

**AGENDA:** *Tuesday 12 September 2017*

**VENUE:** *Empire Room, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey SO31 5GA*

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

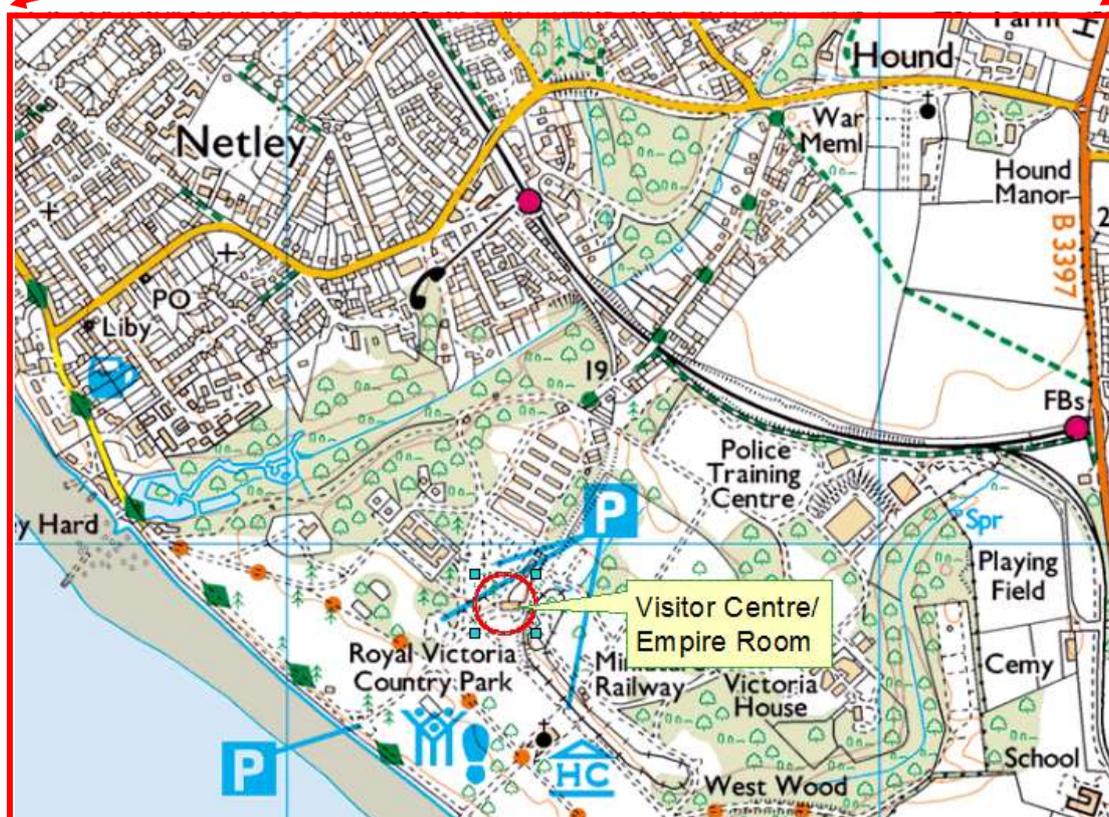
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|--------------|---|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1.           | <b>Apologies</b>  | <i>Admin</i>                    | <i>5 mins</i>  |
| 2.<br>10.05  | <b>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</b>  | <i>Information / Discussion</i> | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 3.<br>10.20  | <b>Byways Management</b> ( <i>James Emmett, HCC</i> ) – issues for HCC and proposed approach to addressing them   | <i>Information/ Discussion</i>  | <i>20 mins</i> |
| 4.<br>10.40  | <b>Report on National LAF Conference on 21 June</b> ( <i>Rachel Bryan</i> )   | <i>Information / Discussion</i> | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 5.<br>10.50  | <b>Portsmouth Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)</b> ( <i>Petronella Natrass</i> ) – Forum to consider a response to this consultation ( <b>due Thurs 14 September</b> )  | <i>Discussion / Decision</i>    | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 6.<br>11.05  | <b>Bracknell Forest ROWIP</b> – Forum to agree how to respond (due 4 October)   | <i>Discussion / Decision</i>    | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 7.<br>11.15  | <b>England Coast Path</b> – draft response to Natural England on Portsmouth-Emsworth ( <i>Alan Marlow</i> )   | <i>Discussion / Decision</i>    | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 8.<br>11.30  | <b>Forum Officer's report</b> ( <i>Petronella Natrass</i> )   | <i>Discussion/ Decision</i>     | <i>10 mins</i> |
| 9.<br>11.40  | <b>Project/sub-group updates</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage (PATHH)</i></li> <li>b) <i>MOD Liaison Group (next meeting 20/9/17)</i></li> <li>c) <i>Multi-user routes</i></li> <li>d) <i>Coastal access (met on 11 August – covered under item 7))</i></li> <li>e) <b>List of Streets</b></li> <li>f) <b>Planning sub-group (met on 7 and 15 August)</b></li> <li>g) <b>Equestrian Guidance</b></li> </ul> | <i>Information/ Discussion</i>  | <i>15 mins</i> |
| 10.<br>11.55 | <b>Hampshire Highways</b> ( <i>Graham Wright, Strategic Transport Team Leader</i> )   | <i>Information / Discussion</i> | <i>30 mins</i> |
| 11.<br>12.25 | <b>Reports from other LAFs</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>New Forest LAF(Aileen Wood); b) South Downs LAF (Aileen Wood); c) Surrey LAF(Aileen Wood); d) Other</i></li> </ul>   | <i>Information</i>              | <i>15 mins</i> |
| <b>12.40</b> | <b>LUNCH</b>  |                                 | <i>45 mins</i> |
| <b>13.25</b> | <b>FINISH</b>   |                                 |                |

**Contact:** *Petronella Natrass; 01962 845326; [petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk](mailto:petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk)*  
*Future meetings: 12 December (AGM – Winchester)*

**Directions: Empire Room, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley Abbey SO31 5GA**

**BY ROAD:** M27 Exit 8, follow signs for Bursledon and Netley, then brown signs for Royal Victoria Country Park. On arrival come to the Empire Room to collect a car pass.

**BY RAIL:** to Netley rail station, on arrival turn Left out of the station and follow the footway to the south of the Railway into the park.



## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: Tuesday 12 September 2107

Agenda item 2: *Matters arising*

### Actions of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum meeting, 20 June 2017

Reference	Action	Status
2.3 Matters arising	<b>Countryside Access Plan implementation: Jonathan Woods</b> to provide (a) a paper setting out what has been done to deliver the CAP over 2016-17 and what is planned for the next year, and (b) a copy of the draft Enforcement Policy.	Work still to be done on the draft Enforcement Policy – deferred to December
	<b>Planning – next steps: Petronella Natrass</b> to update sub-group distribution list.	Completed
4 Draft Equestrian guidance	<b>Petronella</b> to arrange for a new sub-group to meet, comprising GJ, GP, AWh, AM, AW/JM (AT and RB to be copied-in) to support and guide further development of the draft	Pending
5 Planning	<b>Petronella</b> to find out whether Owen Devine has information on LPAs' progress with Local Plan Review that can usefully be shared with the Forum.	Completed, copy circulated to Forum on 30 August
	<b>Planning sub-group</b> to meet in mid- to late July to discuss responses to the letter sent to LPAs	Sub-group met on 7 August – report under item 9(f)
7 Project/sub-group updates	<b>c) Multi-user routes: Sue Coles</b> to re-convene sub-group (to include GP and AWh)	
8 Hampshire Highways	<b>Petronella</b> to find notes from 2013 meeting and email all Forum, asking for 2 key concerns and 1 proposal for support/assistance. <a href="#">HCAF - meeting with Highways 26.11.2013</a>	Completed
	<b>Petronella</b> to send a summary of points to Graham Wright, asking him to advise who HCAF should be speaking to within Highways.	GW attending Forum meeting on 12 September to discuss points raised
11 CAP update	<b>Jonathan Woods</b> to advise relevant officers that AM does not appear to have received recent consultations on Legal Event Orders.	Completed
12 South Area Access Team	<b>Jonathan Woods/Sam Jones</b> to provide a written update on the work of the South Area Access Team.	Sam Jones' report attached overleaf

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 September 2107*

**Agenda item 2:** *Matters arising*

### **HCC South/West Area Countryside Access update**

*(Sam Jones, South/West Area Countryside Access Manager)*

#### **1. Coastal Access:**

**Action/request to Forum:** awareness

The Team are continuing to work with the Natural England Team, advising upon the physical suitability of the route choices proposed.

The route alignment and design for the sections outside the NFNPA boundary are complete and ready for inclusion in NE's report. The main only outstanding action is to finalise the estimated costs and ensure full account is given to the issues around preserving access in the Barton Cliff area (see info below)

#### **2. Loss of Access between Barton and Milford on Sea.**

**Action/request to Forum:** Awareness

Whilst the route was re-opened for the spring, unfortunately further cliff loss has again forced closure. HCC facilitated a stakeholder meeting in July to review options. Participants included NFDC Coastal Engineering team, New Milton TC representatives, John Truswell of NE Coast Path Team and County Cllr's Carpenter and Kendall.

The scale of the challenge the group face in maintaining cliff top access was effectively introduced by a presentation from Peter Ferguson – NFDC Coastal Engineer. Peter explained how their survey work as part of the Coastal Management Plan, has identified further cliff loss of 1-5m/year for next 50 year period.

In efforts to move forward and establish some form of permissive access, the Team from NFDC, together with Sam Jones, John Truswell and the Barker Mills Estate will be visiting the site in early Sept to identify what boundary changes would be required to role back and provide a viable and safe route for walkers. It will also be used as an opportunity to explore means as to how this can be both agreed, but also funded.

Recent example of the cliff top erosion, with a loss of approximately 5m over a 2 day period:



### 3. Denny Lodge Rail bridges: dangerous surfaces improved for equestrians commoners.

**Action/request to Forum:** awareness

Thank you for the letter of support from the Forum. This combined with other written representations from the Verderer's Office, BHS and Equestrian Association helped Network Rail prioritise their consent for the team to proceed with the essential work.

The Team worked closely with the Verderer's Office, FC and BHS to identify the priority bridges, which include the main rail crossing points at: Deerleap Inclosure, Black Down near Beaulieu Road rail station and Perrywood Inclosure near Brockenhurst.

The work itself was completed as part of Access South's annual team day, and with all hands to the job (including the team mascot – Harvey), all 3 bridges were re-decked with anti slip strips in the one day. I believe the tally was approx. 250 strips and nearly 4000 screws!

The team would like to thank the support of the NFNPA, FC, Verderer's Office, Tony Hockley of the NF Equestrian Association and in particular Alison Russel and the BHS who worked hard in supporting the project and ensuring the challenges the access team faced were well explained amongst users.



## New Forest Mitigation Strategy: Update

### Action/request to Forum: Awareness & support

The Team are continuing to work closely with NFDC's Planning Team, in delivering improvements to the access network, with the purpose of enabling walkers to access and enjoy good quality local green space.

The earlier works providing a year round multi-user link between Sandleheath and Fordingbridge continue to receive positive feedback, and the Team are now moving towards the delivery of improvements to 2 circular routes on the North Eastern side of Lymington.

Esther Smeardon, our project officer is working hard on finalising details with local landowners but we hope to move towards delivery of works last 2017. Further details to follow, but the improvements will focus upon new surfacing, bridges and the removal of stiles to improve access for all.

Location details of the 2 circular routes:



### Contacts: Access Team South

Office & general enquiries:  
Reporting of faults/issues on the network:

TEL. 02380 605110  
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/rightsofway-reporting>

Sam Jones  
August 2017

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 September 2107*

**Agenda item 3:** *Byways Management (James Emmett, Area Countryside Access Manager Central/East)*

This note builds on earlier discussions about developing a dynamic approach to managing Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS) in Hampshire. Its purpose is to:

1. Seek feedback on use of a Byway Assessment Form
2. Invite input and the establishment of a sub group to support HCC in the development of its approach.

### 1. Summary to date

Hampshire County Council is proposing a more proactive management of BOATS that seeks to minimise damage from over-use and ensure that the routes can support sustainable use into the future. It is also a way of effectively implementing existing byway policies. The approach involves three stages, which were outlined to the Hampshire Countryside Forum in December 2016:

#### **STAGE 1 Byways at risk –**

*A published list of byways that are open, but on which HCC advises voluntary restraint from uses. This should be circulated to user groups and be available on the web.*

#### **STAGE 2 Winter Closures –**

*For example, BOATS that are deteriorating or significantly damaged, despite voluntary restraint requests. These routes to have a winter Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) applied from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> May, with an additional option to close at any stage during the rest of the year on the basis of Met Office weather warning.*

#### **STAGE 3 Full Byway TRO –**

*BOATs that are continuing to deteriorate, despite Stages 1 and 2 having been applied.*

### 2. Byway Assessment Form (1<sup>st</sup> Draft)

The Countryside Service is aware of surface issues on **69 BOATS**, which have been identified through reports from members of the public, requests for TROs or local knowledge. There are 9 in South/West area, 23 in the North, and 37 in Central/East. This does not include BOATS that are currently under consultation for TROs in Bentworth/Selborne.

In order to keep these BOATS open **to all traffic** whilst preserving their nature and character and ensure the safety of all users, each route and any proposed management option will be considered on its own merits. A simple assessment form is proposed, based on a similar system used by Cumbria County Council. The initial Assessment of Routes will be made on those 69 identified as having issues, after which the remaining 250-plus BOATS will be assessed.

The purpose of the form is to categorise Hampshire BOATS as follows:

**Good:** *Little to No damage. Unlikely to require monitoring*

**Deteriorating:** *Moderate damage. Will require monitoring*

**Poor:** *Significant damage. Voluntary Restraint or Temporary Closure required*

### 3. Feedback Required

Forum members are asked to look at the draft assessment form and comment on whether it requires any addition or amendment. Comments are also welcome on who should complete the form, i.e. HCC Officers/user group representatives/a specific volunteer group, e.g. including path wardens et al. Training would be provided to enable a consistent approach.

The Forum are also asked to consider establishing a sub group in order to progress the use of this form and discuss ways to support any HCC decision to move a route to stage 1, 2 or 3.

1<sup>st</sup> Draft—BOAT Assessment Form

<b>Parish</b>	xxxxx	
<b>BOAT Number</b>	x	
<b>Local Name</b>	xxxxx	
<b>OS Map</b>	xx	
<b>Grid Reference. From/To</b>	SU123456- SU654321	
<b>Length</b>	1452	
<b>Length Unsurfaced</b>	1400	
<b>Comments/Observations.</b> Please include condition of surface, type, sensitivity to weather	<p>Surface badly rutted, 300mm deep ruts along much of length</p> <p>Very narrow with no passing places etc etc</p>	
<b>Designations- SSSI/NP etc</b>	SDNPA	
<b>Gradient- Flat, undulating or steep</b>	Steep	
<b>Surface Condition</b>	Poor- Significant Damage. Voluntary Restraint or Temporary Closure required	x
	Deteriorating- Moderate damage. Will require Monitoring	
	Good- Little to No damage. Unlikely to require monitoring	
<b>Assessed By</b>		
<b>Date</b>		

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 September 2107*

**Agenda item 4:** *Report on the Local Access Forum National Conference on 21 June 2017 in Birmingham (Rachel Bryan)*

### Report

The conference consisted of presentations from Natural England and 2 workshops where attendees were able to discuss topics and ask questions.

### Natural England Presentations

- **Health & the Natural Environment** - this presentation talked about the increasing amount of research recognising the health and wellbeing benefits of being connected with and having access to nature; and how this research is beginning to inform policy.
- **Rights of Way Improvement Plans** - all access authorities are having to update their ROWIPs over the next couple of years and submit them to Natural England for approval. Natural England understand that budgets are tight for access works and improvements; and will remain so into the foreseeable future. However, they are encouraging access authorities to take an optimistic approach with their ROWIPs where they continue to strive for increased and improved access; and not to just include the bare statutory minimum in their plans. If any of us, through our roles on Local Access Forums, get involved in consultation on ROWIPs in our areas then we should also be encouraging the development of an optimistic plan.
- **Natural England Update** - this presentation included an update on the England Coastal Path; how many sections are already open, the number currently with Secretary of State for approval and the number still at the Walk the Route stage. The England Coast path appears to be on track to be fully open by 2020.

One of HCAF Coastal Access Subgroup's concerns is how the spreading room is being depicted on OS maps as a Magenta wash. Any piece of excepted land (private property, Prisons, MOD land) within the spreading room area will still be shown under the Magenta wash which applies people have access to it. During coffee break I raised this concern with Bruce Cutts, Natural England, however, to be honest I was a little disappointed with his answer as it seemed to be a 'standard response' that we're getting from anyone in Natural England. He said they are constrained by 2 factors

- **The nature of excepted land** - i.e. what currently is excepted land may have a change of land use in a couple of years
- **The ability of OS to map the spreading room** with all of the excepted land not included.

At a previous HCAF Coastal Access subgroup meeting with our local Natural England Coastal Path staff Alan Marlow raised the example of the New Forest, which has a yellow wash and excepted land is not included in the wash. Bruce Cutts was unaware of this example. He thought the magenta wash wouldn't cause any issues as people are going to stick to existing paths and wouldn't suddenly start walking through prisons or MOD land. He said it can be managed by local signage on the ground. However this directly contradicts other messages from NE where they want to reduce the clutter of too much signage along the coastal path.

## Workshops

- **Multi-user Routes** – this workshop gave details of a current project that Cycling UK and The Ramblers are working on to survey users and produce guidance on multi-user routes to minimise conflict, or perceived conflict, between different user groups.
- **Opportunities for Public Access** - during this workshop we were asked what we would do with Access if money was no limit; basically our Access Wish List. Workshop attendees were suggesting things such as replace all bridges in my LAF area, create new access routes, more Access Rangers etc.

This workshop had originally been billed as a Brexit discussion; which is what we'd all signed up for. We were all expecting a discussion around what effects, positive or negative, leaving the EU may have on access.

All of the attendees in this workshop, including myself, were a little perplexed when asked the question about what we would like for Access if money was no limit. This felt as though we were discussing a situation that is unlikely in the foreseeable future

Rachel Bryan, Chair  
August 2017

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 September 2107*

**Agenda item 5:** *Portsmouth Rights of Way Improvement Plan*

The email below was received from Nick Scott of Portsmouth City Council and circulated to HCAF on 20 July.

As a joint Appointing Authority for HCAF, Portsmouth City Council recognises the importance of gaining HCAF's input to this ROWIP at an early stage, and has agreed to extend the response deadline to 14 September to enable the Forum to agree its response at the meeting on 12 September.

**Action from Forum:** The Forum is asked to consider its response to the four questions which are highlighted in the email.

Dear All,

I am writing to you in relation to Portsmouth City Councils upcoming revision of its Rights of Way Improvement Plan, due to be finalised by the end of 2017.

As part of this process the city council are keen to get the views of stakeholders of the network in the form of answers to the questions below. If you have any further comments then we would of course welcome these and all responses will be considered when preparing the report.

- 1. What are the main barriers relating to the existing rights of way network in Portsmouth?**
- 2. What are the main opportunities in relation to the rights of way network in Portsmouth?**
- 3. What do you see as the top three priorities in relation to the rights of way network in Portsmouth? (Please number these in priority order)**
- 4. Any other comments.**

Your input into this process would be very much appreciated and I look forward to hearing back. If I happen to have sent this to you in error if you can pass this to the relevant person within your organisation for comment that would be very much appreciated.

If any responses could be returned to me by the end of August (31<sup>st</sup>) that would be very much appreciated.

Kind regards,

**Nick Scott**  
**Senior Active Travel Officer**  
**Road Safety and Active Travel**  
Portsmouth City Council,  
Civic Offices,  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Guildhall Square,  
Portsmouth  
PO1 2AL  
**Tel No.** 02392841637  
**Mob No.** 07469 905129  
**Email:** [Nick.Scott@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:Nick.Scott@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)  
**Website:** [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 September 2107*

**Agenda item 6:** *Bracknell Forest Rights of Way Improvement Plan*

The following email has been received from Bracknell Forest Rights of Way department.

**Action from Forum:** to agree how to respond to this consultation (due 4 October)

Dear Rights of Way Consultee,

I'm pleased to invite you to provide your feedback on a draft version of our new Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP2).

A draft copy of the new 10-year plan for Bracknell Forest Borough is available to view on the consultation portal of our website (see link below), where you can also provide your feedback via an online form. The plan has been split into the main document and the appendices. <http://consult.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/portal/leisure/rowip2>

Alternatively any comments or views you may have on our plan can be sent to this email address, or submitted in writing to: Parks & Countryside Development Manager, Planning, Transport and Countryside, Bracknell Forest Council, Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 1JD.

Deadline for feedback is **4 October 2017**. Please note that the plan is in its early draft stage, with information such as the Foreword to be provided at a later date. This is the second stage of public consultation on the RoWIP, with our already having collected public feedback about rights of way via a questionnaire last April - June 2017.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 section 60 requires every local highway authority to prepare and publish a plan containing:

- a) The authority's assessment of:
  - i) the extent to which local rights of way met present and likely future needs of the public;
  - ii) the opportunities provided by local rights of way for exercise and forms of open-air recreation;
  - iii) the accessibility of local rights of way to blind and partially sighted persons or others with mobility problems;
- b) A statement of the action the authority proposes to take for the management of rights of way, and for securing an improved network of rights of way; and
- c) Such other matters as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State.

Your views are important to us and I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Kind regards,  
Rose Wicks.

Rights OfWay  
Planning, Transport and Countryside  
Environment, Culture & Communities  
Bracknell Forest Council

Tel: 01344 354107

Email: [RightsOfWay@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk](mailto:RightsOfWay@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk)

Web: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM**

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 September 2107*

**Agenda item 7:** *England Coast Path – draft response to Natural England on the section between Portsmouth and Emsworth*

Following the last meeting of the Coastal Access Group on 11 August, Alan Marlow prepared the attached draft responses to this consultation on behalf of the Forum.

**Action from Forum:** Members are asked to review and approve these responses.

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 12 Sept 2017*

Agenda item 8: *Forum Officer's report*

### 1. Rural Communities Fund (Formerly Small Grants Scheme) Countryside Access

Following the SGS Panel meeting on 9 May, it was agreed that with the change in the grant approval process the Panel would no longer be required to meet, but would be consulted on applications as they came through.

Seven applications for a total of £4,475 funding have been received under the new system and were circulated to the Panel for comment. The Panel's comments were passed on to the applicants via the Community Engagement Rangers and all 7 of the schemes were approved.

The three Community Engagement Rangers will be drafting guidance for the applicants to refer to at the early 'Expression of Interest' stage, based on past comments from the SGS Panel. The Panel will in due course be asked to comment on the draft guidance.

### 2. HCAF update

- **Recruitment to the Forum** – I am pleased to report that all of the Forum members whose three-year appointment ends in the current year have confirmed their wish to remain on the Forum. Advertisements are being sent out inviting new applications to be submitted by 25 September. Appointments will be confirmed by the HCC Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside on 30 November, ready for the Forum's AGM on 12 December.

### 3. Consultations

- **Natural England Consultation on East Dean Marshalling Yard** – at the beginning of August there was a further consultation on Natural England's proposal to extend an existing direction which restricts access on open access land at Marshalling Yard, East Dean. The report (circulated to the Forum on 8 August) included Natural England's response to the Forum's comments on the earlier consultation last March. The Forum had no additional points to make in response and Natural England has confirmed its decision to extend the existing direction for 6 years from 25 August 2017.
- **Portsmouth Rights of Way Improvement Plan** – Forum due to respond by 14 September. Reply to be discussed under Item 5.
- **NERC Act consultation** – a House of Lords Select Committee was appointed on 29 June to consider and report on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Views are being sought on the following issues:
  - **Rural advocacy and the Commission for Rural Communities**
  - **Natural England**
  - **Sustainability and biodiversity**
  - **The changing context since 2006**

This consultation was forwarded to HCAF on 14 August with a request for views on whether or not the Forum should respond. At the time of writing there has been no indication that the Forum wishes to do so.

The deadline for written responses is 4pm on **Monday 11 September**.

- **Revision of British Standard BS 5709, Gaps, Gates & Stiles** – the revision of British Standard BS 5709, Gaps, Gates & Stiles, has now been issued for public comment and will be open for comments until **Tuesday 19 September**. The draft can be found on the [online](#)

[standards development portal here.](#) It is necessary to log in to post comments so, if not already registered on the site, respondents will first need to register [here.](#)

The Forum may wish to decide on 12 September whether or not to respond.

- **Portsmouth Local Plan consultation** – Portsmouth City Council is at the early stages in preparing a new Local Plan and is currently consulting on the **Issues and Options** document, which sets out the Council's understanding of the planning issues concerning the city and options for how the City Council will deal with them. They want to hear whether they have identified all the planning issues correctly and what options you think the City Council have for the future. The results of this will help the City Council's work on the new Local Plan, which they will be preparing over the next year.

This consultation has been forwarded to the Forum's Planning Sub-group which will decide whether or not to respond. The deadline for responses is **Wednesday 28 September.**

#### 4. National LAF news

- **LAF National Conference** – the papers and presentation slides from the Conference in June are now available on Huddle via this link:

[Huddle - LAF National Conference 2017](#) . These include the following:

<u>Title</u>	<u>File size</u>
LAF Conference 2017 (audio)	80mb
LAF: LAFs in Changing Times	1mb
NE: ROWIP 2017	12mb
LAF: Multi User Routes (The BHS)	233mb
LAF: Multi User Routes (Cycling UK)	7mb
LAF: Railway Crossings - issues & solutions	18mb
LAF: Making the case for access	29mb
Defra: Rights of Way Reforms Project	3mb
NE: Statutory access updates	1mb
NE: Health and the Natural Environment	1mb

Members who have not signed up to Huddle are encouraged to do so in order to view these files, since unfortunately most of them are too large to send by email.

Petronella Natrass, Forum Officer  
August 2017

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM**

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 Sept 2017*

**Agenda item 9(e):** *List of Streets sub-group update*

The letter overleaf has been received in response to the sub-group's letter to Stuart Jarvis and Karen Murray in regard to the List of Streets.



Hampshire  
County Council

Alan Taylor Esq.  
Vice-Chair – HCAF  
Hampshire County Council  
Castle Avenue  
Winchester  
SO23 8UL

*Culture, Communities and Business Services  
Three Minsters House, 76 High Street,  
Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UL*

Telephone 01962 841841  
Fax 01962 841326  
[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

Enquiries to	Karen Murray	My reference	
Direct Line	01962 847831	Your reference	
Date	31 August 2017	E-mail	<a href="mailto:karen.murray@hants.gov.uk">karen.murray@hants.gov.uk</a>

Dear Mr Taylor,

**Accessibility of information held on the List of Streets (CHALIST)**

Thank you for your letter outlining the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum's proposal to identify those 'T' roads within Hampshire that are not on Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, with a view to their addition to OS mapping.

As I understand it, this project proposes to review the 'T' roads recorded on the List of Streets and compile a list of those that should be recorded on OS mapping as 'Other Routes with Public Access' (ORPAs). Please let me know if this is incorrect.

We recognise the value of having these roads shown as ORPAs on OS maps and I can confirm that Hampshire County Council supports the principle behind this project, given that it would not involve any change in maintenance responsibilities on these routes.

We do however need to understand more clearly the resource implications of this project and what action the Forum would be seeking from Hampshire County Council.

Please reply in the first instance via Petronella Natrass, who will coordinate the County Council's involvement. In the meantime I would like to thank the Forum for their work on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Karen Murray  
Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

*Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services*  
**Karen Murray**

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 Sept 2017*

**Agenda item 9(f):** *Planning sub-group update*

### Notes of Planning Sub-group – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Attending:

Alan Marlow  
Graham Flatt  
Sue Coles  
Jim Morey

Petronella Nattrass (PN) – part time

Apologies: Andy Wincup; Gill Plumbley; Alan Taylor

The meeting recapped on progress to date.

### LETTER TO PLANNERS

Members of the meeting thanked Petronella Nattrass for help in sending out the letter to planners.

PN had sent out letter to Planners and had received 4 responses to date:

**Basingstoke and Deane** – offering to meet HCAF members to provide a brief catch-up on its Green Infrastructure plan – this needs to take place during September so that HCAF can provide comments to their review taking place in early 2018.

**Test Valley** – offering to have an informal meeting with HCAF to discuss its three access plans which are due to be reviewed.

**Gosport** – provided a specific list of projects but would be worthwhile talking to them from a strategic standpoint.

**Rushmore** – no engagement with HCAF required at the moment.

It was agreed that informal meetings with Basingstoke, Gosport and Test Valley should be organized as they have offered to meet with us and we have much to learn from them. Would be open to all HCAF members to attend.

PN said that Countryside Service was being more bullish by including conditions that the planners are responsible for ensuring are met. However, this did raise the question as to whether it is the responsibility of the planners or countryside service to enforce these.

### ACTIONS:

- Planning Sub-group to meet with Owen Devine from Countryside Service to ensure that the Group was not crossing over anything that he was doing and how we might be able to help one another. PN to organize.
- It was agreed with PN that she would send a follow up letter to planners' who had not responded. In particular Fareham (re Welborne) and Eastleigh (re Bishopstoke).
- PN to investigate about a suitable room with projector/internet facilities for informal meeting with Basingstoke, Test Valley and Gosport.

## **WHAT SHOULD THE PLANNING SUB-GROUP FOCUS ON?**

A discussion took place as to what the Planning Sub-Group should focus its limited resources upon. It was decided that:

- The Group should focus its attention on large developments where it could make a useful contribution.
- It should seek to engage at the master planning stage as it was agreed that the public consultation stage was too late to make a difference – need to interact with Strategic Planning
- We should be offering a different way of contributing/influencing planners by not being prescriptive, but helping them to achieve the vision of a development to make it a good place to live and work.
- By asking the questions ‘how’ and ‘why’ – more about process and challenging the status quo.
- To help find a way of holding developers to account in ensuring that planning conditions are met in relation to rights of way and that enforcement measures are used where necessary.
- Challenge about why planners differentiate between utility and recreational routes as they fail to recognise in their documentation that they are often one and the same and the opportunities a change in thinking can present.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- Meet with Owen Devine
- Arrange to meet Basingstoke, Test Valley and Gosport planners

Gail Johnson  
August 2017

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Tuesday 12 Sept 2017*

**Agenda item 10** *Hampshire Highways (Graham Wright, Strategic Transport Team Leader, HCC Economy, Transport and Environment Department)*

HCAF has been focusing on a number of areas of work – in particular Planning, Equestrian Guidance and the List of Streets – which relate to the whole highway network including roads and transport as well as rights of way.

At the last meeting in June the Forum agreed to identify the highways/transport-related topics and questions they wish to raise with a representative of Hampshire Highways.

The following is a summary of the issues put forward by members of the Forum, together with suggestions of how the Forum might be able to help in addressing these issues.

### 1. Key Issues

- Hampshire Walking and Cycling Strategies – how/to what extent are these affecting prioritisation of work on the highway network in Hampshire?
- The apparent distinction between recreational and utility routes – is this appropriate, given that some recreational routes also have utility?
- There is disconnection within the off-road network, where rights of way and cycle lanes don't join up and so are difficult to use. The HCAF is concerned about safe (on-road) links between sections of off-road routes for non-motorised users and how to develop a holistic, integrated approach to developing and managing the whole Highway network (i.e. roads and rights of way).
- Equestrians have a legal right to use highways and are considered to be vulnerable road users along with walkers and cyclists. What is Strategic Transport's approach to considering the provision of safe access for equestrians on the road network during the planning process?
- HCAF has recommended that, wherever possible, all new paths/cycleways should be multi-use routes for non-motorised users, thereby contributing to a safer environment for equestrians. If as a statutory advisory body HCAF provides advice, what would Strategic Transport team's structures or processes be for having regard to that advice?
- Surfacing – where old tracks are re-surfaced to make them more accessible by making them very hard and smooth. This often increases speeds of wheeled users (both cycles and horse-drawn vehicles) which in turn increases conflict, as well as opening up the paths to motorised users such as motorbikes. From a mountain biking point of view, it also takes away the motivation to use them in the first place because the surface is much like a road or you have to be travelling faster to get the same feeling from riding.

### 2. How the Forum might help

- Advising on infrastructure that is (and isn't) fit for purpose before money is spent on a scheme, either generally or on specific cases. This can avoid expensive and embarrassing mistakes as well as things that are, inadvertently, barriers to the exact people who are supposed to be catered for. It can also help to ensure a greater level of use as the needs of users have been taken into account.
- Walking and cycling organisations are not required to carry out an audit of needs because this work is undertaken by planners, but no similar audit is done for equestrian activities. This research could be carried out by equestrian organisations. Would Strategic Transport consider working with an independent partner/s to gain a better understanding of equestrian needs?

Petronella Natrass (on behalf of Hampshire Countryside Access Forum)  
August 2017

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 12 September 2107*

Agenda item 11: *Reports from other LAFs*

### a) New Forest Access Forum – 4 September (*Aileen Wood*)

#### 1. Welcome Introduction Present & Apologies

15 people; several apologies; 1 observers (HCAF); 1 NPA rep

#### 2. Minutes last meeting and matters arising

- Minutes agreed and signed. All matters on the agenda

#### 3. Chair's report

- Report on National Conference in Birmingham. Main points a) funding post-Brexit; b) Sustainable RoWs Health "green prescriptions" – issue around people leading walks who were not 1<sup>st</sup> aid trained.

#### 4. Forum Officer's Report

- A) Key challenges; i) countryside; ii) planning and development; b Coastal Footpath; c) Portsmouth RoWIP; c) LAF conference; d) consultation i) revision BS5709; ii) NERC Act

#### 5. Update on NPA Partnership

- Short talk by Holger Schiller, Community & Partnership Officer. Original report written 2015 – revision expected 2020. NPA Plan – every national park must have a plan working with several authorities and agencies; Progress Report New Forest circulated

#### 6. Coastal Access Update

- New Forest area – likely to be a delay in publishing report. Brief discussion on spreading room and excepted land

#### 7. Recreation Management Strategy

- 8 week consultation period within the New Forest – 1600 responses. Draft report September 2017. Next stage Spring 2018

#### 8. Planning Principles

- Draft paper circulated NFAF – a) New Forest a special place; b) impact on road networks; c) impact on RoW network. Brief discussion regarding changes to wording; consider adding details about legal mechanism relating to RoW e.g. creation, diversion; upgrading; consideration of green spaces in new developments. Suggest adding short checklist or 1 page summary

#### 9. NERC Act

- Brought to the attention of NFLAF by Amanda Hull – draft comments by 11 September 2017. Mark Holroyd circulated a draft letter to members – minor changes to be made before letter is submitted

#### 10. Work Programme 2017-2018

- Discussion about communications, signage and education; mention of Row network that surrounds Crown Land

#### 11. Regular Update

- NFNPA written report
- HCC Countryside Access written report
- Forestry Commission oral report
- Rural Communities Fund – oral report
- Historic Routes – oral report

## 12. Report from other LAFs

- HCAF
- Wiltshire CAF

## 13. Election of Chair & Vice-chair

Char Ruth Croker      Vice Chair Ann Sevier      Appointed

## 14. DoNM 4 December 2017 Lymington

Meeting finished at 12.43  
Aileen Wood, Hampshire CAF observer  
4 September 2017

## b) South Downs LAF – 26 July (Aileen Wood) Forum & AGM

## 15. Welcome Introduction Present & Apologies

14 people (12 members; 2 staff) 5 apologies; 2 observers (HCAF; WSCAF); 2 staff

## 16. Appointment of Chair –

- Reappointment – Roger Mullenger for 1 more year
- Appointment of Vice Chair – to be left to next meeting

## 17. Terms of Reference

- Anomaly on wording relating to Chair's discretion to allow members of the public to speak at meetings without giving 2 day's notice – to be reviewed, to be more informal but controlled
- Query on "national boundary of national park" – should be working across boundaries especially those close to the national park; wording to be reviewed

## 18. Minutes (16 February 2017) and matters arising

- 12 action points – either auctioned or on the agenda

## 5a. National Trails update & Feedback from Logical Framework workshop for National Trails

- 15 National Trails partnerships working to secure funding on a national basis; meeting earlier in the year with representatives from all national trails, plus Natural England and DEFRA.
  - Outcome for a more formal working partnership called for – what it looks like to be agreed
  - Need to have more opportunity to generate income (In addition to government funding)
  - National Trails Body – management of change; better protection of heritage; idea to set up a charitable trust with power to put bids in place to secure funding
  - Brief discussion on benefits of having a National Trails Body
- Briefing about options paper, working document – for discussion, comments and feedback by September 2017
- Point raised – many local authorities have no information about who uses the national trails; promoting the benefits of health and mental well-being

## 5b. Feedback on MOD meeting

- Question raised about ballistics (ammo) and safety – no reply received from MOD;
- MOD re-writing bye-laws – need to check on changes and how these affect SDNP e.g. raising and removal of red flag on firing ranges

## 6. Meon Valley Trail and other trail information and economic value of trail

- Question about access points on to Meon Valley Trail – not clear on OS maps (getting onto or off the trail). Need to check with other trails about accessibility to routes; how should local information be made available? Approach local groups, guides to local area; having interactive maps. New Meon Valley leaflet circulated to members. Discussion about placing / advertising maps locally e.g. pubs; visitor centres. Aiming to create an App., online maps, reducing paper copies

## **7. LAF Members input into future work/projects**

- Permissive Paths Project – paper circulated to members present. See 9 below
- Ideas for other small practical projects to the chairman

## **8. Auditing Lists of Streets + feedback from HCAF mtg.**

- Chairman gave a brief report on activities in adjacent CAFS and LA activities

## **9. Chair's Update including update from Permissive Path group**

- Chairman thanked everyone who walked the routes – comments and feedback on quality and grading of routes. 21 landowners with grade 1 paths on their land. (Draft letter tabled for members present). Conflict between PATH / BOATS – who is right, have paths been changed?
- Many permissive paths not signposted. Noted that NE ?DEFRA pay landowners to maintain paths – inappropriate for other groups to do their work for them, or seek further funding

## **10. Defra and Natural England business**

- No report

## **11. Information from members and other LAFs**

- West Sussex CAF (WSCAF) – ROWIP project update. Financial incentives post BREXIT for creation of RoW – encouraging landowners. No-one attended national conference as considered too far away
- HCAF – report back on discussion 20 June 2017 meeting

## **12. SDNPA Update**

### **12a) Public Path Orders and other access updates**

- Name changed to widen remit – now South Downs National Trails and Rights of Way
- Cycling and walking strategy (one of 8 strategies) being developed
  - Need to expand into multi-user routes e.g. equestrian
- Public Path Orders – internal management – what / how to sign? Suggested small group would be convened to look at Public Path Orders from SDLAF. SDNPA confirmation of Public Path Orders for public access and use
- Update on various local plans and developments; approval of local plans; current situation regarding sale of land

### **12b) National Park Gateway Signs Presentation by Veronica Craddock**

- Pilot project – 20 signs
  - Part of wider project to raise awareness of National park
  - Shared identity, working with parishes and other authorities
  - Identifying where signs should be – limited numbers, balance, avoiding clutter (copy of ma available from presenter)
  - Design sympathetic to environment; made from local materials by local craftsmen; clear accessible; cost effective; different signs d shapes to suit location – metal / hybrid (wood & metal)

Meeting finished at 13.07

Aileen Wood, Hampshire CAF observer

**c) Surrey LAF 17 - July (Aileen Wood)**

**1. Present**

- 9 people present (7 CAF; 1 SCC Officer; 1 Secretariat);
- 1 Observer; 1 SCC Officer; 1 Guest Speaker; 1 Member of the Public

**2. Apologies 3 CAF**

**3. Minutes of previous meeting 24 April 2017 Approved**

**4 / 5. Matters Arising/Action Points / Matters dealt with since the previous meeting**

- Short discussion about housing numbers, new villages and how these affect RoWs and encroach onto the countryside. Reaction to some of the local plans e.g. Tandridge DC criticised by CPRE; Waverley DC not enough houses; Guildford new village, infill or rebuild)

**6. Presentation by Sarah Rayfield, British Horse Society, Access Field Officer**

Why we should be worried about equestrian access?

- Opening slide showed density of horse ownership in Surrey and the Home Counties
- Equestrian community contributes £8 billion to UK economy; 2<sup>nd</sup> largest rural employer after agriculture
- Cost of maintaining horse (£4000-£15000 pa (happy hacker at lower end) national average £3600
- Local business benefits – livery; saddlers; instructors; vets; farriers; transporters; food; stable buildings; plus many more
- 3 million people took equestrian holidays in UK last year
- Physical health benefits – moderate intensity exercise; 68% in horse-riding activities of 30 minutes of more per week. People with illnesses and disabilities participate at same level as able-bodied
- Psychological and social benefits – benefit from interacting with horse; changing lies; outdoor and in contact with nature
- Negative side – drivers. Abuse; fly tipping; horse and riders fatalities; 2000 incidents in 5 years since BHS launched website for reporting accidents and incident on the road
- How 0 roads often at end of bridleways; verge maintenance; improved drainage and surfacing; more off-road access and upgrade to existing facilities
- Short discussion followed the presentation about path maintenance, volunteer groups to deal with overgrown vegetation. How funded? Queries about routes for buggies, carriages and multi-user routes.

**7. Cycling Update**

- Upgrade on some cycle routes; North Downs Way – in conversation with some groups; Trying to make fully accessible to Canterbury and Dover. 130 miles of potential route; some gaps, some areas need upgrade on parts of the route.

**8a LAF Conference Birmingham**

- Short report about conference and workshops, a) regulations – not published before 2018 – 2026 may change; b) RoWs revisions by counties – funding; c) multi-user s (workshop); d) future of LAFs (Workshops) – “Shropshire’s Great Outdoor Strategy Board” constitution circulated DEFRA involved in BREXIT discussions

**8b and other LAF matters**

- Short report given by Aileen Wood on last HCAF meeting;
- Brief report about last West Sussex CAF
- Reference to other meetings

**9. The future direction of SCAF**

- Losing numbers and representation of interests;
- Some LAFs have lost secretarial support

- SCAF – need to be more active and less reactive
- Shropshire paper (as above) – outline indicated need to be more involved with other agencies e.g. highways, tourism
- Discussion on role of SCAF– representations and interests; methods of advertising; vacancies and selection
- Suggestion having a 1 day get-together / workshop with other rural economy or countryside groups; health and welfare; wildlife; open spaces; parishes
- Review of meeting time (currently 13.30)

#### **10. Surrey County Council update**

- Some positive comments and feedback from parishes about RoWs; help from some landowners on maintenance; ramblers offered to put in larger kissing gates on some routes; need to look at sources of funding
- Reorganising part of the countryside services; bringing some functions together
- Triage reported issues that have been sent to SCC Countryside Services – go to central point then distributed to appropriate staff member
- Bridges – being dealt with, but not quickly – triage priorities; small capital funding for bridges
- Not aware of any RoWs that had been close because of funding cuts
- Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) (leases land from SCC) – looking at charging for car parking at some sites and other methods of raising funding; Noted cannot charge for any land donated for public use; if SWT is to charge fees – must go back to SCC Countryside Service to be given authorisation

#### **11. Forward Plan Report attached**

- Nothing more to add

#### **12. Outstanding consultations Report attached**

- Paper circulated – not further action

#### **13. Any other urgent business/public questions**

- Repeat of earlier discussion

#### **14. Date of next meetings**

1.30 pm, Monday 16 October 2017.

Room G30, County Hall. Kingston-Upon-Thames

Meeting closed at 16.17

Aileen Wood, Hampshire CAF Observer

#### **d) Other**