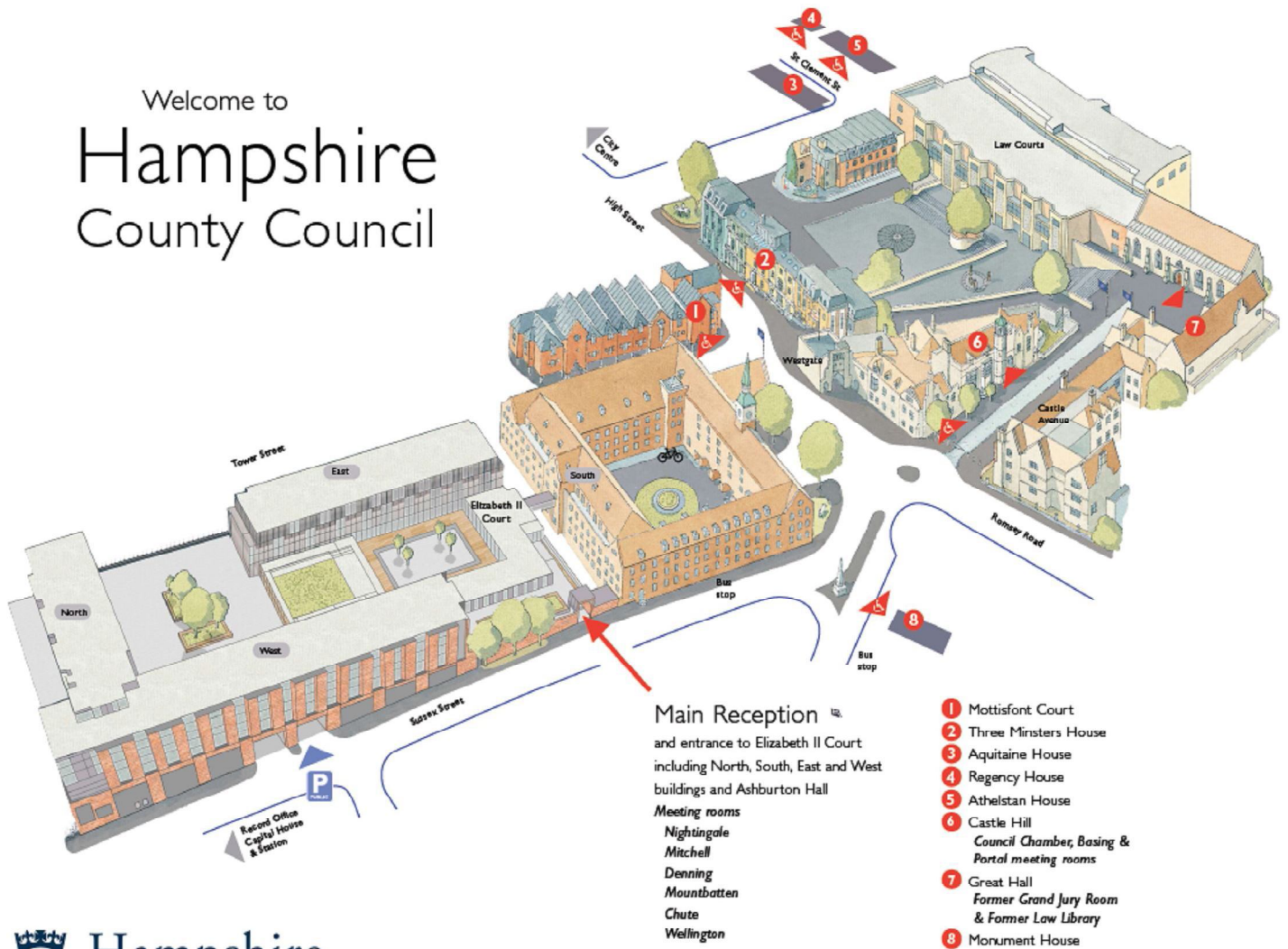
10:00 MEETING COMMENCES (Tea/Coffee available from 09:45)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Introductions
<i>Welcome to new members (all members to share name and interest).</i> | <i>Information</i> | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 2. | Apologies, minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
<i>Matters arising to include:</i>
1) <i>Itchen Navigation</i>
2) <i>East Dean Marshalling Yard</i>
3) <i>Issues regarding access on MOD land</i>
4) <i>Statutory Responsibilities</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | <i>45 mins</i> |
| 3. | CAP Review
<i>Update from Emma Noyce on progress with the Countryside Access Plan review and feedback from the workshop held at the last meeting.</i> | <i>Information/
Discussion</i> | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 4. | List of Streets
<i>Feedback from meeting with Highways and discussion about next steps.</i> | <i>Information/
Discussion</i> | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 11.30 TEA/COFFEE | | | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 5. | Training for Members
<i>Opportunity to discuss areas of training that would be useful for LAF members.</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | <i>45 mins</i> |
| 6. | Education
<i>Discussion on options to progress the development of an education programme.</i> | <i>Discussion</i> | <i>45 mins</i> |
| 13.15 LUNCH | | | <i>45 mins</i> |
| 7. | PATHH: Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage
<i>Update from Sue Coles and discussion on next steps</i> | <i>Discussion/
Decision</i> | <i>30 mins</i> |
| 8. | Forward Plan
<i>Members to agree success criteria for the 3-5 year forward plan.</i> | <i>Information/
Discussion</i> | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 9. | Reports from other LAFs
1) <i>New Forest</i> ; 2) <i>South Downs</i> ; 3) <i>National Conference.</i> | <i>Information/
Discussion</i> | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 10. | Forum Officer's Report
<i>Including Small Grants Scheme, national updates.</i> | <i>Information</i> | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 3.30 FINISH | | | |

Contact: Amanda Hull; 01962 847165; amanda.hull@hants.gov.uk

Directions: Elizabeth II Court (Wellington Room), Winchester, SO23 8UJ
PLEASE REPORT TO THE MAIN RECEPTION AS MARKED ON THE MAP BELOW.

Welcome to
**Hampshire
 County Council**



By Rail - the County Council offices are about a five minute walk from Winchester station. Leave the station via platform two and follow the signs to the County Council offices.

By Bus and Coach - areas surrounding Winchester have regular bus services that stop within easy walking distance of the County Council's Castle complex. For more information, please call the Bus Information Line on 0870 608 2608.

By Road

- **From the north (via M3)** - leave the motorway at junction nine, join the A272 and follow signs for central Winchester. The County Council offices are at the top of the High Street; follow signs for Hampshire County Council.
- **From the west** - leave the M4 at junction 13 and travel south along the A34, then join the B3420 Andover Road which takes you straight into central Winchester; follow signs for Hampshire County Council.
- **From the south (via M3)** - leave the M3 at junction 11 and follow signs along St Cross Road and Southgate Street into the city centre. Turn left at the traffic signal junction with the High Street. The County Council offices are 200 yards up the High Street on the right.

Park and Ride - the South Winchester Park & Ride is located off Junction 11 of the M3. The East Winchester Park & Ride (St Catherine's and Barfield) are located off Junction 10 of the M3.



MEETING DATE: *Tuesday 14th May 2013*

REPORT TITLE: *Actions/Matters Arising*

ACTION REQUIRED FROM FORUM: *Discussion/Decision*

1.0 Actions of the meeting of 19th February 2013

Ref.	Action	Who
0213.01	Consider topics to include in a letter to the Chief Executive and send ideas to Amanda/Sue C.	All
0213.02	Consider questions to take to a meeting with Highways and send to Amanda/Sue C.	All
0213.03	Seek clarification nationally on the legal status of the routes on the List of Streets.	Sue C
0213.04	Request a copy of the list of all adopted un-surfaced u-roads from Highways.	Sue C
0213.05	Feedback on the outcome of the Test and Itchen CAP working group meeting on 18 th April.	Alison P
0213.06	Send a response to the Itchen Navigation Steering Committee.	Amanda
0213.07	Arrange for final letter to be sent to the MOD.	Sue C/Alan M
0213.08	Draft key points on the outcome of the review of the access land restriction at East Dean and circulate to the Forum for comment.	Nigel W
0213.09	Consider the success criteria for the Forum work programme and feedback at the next meeting.	Alan M, Helen, Graham, Sue C
0213.10	Inform Amanda if you will be interested in being part of the PATHH sub-group.	All
0213.11	Send a copy of the PATHH lesson plan to Jo and Graham.	Sue C
0213.12	Consider how the PATHH lesson plan could be adapted to a resource pack to include a wider education remit.	Jo/Graham
0213.13	Contact Amanda if you would be interested in joining the Small Grants Scheme Panel.	All
0213.14	Contact Amanda if you would be interested in attending the SELAF Conference on 21 st May.	All

2.0 Matters Arising

Itchen Navigation letters (action 0213.05; 0213.06)

In 2012 a letter was sent to the Itchen Navigation Steering Committee advising that management solutions for the provision of multi-user access along the Itchen Navigation should be looked into; a letter was also sent to Hampshire County Council requesting that the CAP working group look into the issue. Responses to both letters were considered at the last meeting and it was acknowledged that the issue would be considered at the next CAP working group meeting scheduled for 18th April. This meeting has since been rescheduled for 22nd May. Feedback will therefore be provided at the next HCAF meeting.

East Dean Marshalling Yard – Access Land Restriction (action 0213.08)

Natural England's predecessor, the Countryside Agency, made a long term direction in August 2006, excluding access from the former MoD Marshalling Yard, East Dean, on the grounds of public safety – contamination by lead and hydrocarbons. Under CROW section 27(3) Natural England is required to

review such directions, at least every five years.

The Forum submitted comments on the initial consultation reviewing the restriction and the subsequent proposed variation to the direction. The Forum did not support the continued restriction of access to the entire site without further investigation into the potential to appropriately manage access on the site. The Forum suggested the fencing of localised contaminated areas, if public access on 'safe' areas of the site is then permitted, and asked that the potential to deal with some of the discreet areas of contamination by provision of a capping layer, also be looked into. The Forum also advised that any 'management', through fencing and/or capping should be accompanied by appropriate signage.

The final decision on the case was published on 15th June 2012, this was for a total exclusion of access, all year from 15th June 2012 for six years until 14th June 2018, on the grounds of public safety due to contamination by lead and hydrocarbons.

The decision report states that a 'further investigation as recommended by the Countryside Access Forum has been undertaken to the limit of financial resources currently available and that has found that fencing of the contaminated areas in the landowners view is not an option, and that until resources can be found to carry out additional works on the site the Marshalling Yard must continue to have its open access rights restricted'.

The report also states however that the 'six year period should not be seen as the case being closed for a further 6 years. If at any time anything should change at the site Natural England can reassess the restriction. For example there is a possibility that access to the site might be improved through the rights of way network improvements, or a permissive route, and it may then be worth re-investigating access management options at the site following that'.

The Forum considered the outcome to be disappointing and it was agreed that further representation should be made to Natural England. Nigel Wolstenholme has drafted some key points to be considered by the Forum for inclusion in any representation it may make (see Annex 1).

Issues Regarding Access on MOD land

At its last meeting, the Forum approved for a letter to be sent to the MOD raising three key issues of immediate concern:

1. Non-commercial **groups of walkers** being stopped and told they need permits, including in some instances whilst walking on a public right of way. There have been a number of such incidents reported to us recently but no such requirement or justification for this is identified in the byelaws or any other published material.
2. In some areas of MOD land in Hampshire, **cyclists** have permissive access but not in others. For example there is no cycle access on MOD land at Longmoor, including the perimeter track. The latter is a wide, well-surfaced track and is already used informally by cyclists. There is no record of any incidents in the last five years, including conflict between cyclists and military vehicles.
3. The public needs easily accessible, current **information** about the availability of access for all classes of user. This needs to be clear, consistent and pragmatic and must include details about closures and other local restrictions.

A response has not yet been received, and since sending the letter another incident has been reported by a group of walkers.

Statutory Responsibilities

At its last meeting the Forum received information regarding performance against the statutory duties held by the Countryside Service (see Annex 2). **Forum members are asked to consider if they have any additional thoughts or questions they would like to raise.**



MEETING DATE: *Tuesday 19th February 2013*

REPORT TITLE: *Statutory Duties*

1.0 Introduction

The Countryside Service is responsible for carrying out a variety of statutory duties and powers on behalf of the County Council. The Countryside Service carries out the functions of the Surveying Authority, Highway Authority and Traffic Authority within the County with respect to Rights of Way. It also carries out the function of Commons Registration Authority with respect to Commons and Village Greens.

2.0 Statutory Duties and Powers

A comprehensive explanation of the statutory duties and powers held by the Countryside Service can be found in 'Rights of Way: A Guide to Law and Practice' (Riddall and Trevelyan, 2007). An extract from pages 298-302 can be found in Annex 1.

3.0 Performance against Statutory Duties

With different working practices across the County, it has previously been difficult for us to quantify the work we carry out on Hampshire's Rights of Way network. Since April 2010 we have been using an electronic Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) to assist us in our statutory duty to maintain our public rights of way. The consistent use of this software by our Area Teams means that we can, for the first time, produce reliable data to evaluate and report on the work that we have been doing.

Data extracted from the system has been used to compile the charts and tables found in Annex 2 to summarise the number and types of problems that have been reported on the network (also referred to as 'Issues') and how we have dealt with them.

Tables and Figures to be found in Annex 2

Table 1: Classification of Issue Types and Priorities

Table 2: Problem reports resolved since April 2012 – Type and sub-type by Area

Table 3: Unresolved problem reports – Type and sub-type by Area

Table 4: Definitive Map and Village Green Statistics

Figure 1: Problems Reported on the Network – by Area

Figure 2: Problems Reported on the Network since April 2012 – by Type

Figure 3: Problem reports resolved since April 2012 – by Type

Figure 4: Problem reports resolved since April 2012 – by Area

Figure 5: Average time to resolve reports

Figure 6: Unresolved problem reports - Average time waiting

For the purpose of this report, data relating to vegetation control refers to reactive work that is completed by the Access Team. Data from the Priority Cutting List has not been included. It should also be noted that there are instances where work that has not been done by ourselves, is not currently recorded in the system.

Statutory Duties and Powers

Riddall, J. & Trevelyan, J. (2007) *Rights of Way: A Guide to Law and Practice*, 4th edition, Ramblers Association and Open Spaces Society: London (pg. 297-302).

The duties and powers of highway authorities

Principal rights of way duties of highway authorities (Riddall and Trevelyan, 2007; pg. 298-299).

Description of duty	Legislation
To maintain publically- maintainable highways or to reimburse the district council for its maintenance of publicly-maintainable footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways	HA 1980 ss 41, 42
To keep an up-to-date list of publicly maintainable highways available for public inspection in each district	HA 1980 s 36
To assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of, and to prevent so far as possible the stopping up or obstruction of, all their highways	HA 1980 s 130
To enforce the restoration of footpaths and bridleways lawfully ploughed or disturbed	HA 1980 s 134
To take action if the ploughing or disturbance of a highway is unlawful	HA 1980 s 137A
To enforce the duty of an occupier to ensure that crops do not inconvenience users of footpaths, bridleways and unmetalled carriageways	HA 1980 s 137A
To signpost and waymark footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways where they leave metalled roads and elsewhere to help people follow the route	CA 1968 s 27
To prosecute anyone responsible for a misleading notice on or near a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway shown on the definitive map	NPACA 1949 s 57
To prepare a rights of way improvement plan	CRWA 2000 s 60

Principal rights of way powers of highway authorities (Riddall and Trevelyan, 2007; pg. 299-301).

Description of power	Legislation
To erect and maintain signposts and waymarks along any footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or byway	CA 1968 s 27
To make a side roads order for rights of way affected by the construction of improvement of a classified road	HA 1980 s 14
To create a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway by agreement (DC)	HA 1980 s 25
To make an order to create a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway (DC)	HA 1980 s 26
To agree to undertake maintenance of a right of way	HA 1980 s 38
To improve, widen or level rights of way	HA 1980 ss 62, 72, 76
To provide barriers, posts, rails or fences on a publicly-maintainable footpath or bridleway to safeguard persons using the highway.	HA 1980 s 66 (3)
To construct a bridge to carry a right of way	HA 1980 s 91
To undertake works to drain a right of way	HA 1980 s 100
To apply to the magistrates' court for the closure or diversion of a right of way	HA 1980 s 116
To make an order to divert a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway (DC)	HA 1980 s 119
To make an order to divert a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway which crosses a railway line (DC)	HA 1980 s 119A
To make an order to divert a footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or byway open to all traffic for reasons of crime prevention or school security	HA 1980 s 119B
To make an order to extinguish a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway (DC)	HA 1980 s 118
To make an order to extinguish a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway which crosses a railway line (DC)	HA 1980 s 118A
To make an order to extinguish a footpath, bridleway, restricted byway or byway open to all traffic for reasons of crime prevention or school security	HA 1980 s 118B
To make an order gating a 'relevant highway'	HA 1980 s 129A
To remove unauthorised signs from rights of way	HA 1980 s 132
To make an order temporarily diverting a footpath, bridleway or restricted byway to enable agricultural excavation or engineering works to be carried out (a duty if certain conditions are met)	HA 1980 s 135

To require the removal of a structure or other obstruction from a right of way (DM)	HA 1980 s 143
To require the enlargement of gates across bridleways or carriageways	HA 1980 s 145
To require maintenance work to be undertaken on stiles or gates (DM)	HA 1980 s 146
To authorise new stiles or gates in certain circumstances (DM)	HA 1980 s 147
To require the removal of things deposited on a right of way causing a nuisance	HA 1980 s 149
To require the cutting back of vegetation overhanging a right of way (DC)	HA 1980 s 154
The require the abatement of a nuisance caused by barbed wire adjoining a right of way (DC)	HA 1980 s 164
To require the fencing of dangerous land adjoining a right of way (DC)	HA 1980 s 165
To make good the surface of a right of way under certain circumstances (DM)	HA 1980 Sch 12A
To carry out works where a duty to keep a path clear of overhanging crops has not been complied with (DM)	HA 1980 Sch 12A

Note: DC – this power is also exercisable by a non-unitary district council; DM – this power is exercisable by a non-unitary district council which has claimed the right to exercise maintenance powers.

The duties and powers of surveying authorities

Duties of surveying authorities (Riddall and Trevelyan, 2007; pg. 301).

Description of duty	Legislation
To keep the definitive map under continuous review	WCA 1981 s 53
To make modification orders to take account of events requiring the map to be modified	WCA 1981 s 53
To prepare definitive maps for any areas not previously surveyed	WCA 1981 s 55
To keep copies of the definitive map and statement, together with copies of any subsequent modification and reclassification orders, available for public inspection in every district	WCA 1981 s 57
To keep a register of applications for modification orders	WCA 1981 s 53B
To draw the attention of the public to the availability of definitive maps for inspection and to the right to apply for modification orders to be made	WCA 1981 s 57

Powers of surveying authorities (Riddall and Trevelyan, 2007; pg. 301).

Description of power	Legislation
To make definitive map modification orders	WCA 1981 s 53
To consolidate the definitive map, or maps, and the orders which have modified it	WCA 1981 ss 57, 57A

The duties and powers of traffic and street authorities

Duties of traffic authorities (Riddall and Trevelyan, 2007; pg. 301-302).

Description of duty	Legislation
To exercise the functions conferred on them by the Road Traffic Act 1984, so as to 'secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway'.	RTRA 1984 s122

Powers of traffic authorities (Riddall and Trevelyan, 2007; pg. 302).

Description of power	Legislation
To make permanent traffic regulation orders	RTRA 1984 s 1
To make temporary traffic regulation orders	RTRA 1984 s 14
To make orders prohibiting or restricting the use of rights of way in connection with certain events.	RTRA 1984 s 16A

Performance against Statutory Duties

Table 1: Classification of Issue Types and Priorities

Issues are classified and given a priority as follows:

Problem TYPE & SUB TYPE	Priority	
	Default	HCC Promoted Route
Nuisance - Illegal Driving Use	2	1
Nuisance - Intimidation	2	1
Nuisance - Other	2	1
Obstruction - Cropped/Ploughed	3	2
Obstruction - Fallen/Unstable Tree	2	1
Obstruction - Fencing	3	2
Obstruction - Other	3	2
Other - Adjacent to Path	3	2
Other - Enquiry Other	Enquiry	Enquiry
Other - Improvement Request	2	2
Other - Other	3	2
Signage - Fingerpost	Signage	Signage
Signage - Informative	Signage	Signage
Signage - Waymarking	Signage	Signage
Structure - Barrier	4	3
Structure - Bridge	1	1
Structure - Boardwalk	1	1
Structure - Gate	4	3
Structure - Kissing Gate	4	3
Structure - Other	2	1
Structure - Squeeze - Gap	4	3
Structure - Steps	2	1
Structure - Stile	3	2
Surface - Condition	2	1
Surface - Drainage	3	2
Surface - Other	3	2
Vegetation - Vegetation Control	3	2

Figure 1: Problems Reported on the Network – by Area

The number of problem reports received by each Area in the period since April 2012 shown as a percentage of the total 1,967 issue

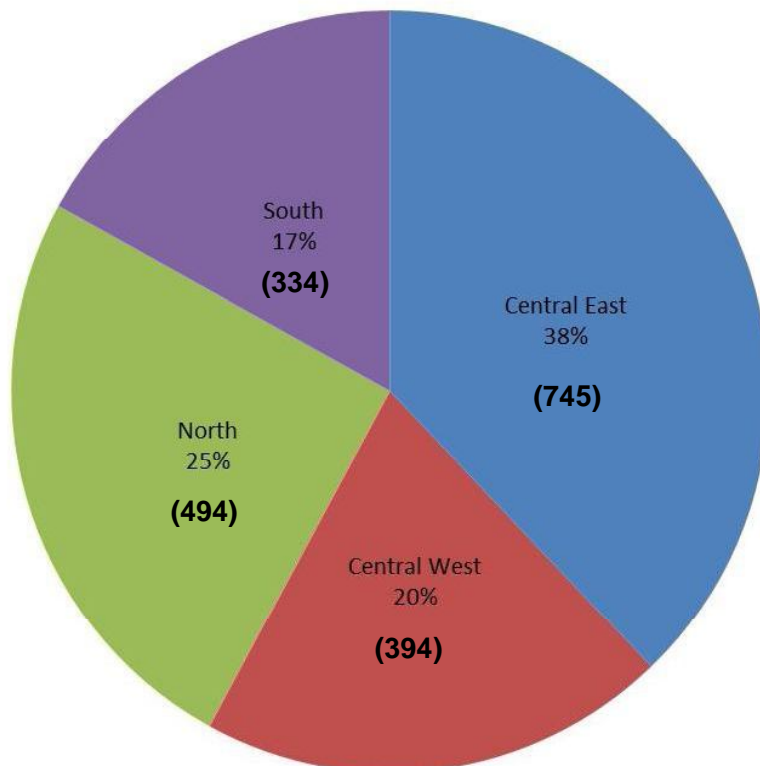


Figure 2: Problems Reported on the Network – by Type

The types of problem reports received in the period since April 2012 shown as a percentage of the total 1,970 received (actual numbers shown in brackets).

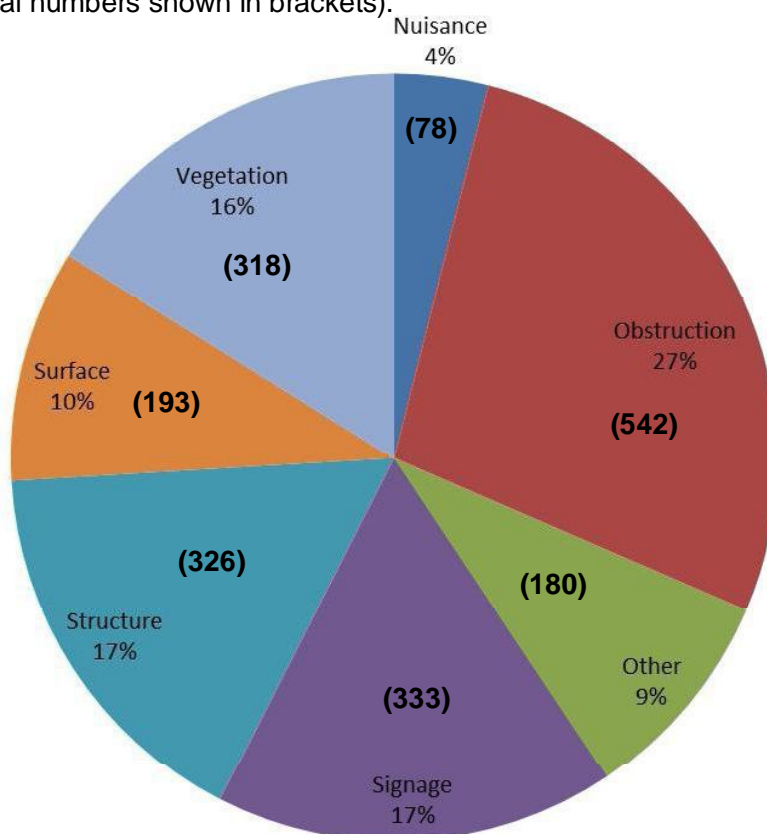


Figure 3: Problem reports resolved since April 2012 – by Type

Any issues that have been resolved in the period since April 2012 shown as a percentage of the total 862 resolved (actual numbers shown in brackets). This includes issues that were received prior to that date.

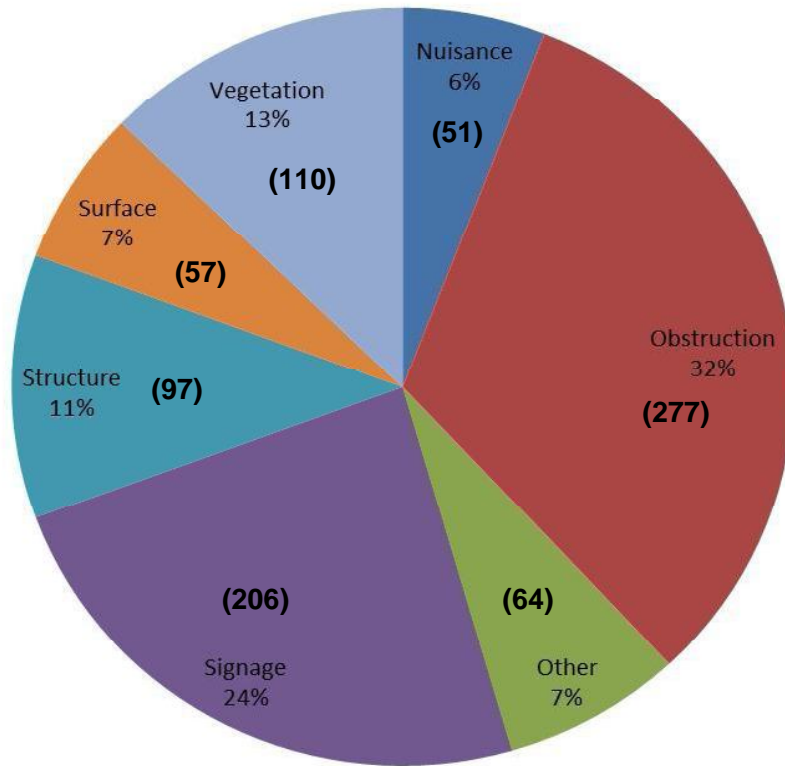


Figure 4: Problem reports resolved since April 2012 – by Area

Issue types dealt with by each Area since April 2012. This includes issues that were received prior to that date. See Table 2 for a further breakdown of these figures.

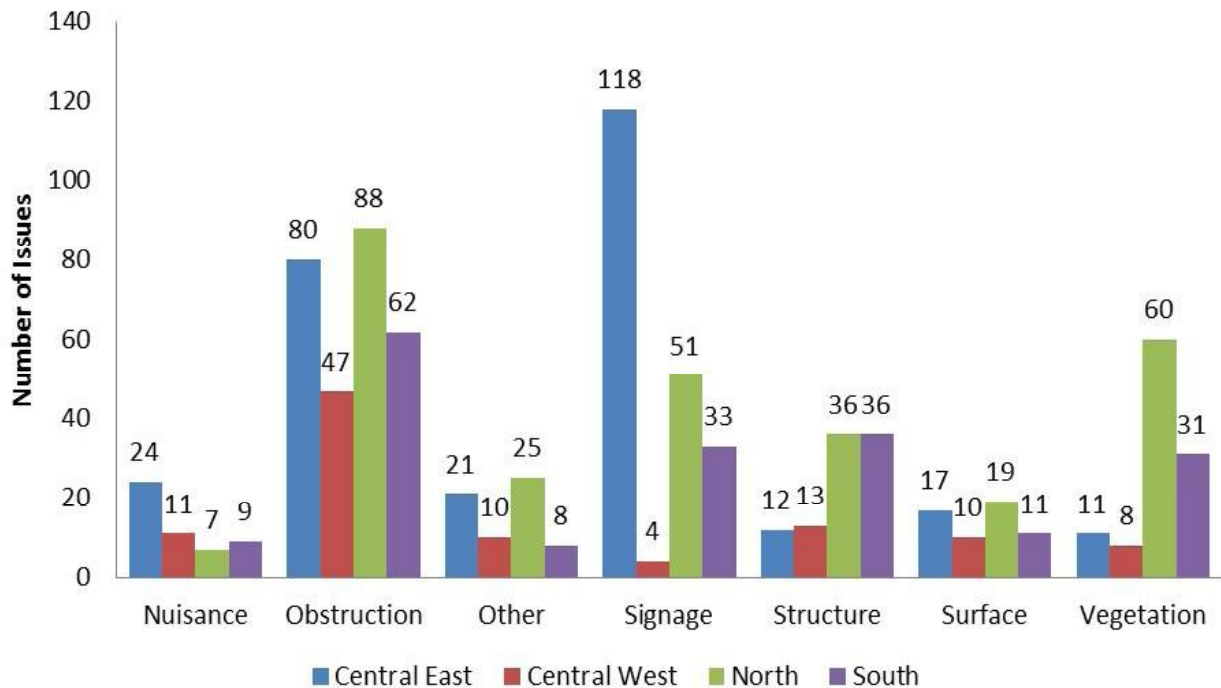


Table 2: Problem reports resolved since April 2012 – Type and sub-type by Area

Type Detail	Central East	Central West	North	South	Total
Nuisance/Illegal Driving/Use	6	7	1	6	20
Nuisance/Intimidation	5	1	3		9
Nuisance/Other	13	3	3	3	22
Obstruction/Cropped/Ploughed	2		7	2	11
Obstruction/Fallen/Unstable Tree	59	37	60	41	197
Obstruction/Fencing	12	6	14	8	40
Obstruction/Other	7	4	7	11	29
Other/Adjacent To Path	7	3	2		12
Other/Enquiry Only	6	5	18	3	32
Other/Improvement Request	8	2		3	13
Other/Other			5	2	7
Signage/Fingerpost	73	2	29	24	128
Signage/Informative	4	1	3	3	11
Signage/Waymarking	41	1	19	6	67
Structure/Barrier	1		1		2
Structure/Boardwalk		2	3	3	8
Structure/Bridge	2	8	17	8	35
Structure/Gate	2		2	11	15
Structure/Kissing Gate	1	1			2
Structure/Other				1	1
Structure/Squeeze/Gap	1				1
Structure/Stile	5	2	13	13	33
Surface/Condition	12	7	10	5	34
Surface/Drainage	2	2	6	5	15
Surface/Other	3	1	3	1	8
Vegetation/Vegetation Control	11	8	60	31	110
Total	283	103	286	190	862

Figure 5: Average time to resolve reports

Average time (in years) taken to resolve each problem type. This shows the average of all the resolved problem reports held in the system. Also shown is the default priority assigned (e.g. P3) to each problem type to enable a comparison to the time taken to resolve.

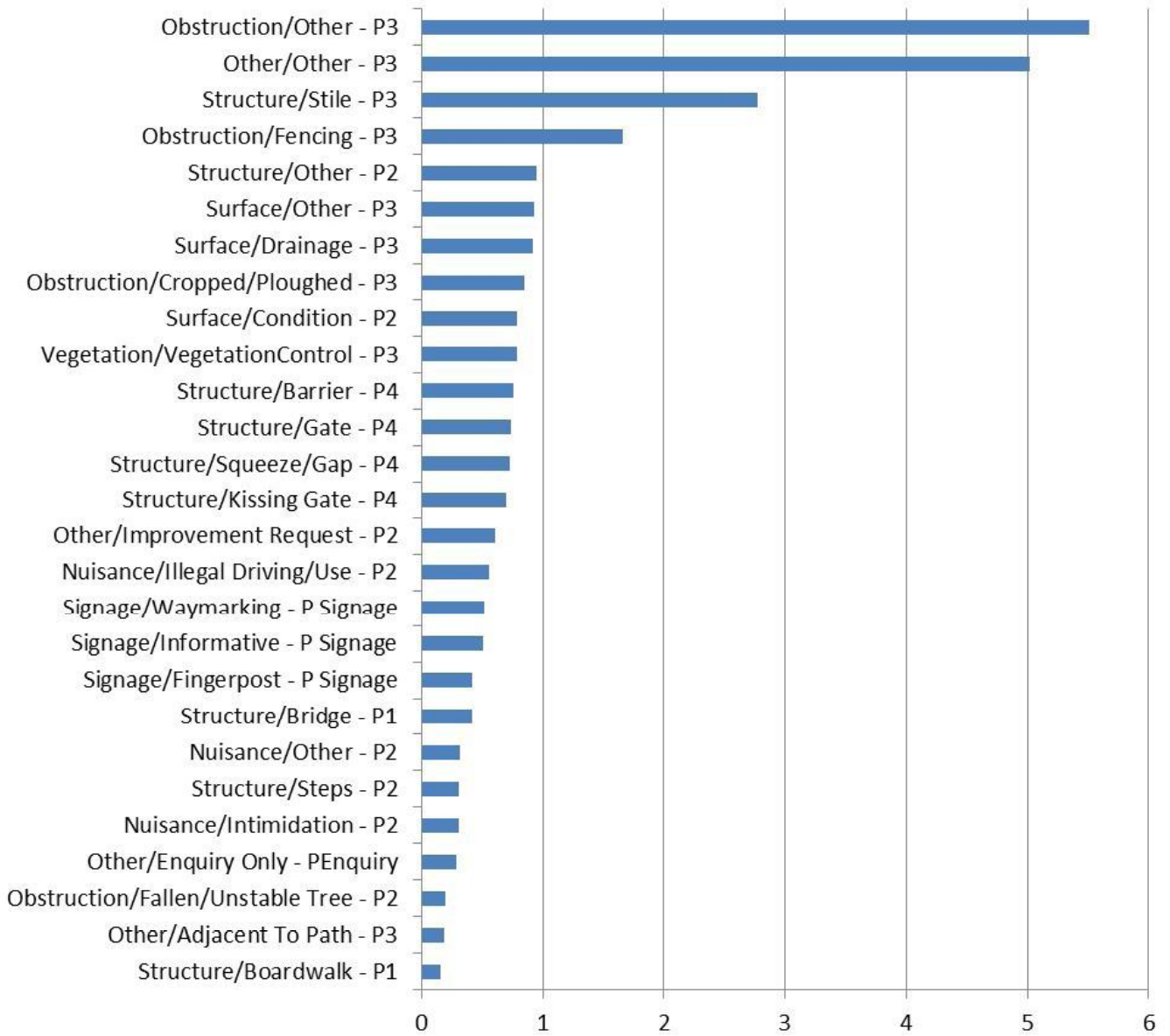


Table 3: Unresolved problem reports – Type and sub-type by Area

The number of unresolved problem reports that are currently unresolved. This also includes issues that are in progress.

Type Detail	Central East	Central West	North	South	Total
Nuisance/Illegal Driving/Use	8	6	3	5	22
Nuisance/Intimidation	12	3	4		19
Nuisance/Other	7	7		4	18
Obstruction/Cropped/Ploughed	58	21	36	12	127
Obstruction/Fallen/Unstable Tree	33	29	9	9	80
Obstruction/Fencing	68	27	56	15	166
Obstruction/Other	23	18	48	26	115
Other/Adjacent To Path	9	6	4	4	23
Other/Enquiry Only	9	9	15	3	36
Other/Improvement Request	32	42	10	7	91
Other/Other	28	80	8	3	119
Signage/Fingerpost	44	54	28	4	130
Signage/Informative	9	8	1	2	20
Signage/Waymarking	33	21	12	2	68
Structure/Barrier	1			1	2
Structure/Boardwalk				1	1
Structure/Bridge	22	8	19	12	61
Structure/Gate	13		16	11	40
Structure/Kissing Gate	3	3	4	3	13
Structure/Other	3	2	1		6
Structure/Squeeze/Gap	2		2		4
Structure/Steps	6	1	2		9
Structure/Stile	170	61	162	37	430
Surface/Condition	67	25	47	42	181
Surface/Drainage	28	8	18	15	69
Surface/Other	7	3		5	15
Vegetation/Vegetation Control	160	114	11	24	309
Total	855	556	516	247	2174

Figure 6: Unresolved Problem reports - Average time waiting

Average time (in years) that unresolved reports have been waiting to be resolved.

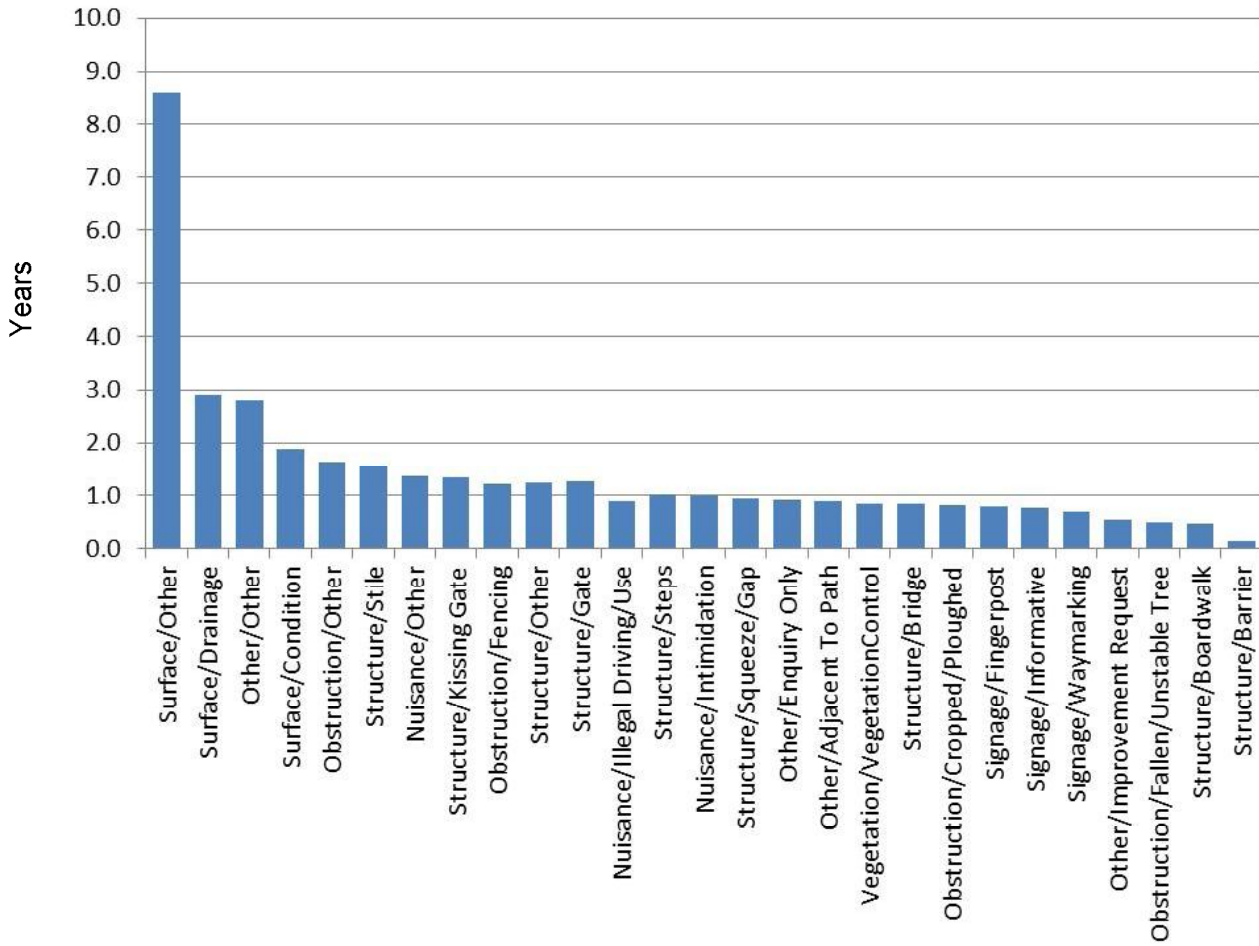


Table 4: Definitive Map and Village Green Statistics

Traffic Regulation	
Temporary Closure Orders processed since April 2012	65
Routes currently affected by Traffic Regulation Orders	50
Claims to amend the Definitive Map	
Received since April 2012	5
Awaiting investigation	65
Taken up for investigation since April 2012	1
Currently in progress	14
Resolved since April 2012	3
Dedications completed	8
Public Path Orders (diversions, dedications)	
No. on list (inc waiting list)	32
Orders made since April 2012	15
Orders confirmed since April 2012	8
Orders that came into effect since April 2012	5
Town and Village Green Applications	
Received since April 2012	2
Awaiting investigation	3
Under investigation	2
Resolved	0



MEETING DATE: *Tuesday 14th May 2013*

REPORT TITLE: *List of Streets*

ACTION REQUIRED FROM FORUM: *Discussion*

1.0 Introduction

In 2012 a sub-group to the Forum was established to look at how the road network can better accommodate non-motorised users. The group identified two issues that make it difficult for the public to access reliable data about the road network:

1. *The representation of U-roads on current mapping*

Some U-roads do appear on OS mapping as “Other routes with public access”, however others appear as “white roads”, a designation that may or may not have public access.

2. *The lack of clarity and easy access to the List of Streets (CHALIST)*

The List of Streets is only available to the public in database format. This database is not easy to use. In addition, the List of Streets is a record of highways maintainable at public expense and does not show the rights the public has over these routes. Moreover, it is still not clear whether the List of Streets will be exempt from the 2026 cut-off date provided for in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, whereby rights of way in existence before 1 January 1949, but not currently on the Definitive Map of Rights of Way, will be permanently extinguished.

Due to the uncertainties regarding the 2026 cut-off, and as part of Providing Access to Hampshire’s Heritage (PATHH), a pilot study was conducted for Winchester looking at how a sample of well-used routes within the City were represented on a print-out of the GIS layer of the List of Streets for Winchester. It was quickly found that some well-used routes were not shown or were only partially shown and that the map legend did not explain the status of individual routes.

2.0 Action agreed by the Forum

A letter was sent to Hampshire County Council requesting that Highways and the Countryside Service work together to undertake a review of the List of Streets with a view to the following:

- To define the legal status of the designations used on the legend of the List of Streets
- To provide integrated online mapping for the public showing the routes with public rights of access as shown on the Definitive Map and on the List of Streets.
- In addition, if Government decides that routes on the List of Streets will not be exempt from the 2026 cut-off date, to consider how routes without the necessary legal status can acquire that status prior to 2026.

A response to this letter was received (see Annex 1) and it was discussed at the February meeting of the Forum, where it was agreed that it would be useful to meet with Highways to discuss this further. Sue C and Alan M met with Andy Smith (Countryside Service), Emma Noyce (Countryside Service), Colin Taylor (Highways) and Steve Spender (Highways) on 7th May. Feedback on the outcome of the discussions is to be provided to Forum members at the meeting.



**Hampshire
County Council**

Mr D Ashcroft
Hampshire Countryside Access Forum
c/o
Amanda Hull
Hampshire County Council
Culture, Communities And Business Services
Castle Avenue
WINCHESTER
SO23 8UL

*Economy, Transport and Environment Department
Elizabeth II Court West, The Castle
Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UD*

Tel: 0845 603 5638 (General Enquiries)
0845 603 5633 (Roads and Transport)
0845 603 5634 (Recycling Waste & Planning)

Textphone 0845 603 5625

Fax 01962 847055

www.hants.gov.uk

<i>Enquiries to</i>	Colin Taylor	<i>My reference</i>	SS/2608317
<i>Direct Line</i>	01962 846753	<i>Your reference</i>	
<i>Date</i>	31 December 2012	<i>Email</i>	colin.taylor@hants.gov.uk

Dear Mr Ashcroft

Hampshire Countryside Access Forum – List of Streets

Thank you for your letter dated 20 September 2012 within which you highlight issues related to current representation of Hampshire's road network on the OS maps and the manner in which information related to the list of streets is presented. The issues the Forum have raised have been discussed in some detail by colleagues across the Council and, I am afraid, accounts for why it has taken so long to provide you with a full reply.

The current representation of U-Roads on OS mapping is acknowledged and accepted but unfortunately the manner in which the road network is represented on such maps is under the control of the Ordnance Survey.

In answer to the point that you have raised regarding the 'List of Streets' held by Hampshire County Council, I would make the following comment:

The List of Streets held by HCC is a requirement under S36(6) of the Highways Act 1980. It should be noted that the requirement is for a 'list', and by definition is held in text form rather than a map. The legislation only requires it to be a list which contains routes which are publicly maintainable, it does not require the precise width, length or indeed alignment of the said routes, nor the level of public access.

HCC uses an internal referencing system known as 'CHALIST' to locate and reference sections of our network and it is a component of CHALIST which performs the function of the List of Streets. This list is accessible through the Authority's website but can also be inspected on request in table form as text. CHALIST is used by the Authority as a maintenance tool to define the routes which require inspection and the level of maintenance required.

*Director of Economy, Transport and Environment
Stuart Jarvis BSc DipTP FCIHT MRTPI*

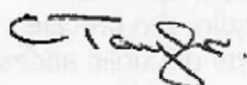
It is acknowledged that there are a number of 'well used routes' in the City of Winchester and elsewhere, which are not on the List of Streets or the Definitive Map. This is a known phenomenon and is common to most older urban areas nationwide. There are various reasons that these routes are omitted from the List: it may be that these routes are not maintainable, or it may be that these routes were simply not put forward for inclusion on the Definitive Map, either when the map was first drawn up, or since that date.

Having considered the final points raised in the bullet points at the end of your letter I would make the following comments:

- The List of Streets' only legal designation is 'that it records roads etc that are 'publicly maintainable'. To embark on a project to define by status those routes already shown on the List of Streets would require extensive additional resources and would take a significant amount of time. We do not consider that this is the best use of our limited resources at the present time.
- As the List of Streets is not graphical, the County Council has concerns that it may be misleading to show List of Street information in a graphical format to the public. However, officers from both Highways and Countryside have met to discuss how in principle this information might be presented and are currently looking at various options.
- We understand that it is almost certain that if and when the provisions of section 53 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act are brought into force, regulations will specify that those routes recorded on the List of Streets will be exempt from extinguishment. We will therefore will keep a watching brief on the development of these regulations but do not propose to take any further action with respect of giving additional protection to those routes already shown on the List of Streets unless we become aware of a significant change in central government policy.

Whilst I regret that we have not been able to satisfy all of your requests, colleagues from both the Highways Team and the Countryside Service will continue to work closely together to ensure that the County Council is well placed to address the effects of the 2026 'cut-off' date and provide high quality information to the public about access to Hampshire's countryside.

Yours sincerely



Colin Taylor
Assistant Director – Highways, Traffic and Transport

cc: Steve Spender, Phil Samms - Environment, Transport and Economy
John Tickle, Andy Smith, Emma Noyce, - Culture Communities and Business Services



MEETING DATE: *Tuesday 14th May 2013*

REPORT TITLE: *Training for Members*

Members are asked to consider what training would be useful to assist the Forum in giving considered relevant advice. This may include topics to have specific training sessions about as part of Forum meetings and/or written guidance.

National guidance published for Local Access Forums includes:

- ***Handbook for LAF Members*** - commissioned by Natural England and published in March 2008. It is a 279 page document, aimed as a predominately web-based source of information. It includes guidance about the general practicalities of running a LAF, as well as key facts and useful information about all aspects of access. See www.naturalengland.gov.uk/ourwork/access/laf/ (an updated version is also available on Huddle).
- ***Guidance on Local Access Forums in England*** – produced by Defra, issued in 2007 and updated in 2009. The Guidance sets out how the Secretary of State expects forums to contribute (through the provision of advice) to better informed decision-making on public access to land, open air recreation and use of the public rights of way network. See <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/rural/documents/countryside/crow/laf-guidance.pdf>.



MEETING DATE: *Tuesday 14th May 2013*

REPORT TITLE: *Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage – minutes of sub-group*

ACTION REQUIRED FROM FORUM: *Discussion*

Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage (PATHH) - Sub-Group Meeting 16th April 2013

Present: Alan Marlow (Chair), Sue Coles, David Ashcroft, Mark Maclay, Ruth Croker, Emma Noyce, Sam Jones, Linda Prior

Apologies: Nigel Wolstenholme

1. Membership of Sub-Group

The membership of the Sub-Group was agreed to be: David Ashcroft, Mark Maclay, Nigel Wolstenholme, Alan Marlow and Sue Coles (HCAF); Ruth Croker (NFAF); Emma Noyce and Sam Jones (HCC). Alan Marlow was appointed Chair.

2. Minutes and Actions from PATHH Steering Committee 19.02.2013

- *Voice-over options:* nothing heard from Sarah Manchester. Item to be re-minuted.

ACTION: Sue – to chase Sarah who is to investigate voice over options with the NPA Communications Officer.

- *List and Contact details of PATHH volunteers:* Sue has sent a reminder to Stephen but no reply has been received.

ACTION: Sue - to chase Stephen

- *Payment of VAT:* Amanda is sorting through invoices to ascertain where VAT has been paid.
- *HCAF Bank Account:* agreed that bank account should remain open. Alan will transfer £5 into the account to facilitate this.

ACTION: Alan – to transfer £5 into account

- *Project Summary for internal HCC circulation:* this is still outstanding. Item to be re-minuted.

ACTION: Emma Noyce

- *Education Pack on HWTMA website:* reminder has been sent to Stephen, but no reply received to date.

ACTION: Sue – to chase Stephen

- *Generic email to Hampshire Schools:* when Education Pack is on PATHH website, link should be sent to Jo and Graham.

ACTION: Sue - to chase

- *Location and storage of Exhibition Banners:* not sure where these are located – believed that one or more may be in Lymington or Stubbington.

ACTION: Sue – to check with Stephen. Once Banners located, these should be sent to Amanda for storage.

- *Alternative email account:* unsure if this has been set up yet.

ACTION: Sue to check on current status.

3. Research Output

Alan presented results of the final database. He reported that 189 cases had been flagged up having useful historic evidence. Of these 81 were decided by ACAMs to be very good. An independent reviewer examined the cases, based on the historic evidence. From the list drawn up by the ACAMs and the independent reviewer, a top 20 has been devised.

It was suggested that one case – Houghton – should be progressed as a pilot. Houghton is the subject of a diversion request, while there is evidence for higher rights along the route. However, the case will be controversial, and more than one landowner is involved. The topography of the land indicates that rerouting the RoW will be difficult. It was decided that:

- Nigel be asked to meet with landowners to discuss current situation and to look at the topography of the land.
- Emma to speak with Vicky and to find out who put in the original request.
- Need to decide who will put in the claim: the equestrian who raised it on the CAP, or a representative of PATHH.

ACTION: Sue – to speak with Nigel. Emma – to find out who made the original request.

A potentially “easy win” case was identified: No. 353. David said he was willing to speak to the landowner in the first instance. It was also felt that the Parish Council involved should be consulted.

In all the top 20 cases it is important to ensure that none are the subject of Legal Event Orders or on the Claims List. Some may be on the List of Streets. These issues need to be investigated before further steps are taken.

Sam raised the issue of case 160 (Ringwood), along the Avon Valley Path. He pointed out that the aspiration of the CAP is just for a footpath. In his view there is a need to match original CAP aspirations with research outcomes to derive the top priorities. This may bring in cases that have just missed out being in the top 20 or result in others being excluded.

**ACTION: Research of List of Streets/Claims List/Legal Events Orders on priority cases
ACAMs to look at the cases flagged up for ones with highest desirability
Following pruning exercise Alan will send out map details for remaining cases in mid-May plus data base.**

4. Education Workshops

It was agreed that future Education Workshops should be put on hold to wait for someone to take them on. The workshop will be on the PATHH website and if there are any queries from schools these will be forwarded to HCAF.

5. Publicity

- **Website:** It will be difficult to keep this maintained. In the short term it is proposed to maintain the current PATHH website as part of the Trust website. Later the information on PATHH will be provided on the HCAF website.
- **Availability of data to public:** The HLF Report is not confidential and can be made available to the public. But the meeting was concerned about how much of the database could be freely available.

ACTION: Sue to check on position of HCAF with regard to FOI

- **Presentations to external bodies:** Sue delivered a presentation at the National LAF Conference in Sheffield in February. The Peak District NP have requested a presentation to their members, but had assumed costs were covered by the project. Alan said he may be able to give a presentation provided he was in the area. Dorset LAF are undertaking a List of Streets project in Poole.

6. Next Meeting

To be scheduled sometime from 19th June.

MEETING DATE: *Tuesday 14th May 2013*

REPORT TITLE: *Reports from other LAFs*

ACTION REQUIRED FROM FORUM: *None*

Meeting dates for 2013 for the New Forest and South Downs Local Access Forums:

New Forest Access Forum: 4 June; 9 September; 2 December

South Down Local Access Forum: 18 July; 17 October; 21 January

For information please find below the minutes/agenda of:

- 1) New Forest Access Forum
- 2) South Downs Local Access Forum
- 3) National Local Access Forum Conference

DRAFT Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting – 4 March 2013
Lyndhurst Community Centre

Members: Alastair Duncan (Chair) Rachel Pearson
Lynden Bowen Joan Cundill Ruth Croker Tracey Churcher
Pat Thorne Sam Dovey
Lynden Bowen Heather Gould
Alison Russell Ben Rayner
Gary North

Officers: Sarah Manchester (New Forest National Park Authority)
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)
Sam Jones (Hampshire County Council)

In attendance: Dylan Everett (National Trust)
Michelle Baxter (National Trust)
Jo Hatton (Hampshire Countryside Access Forum)
Peter Scott (New Forest Ramblers)
Brian Tarnoff (New Forest Association)
Ann Shand (Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley Parish Council)

1 Apologies and minutes of last meeting

- 1.1 Apologies were received from members Peter Walsh, Gordon Garrett, Leo Randall, Bobbie Lawrence and Steve Rippon-Swaine.
- 1.2 The minutes from the last New Forest Access Forum meeting of 3 December 2012 were agreed as a true record, apart from paragraph 2.5 which will be corrected to read “Presently is thought that only one local mobility scooter user knows the combination to access the path.”
- 1.3 Alastair Duncan welcomed Forum members to the meeting and introduced Tracey Churcher as the new Youth representative. Alastair then asked observers to introduce themselves.

2 Matters arising from the last meeting

- 2.1 Item 2.5 - A letter had been written to Ashurst Parish Council regarding the locked gate on the all-ability path, however as yet no response had been received. It was noted that the Parish Council does not have to act on the Forum's advice, and agreed that a follow-up letter would be written to the Parish Council

Action: Alastair Duncan and Sarah Manchester to write to Ashurst Parish Council on the subject of the locked 'accessible' gate on the Recreation Ground

- 2.2 Item 4.2 - Actions based on members survey – see agenda item 4.
- 2.3 Item 5.2 - The updated Structure and Remit document could now be found on the website.
- 2.4 Item 5.3 - The website had now been updated with the amended biographies, it was asked that Forum members check they are happy with their biographies and to send any missing biographies to Vicki or Sarah.
- 2.5 Item 11.6 - Members were reminded which members would be representing the NFAF at HCAF meetings in 2013.
- 2.6 Joan Cundill updated Forum members on NFDC's recent consultation on introducing car-park charges for blue badge holders. A recommendation has been made that the Council imposes charges subject to a public consultation. Some concessions for blue badge holders are to be included. The NFAF will have an opportunity to respond to the consultation.

Action: Joan Cundill to pass details of the consultation on car park charges for blue badge holders on to Sarah Manchester when it is issued

3 Foxbury – Dylan Everett, National Trust

- 3.1 Alastair welcomed Dylan Everett to the Forum, explaining that Foxbury is a large area of wood and heathland within the North East sector of the forest. The National Trust had been working on this for some time.
- 3.2 Dylan delivered his PowerPoint presentation, explaining that recently the National Trust had been through a re-structuring process. They are now fully staffed with the exception of an Outdoor Ranger which they are currently recruiting for.
- 3.3 Foxbury was acquired by the National Trust in 2007; it is one of six New Forest commons that the National Trust looks after. It is an approximately 150 hectares site which is separated into 3 compartments including woodland, heathland and ponds. The focus is now to encourage grazing onto the site; approximately 100 hectares are now fenced and available for cattle grazing; troughs have also been put into place to ensure adequate drinking water is available. It was explained that volunteers had also been drafted in to help plant some 1500 trees across 9 hectares and also to help manage the site.
- 3.4 Dylan expressed that his aspiration for the site is to encourage more people and families to visit the site on specified open days and one-off events such as Easter egg hunts, bushcraft activities, and equestrian mornings. 12 km of gravel tracks have been created – but these can only be used for scheduled activities and events run by the National Trust. Dylan is also looking to expand the education offer to ensure school children get the most out of the site.

- 3.5 For more information on the National Trust please contact –
Website – www.nationaltrust.org/newforest
Tel – 01425 650035
Email – info.newforest@nationaltrust.org.uk
- 3.6 An opportunity was then given for questions, these included –
How much of the site was wheelchair accessible?
Paths are as good as they could be at the moment and many of the potholes had been covered and should now be a smoother ride.
Are there any events for wheelchair users?
Currently there are not any, however if these were to be requested then Dylan would look into this.
Are there any plans for toilet facilities?
Currently there are no toilet facilities on site, however during the larger events port-a-loos are brought in. This may be looked into further in the near future.
Where are events advertised?
Currently events are advertised via press releases, poster campaigns, National Trust newsletters, libraries and pubs.
The original management plan indicated that the site would have open access and new multi-user paths would be created – it was intended that Foxbury would take some of the recreation pressure off the New Forest SPA. Other than on the public footpath, is there any public access that is not associated with organised events/activities?
No.

4 Access Forum Survey – Alastair Duncan (paper 31/1)

- 4.1 Alastair summarised the paper, and added that an item on “future topics” would be included at the next meeting. Forum members thought that short courses would be beneficial and a discussion would take place at the next meeting as to what topics would be most useful.

5 Annual Report – Alastair Duncan (paper 31/2)

- 5.1 Forum members agreed that the Annual Report was a very strong and informative document. Subject to minor grammatical corrections, the report will be sent to Natural England and made available on the website.

Action: Alastair to send amended Annual Report to Sarah for submission to Natural England and inclusion on the website

6 Officers Report – Sarah Manchester (paper 31/3)

- 6.1 Sarah presented her report to the Forum.
- 6.2 It was explained that the Local Sustainable Transport Fund is currently running very well and 2 new officers have been contracted to work on this. Members were asked for their suggestions for projects that could be undertaken through the LSTF work, the main objectives of which are to reduce carbon emissions and to benefit the local economy.

Action: All suggestions from members for LSTF projects to be sent to Sarah

Forum members noted that due to the ending of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the inability of HLS to fund public access, the public would no longer be permitted to walk on the private land adjacent to Mill Lane Brockenhurst. It was agreed that this would be a great shame as it was a very useful and regularly used footpath which provided a much safer route than walking on the Mill Lane carriageway. Alastair suggested that the Forum could write to Natural England to raise the issue as an illustration of the desirability of HLS funding access provision. This was agreed, and members also proposed that the Forum write to the landowner to ask about their concerns and whether there was anything that could be done that might result in the landowner keeping the access open.

Action: Alastair Duncan to draft a letter to NE and the landowner in respect of the ending of the agri-environment funded access

6.4 Forum members expressed approval of the draft Design Standards produced by HCC, commenting on their professional presentation and usability. The Forum asked that their thanks be given to Cath Hart.

Action: Sarah Manchester to formally thank Cath Hart, HCC, for the Design Standards

7 National LAF Conference – Alastair Duncan

7.1 Alastair advised the Forum that he would give a full report from this conference would at the next meeting, as the papers are not yet available. He felt overall the conference was a great success with 80 out of 96 LAF's attending and a broad range of subjects covered.

8 Proposal to fence registered common land at Barton-on-Sea (paper 31/4)

8.1 Discussion took place within the Forum as to whether the NFAF should support the proposal for fencing to allow grazing on the common at Barton-on-Sea. On balance, the consensus of the Forum was to support this proposal. It was thought that the grazing of stock on this land would encourage the natural flora to grow and would be the most sustainable way to ensure the common is restored. It was agreed that comments would be made to the applicant in respect of self-closing gate types, and the requirement for full mobility access at certain entrance points.

Action: Alastair Duncan and Sarah Manchester to respond to the proposal to fence Barton Common conveying the support of the NFAF subject to the Forum's comments.

9 Recreation Management Strategy Working Group – Alastair Duncan

9.1 It was reported that subject matter had been quite thin at the last meeting and that the Cycle Working Group had withdrawn from the RMSWG. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th March; the agenda was not yet available. It was noted that the Research sub-group is moving forward with its work, and that the National Park Authority has provided funding to support research into a local definition of tranquillity, as recommended by the sub-group.

10 HCC Update – Sam Jones

10.1 Alastair introduced Sam to the Forum and complimented him on the work HCC carries out.

10.2 HCC is currently looking at the allocation and prioritisation of resources and what public-driven projects HCC can take on in addition to their statutory duties. Reported problems on the rights of way network are allocated a priority from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most important. Most of HCC's work is focussed on priority 1 and 2 issues, and they

are keeping on top of these with all priority 1's being currently up to date. The view is to recruit volunteers to assist with addressing priority 3 – 5 issues.

- 10.3 Sam is working on making stronger relationships with key organisations in order to see where interests overlap, to ensure everyone understands each other's aspirations, and to make it easier to get the job done efficiently.
- 10.4 There are three 'missing' bridges at Sopley, Ibsley and Godshill. As they are large bridges, their replacement will be centrally-run projects. HCC are currently waiting for engineers to standardise the designs of bridges.
- 10.5 Sam advised the Forum that the new bridge recently installed at Linwood Bog had received a lot of negative press; however he now believed that the issues had been resolved.

11 FC Update – Gary North (paper 31/5)

- 11.1 Alastair Duncan introduced Gary to the Forum, explaining that last year the Forestry Commission lost around 25% of its staff, and now has very limited resources.
- 11.2 Paper 31/5 gives details on what the Forestry Commission are currently doing. Gary explained that out of a £180,000 annual maintenance budget, £80,000 is spent on a litter contract and a further £60-70,000 is spent on toilets. Gary sees additional, external, funding as being the way that he can get done the things that need to be done
- 11.3 Members took part in a Q&A session covering the following points:
- QR codes on cycle waymarker posts all link to the FC New Forest cycling page
 - It is not yet known when the bridge at Setthorns will be open to horse-riders and carriage drivers
 - The FC carries out regular tree inspections; sites are ranked 'A' – car parks and cycle routes, inspected annually; 'B' other main routes and B roads; 'C' other sites, not regularly inspected.
 - Suggestions to use the HLS funding to improve car parks, thereby reducing verge parking, have been rejected by the HLS Board
 - Although the FC website shows planned closures to car parks and routes, it is not possible to give advance warning of all closures as some are reactive, e.g. to weather events. Anyone planning an organised walk or other event should use the FC permissions system, so the FC can notify the organiser of relevant closures.
- 11.4 Gary asked that should members have any comments or would like further information to contact him. The FC will report on a regular basis on ongoing work to Forum meetings.

12 Reports from Representatives

12.1 Small Grants Scheme – Joan Cundill

It was advised that there had been no meetings since December. The Panel has reverted to meeting 3 times per year and it was agreed that making decisions by email was not appropriate. HCC has allocated £50,000 to the Small Grants Scheme for 2013/14.

12.2 Community Toilets Scheme – Joan Cundill

The webpage is now up and running and can be visited at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20052/visitor_information/141/community_toilet_scheme. A map would also be uploaded which will show the locations of scheme participants. The NF Toilet scheme was an agenda item at a recent meeting between senior officers

from the NPA, NFDC and Forestry Commission. Whilst all organisations were supportive of the scheme, no money was available to contribute towards it. Currently there are 20 venues in this scheme.

12.3 Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage – Ruth Croker

It was reported that the PATHH project had now been completed. It had been a very successful project and members were encouraged to look at the website for more information - <http://pathh.hwtma.org.uk/>. The education side of the project had been particularly successful. All routes or potential new rights that had been identified by volunteers have now been evaluated, and it is hoped that in due course many will be added to the Definitive Map.

12.4 Huddle – Ben Rayner

Ben explained that Huddle could be a useful tool for those LAF's that do not get much support from their appointing authorities. Ben will keep a record of all the topics that come up on Huddle between now and the next meeting, and this can be discussed in June.

13 Reports from neighbouring access forum meetings

13.1 Wiltshire (*paper 31/6*)

Hampshire (*paper 31/7*)

Dorset (*paper 31/8*)

All the above papers were taken as read. It was noted that Wiltshire Forum members are making use of the MENE data. Hampshire Forum members discussed the forthcoming CAP review in smaller working groups, and feedback from these discussions will be made available to the NFAF.

14 AOB / Items for next meeting

14.1 Alastair Duncan asked Gary North about new ditching works in the Setley area that hit the headlines recently. Gary confirmed that after significant amount of public outcry, the ditching at the layby had been reconfigured to restore parking.

14.2 Alison Russell advised the Forum that members of the New Forest Equine Forum had recently be sent a helpful video about cycling events, this could be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSRj51QFSyg&feature=youtu.be> it has been produced by UK Cycling.

14.3 Joan Cundill informed the Forum that she had received a letter regarding the improvements made to the zig zag path at Barton-on-Sea and that she would go and have a look and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 1.30pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 3 June 9.30am – 1.00pm at Hythe and Dibden Council Offices

South Downs

Local Access Forum

18 April 2013

Springwells Hotel, Steyning

Agenda 10.30 a.m. – 13.30 p.m. Tea and coffee available from 10.00

Time	Item	Outcome
	A. General Business	
10.30	Welcome, apologies and any urgent matters not on agenda	
10.35	1) Minutes and matters arising	Agree minutes. Report actions.
10.45	2) SDNPA update a) Feedback from LAF Management Plan Working Group b) Update on dog charter work from last meeting (Appendix 1. Dogs messages update SDLAF)	Updates only
10.55	3) Defra and NE business a) Report on National Meeting 27.02.13, Glynn Jones, SDLAF member b) Invite to Regional Conference 21.05.13, London	
11.05	4) Information from members a) Feedback from other LAFs b) Update on Bramber crossing, Tricia Butcher, WSLAF member c) Update on Eartham Woods, Simon James, SDLAF member	
11.20	5) Presentation: Cycling in Britain's two newest National Parks, Bob Damper, SDLAF member	
	B. Key Topics for discussion	
11.40	6) Hampshire Countryside Action Plan review (Appendix 2. CAP Review)	SDLAF advice sought.
11.50	7) Newhaven Rail crossing, Neville Harrison, SDLAF member (Appendix 3. Diversion Map, Appendix 4. Location Map)	
12.05	Break	
12.15	8) NNR Dedication – agree LAF action plan	
12.25	9) South Downs Way items, Andy Gattiker, South Downs Way Officer: a) New arrangements for National Trails. Link to review report: http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/nationaltrails/review2012.aspx LAF input on key performance indicators and verification of indicators. LAF engagement as representative of user groups. b) SDW Work programme priorities for 2013/14	
13.10	Close Site visits (members only) - Steyning Downland Scheme, presentation and mountain bike provision; Pig farm on Annington Hill, impact on access	

Full papers from the conference can be found on the website:
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/7685821>

LAF National Conference, Holiday Inn Sheffield, 27th February 2013



Conference Schedule

Time	Activity	Presenter
10.00 - 10.15	Arrival – tea/coffee	
10.15 - 10.20	Welcome	Martin Shaw (Host)
10.25 - 10.30	Introduction to the day	Steve Scoffin (Chair)
10.30 - 10.55	Talk 1 - MENE	Stephen Herbert (Natural England)
10.55 - 11.00	Introduction to workshop sessions	Steve Scoffin (Chair)
11.00 - 12.00	Workshop session A (coffee/teas available)	
12.00 - 12.25	Talk 2 - Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage	Sue Coles (Hants LAF)
12.25 - 13.25	Lunch	
13.25 - 14.25	Workshop session B (coffee/teas available)	
14.25 - 14.50	Talk 3 – Rowips of the Future	Jonathan Tweney (Defra)
14.50 - 15.50	Workshop session C (coffee/teas available)	
15.50 - 16.20	Plenary Session + Q&A	Steve Scoffin Martin Shaw Stephen Herbert Sue Coles Jonathan Tweney Wendy Thompson (Natural England)
16.20 - 16.30	Summing up	Steve Scoffin (Chair)
16.20 - 16.30	Conference close	Martin Shaw (Host)

MEETING DATE: *Tuesday 14th May 2013*

REPORT TITLE: *Forum Officer's Report*

ACTION REQUIRED FROM FORUM: *Volunteer to join the Small Grants Scheme Panel*

1.0 Summary

This paper provides brief information on:

- Small Grants Scheme
- SELAF Conference
- National Updates
- County Council Update
- Countryside Access Team Update

2.0 Small Grants Scheme – Countryside Access

For the first round of funding, the Panel considered 11 applications, 10 of which were approved (subject to conditions). A summary of the approved applications is provided below:

1. *Binsted Parish Council* – resurfacing of sections of paths within Alice Holt Arboretum, currently boggy, to allow year round access between the Shipwrights Way and an all ability path.
2. *Burghclere Parish Council* – replacing two stiles on Footpath 14 with gates to allow greater access to the path.
3. *Buriton Parish Council* - installation of a boardwalk to allow disabled access to the top part of the Chalk Pits site where a pond is being restored; installation of a bench. This site is located at the junction of the South Downs Way, Hangers Way and Shipwrights Way.
4. *Bursledon Parish Council* - installation of a mapboard at 'The View Point', showing paths in the area and local information.
5. *Chilbolton Parish Council* - continuation of a project from 2011-2012 to resurface a section of the Test Way (Footpath 2) and replace the gate to make it more accessible. Work to be completed by volunteers from Sparsholt College.
6. *Fair Oak and Horton Heath* – production of an 'Exploring...' leaflet and contribution towards mapboards at various locations in the Parish, to show countryside access and local information.
7. *Fawley Parish Council* - surface improvements to Parish Council managed countryside site, 'The Manor', to improve access for all. Work to be completed by volunteers with support from Parish Council staff.
8. *Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust* - replacement of a 60m section of boardwalk on the Test Way in Lower Test Nature Reserve to allow year round access. This section of the path suffers from heavy flooding throughout the year and is often impassable.
9. *Sopley Parish Council* - replacing 14 stiles with gates on Footpaths 8, 14, 17, 25, 29 and 30, to allow greater access for all.
10. *Sparsholt Parish Council* – resurfacing of sections of Restricted Byway 14, currently in poor condition. Work to be completed by volunteers.

There is approximately £36,000 remaining in the budget. The next closing date to the Scheme is 28th June (panel meeting 15th July).

There is still a vacancy on the Panel. Please contact Amanda if you would be interested in this role. It would involve attending three Panel meetings a year to advise on applications to the Scheme.

3.0 South East Local Access Forum (SELAF) Conference

The next SELAF Conference is due to take place on 21st May in London. Sue Coles, Graham Flatt and Alan Marlow will be attending on behalf of the Forum. Items on the agenda include:

- The Right Way Forward: The CLA's common sense approach to accessing the countryside
- Ministry of Defence Access and Recreation Policy and Practice

- Smartphone Scanning Technology and mobile websites
- Cycling in Britain's two newest national parks
- Natural England update, including Paths for Communities
- Engaging with Local Nature Partnerships
- Cycle Chilterns: the Chiltern's Sustainable Gateways Project

4.0 National Updates

Natural England support for LAFs – on 8th May 2013 Natural England wrote to all LAFs to announce:

- A new Natural England key contact for LAFs (Kevin Haugh).
- Continued support for the role of the LAF Regional Coordinator.
- The introduction of a quarterly newsletter which will provide opportunities to share good practice between LAFs, information from Natural England and Defra, and will include more details about relevant Natural England contacts along with some details of how Natural England would like to work with and support LAFs over the course of this year.

Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 – the Growth and Infrastructure Bill received Royal Assent on 25th April 2013 and the Bill is now an Act of Parliament (law). The Act 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.

5.0 County Council Update

County Council Elections took place on 2nd May. This resulted in the Conservative party retaining overall control of the County Council, with 45 seats. The Liberal Democrats have 17 seats, UKIP have ten seats, Labour have four seats, and the Independent and Community Campaign (Hart) both have one seat each.

The Conservative party met on 7th May to consider its key appointments. Cllr Roy Perry was elected as Leader of the Conservative group with Cllr Keith Mans as Deputy Leader. The Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the other political groups are yet to be confirmed. The County Council, at its meeting on 23rd May, will elect a Leader of the County Council, along with a Chairman and Vice Chairman. After this, the new Council will be set up, putting in place the democratic and operational framework for the next four years.

Members will also be appointed to outside bodies, this includes the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum and New Forest Access Forum. We should expect to find out the result of this by July at the latest.

6.0 Countryside Access Update

There have recently been some changes to the Countryside Access Team. A flow chart detailing the structure of the Countryside Access Team HQ can be found in Annex 1. An updated Area Team map can be found in Annex 2.