

AGENDA: *Tuesday 20 March 2018*

VENUE: *The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ*

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

1.	Apologies	<i>Admin</i>	<i>5 mins</i>
2. 10.05	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	<i>Information / Discussion</i>	<i>15 mins</i>
3. 10.20	Work Programme for 2018 – Forum to agree and confirm	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
4. 10.30	HCC draft Enforcement Policy – agree timetable for review/feedback (<i>Jonathan Woods</i>)	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
5. 10.40	Draft Equestrian Guidance – Forum to agree whether the completed guidance should be adopted as a HCAF document	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>15 mins</i>
6. 10.55	Sub-groups – Forum to confirm purpose, membership and working arrangements for each sub-group	<i>Discussion/ Decision</i>	<i>20 mins</i>
7. 11.15	Brexit - Update and discussion of User Group report / post-Brexit farming funding set out by Michael Gove and agree Forum action	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>20 mins</i>
8. 11.35	England Coast Path – (<i>John Truswell, Natural England</i>)	<i>Information / Discussion</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
9. 11.45	HCAF engagement with Highways – agree next steps following Workshop in November 2017	<i>Discussion / Decision</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
10. 11.55	Forum Officer's report (<i>Petronella Natrass</i>)	<i>Discussion/ Decision</i>	<i>10 mins</i>
11. 12.05	Project/sub-group updates (<i>reports anticipated from those groups in bold</i>)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Byways Management sub-group b) Coastal Access (<i>to be covered under Item 8</i>) c) Equestrian Guidance (<i>covered under Item 5</i>) d) List of Streets (<i>meeting on 7 Feb</i>) e) MOD Liaison Group (<i>next meeting 07/03/18</i>) f) Multi-user routes g) PATHH h) Planning sub-group 	<i>Information/ Discussion</i>	<i>20 mins</i>
12. 12.25	Reports from other Forums a) Hampshire Rural Forum; b) New Forest LAF; c) South Downs LAF; d) Wiltshire CAF; e) Surrey LAF; f) Bracknell Forest LAF; g) Other	<i>Information</i>	<i>20 mins</i>
12.45	LUNCH		<i>45 mins</i>
13.30	Sub-groups – continuing discussion/workshop	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>30 mins</i>
14.00	FINISH		

Contact: *Petronella Natrass; 01962 845326; petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk*

Future meetings: **19 June** (*Royal Victoria Country Park*), **11 September** (*Winchester*)
11 December (*AGM – Winchester*)

Directions: The United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ

The Church is about 10 minutes' walk from **Winchester railway station**. The building is accessible front and back by wheelchair.

Parking is available to the West in the multi-storey car park with entrances in **Sussex Street** and **Tower Street**.



HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: Tuesday 20 March 2108

Agenda item 2: *Matters arising*

Actions of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum meeting, 12 December 2017

Reference	Action	Status
2.2 – Byways Management	James Emmett to arrange a meeting with the Byways Management sub-group	
2.2 – Sub-groups	PN to work with sub-groups to identify <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key purpose • Members • Lead member 	To be discussed under item 6
2.2 – Multi-use routes	PN to investigate how principle that all new routes should be considered for multi-use should be considered by planners	
2.2 – Appointments to Forum	PN to note that confirmations should be made sooner prior to the next meeting.	Noted
10.1 – Work Programme 2018	ALL to forward any proposed amendments or additions to RB, AT or PN	To be discussed/agreed under item 3
11.5 – Raising awareness of HCAF	RB to draft a letter to Local Planning Authorities and Parish/Town Councils reminding them of who HCAF are and what they do. PN to circulate via email to Forum for sign-off	Completed – copy attached
12 – Portsmouth City Council ROWIP	NS to continue consulting with HCAF as the ROWIP develops	Ongoing
13.1 – Equestrian Guidance	GJ to provide PN with a copy of the draft Guidance to circulate ahead of the next meeting in March (<i>copy will be needed by Monday 5 March</i>)	Completed
13.4 – List of Streets	PN to coordinate a meeting between the LoS sub-group, Jonathan Woods and Mark Housby	Completed
13.5 – Planning	PN to circulate a copy of the NFAF's draft 'Planning Principles' document	Completed
15 – Reports from other LAFs	PN to circulate written reports from other LAFs	

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2108*

Agenda item 3: *Work programme and Forward Plan*

At the meeting on 12 December, Forum members were invited to propose any changes or addition to the draft Work Programme for 2018. No additions or amendments have been suggested, and it is therefore proposed that the Forum should agree and confirm the Work Programme as it stands (copy attached), on the understanding that items can be added at any stage as required.

The Chair and Vice-Chair propose that the 3-5 year Forward Plan (which was agreed by the Forum in September 2015) should be reviewed during the course of 2018. This has provisionally been noted as an item for the June 2018 Agenda.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM: WORK PROGRAMME 2018

Proposed meeting dates: 20 March, 19 June, 11 September, 11 December (AGM)

Theme	What / How	When
1. CAP Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise on potential partners and/or funding for implementing projects Contribute to specific/pilot projects Advise on the implementation process Implementation of Hampshire Cycling and Walking Strategies (working with Highways) Strategic Network 	<p>Ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access Team to provide Annual Report March 2018, plus highlight ('interim') report in September 2018. Short annual update on Cycling and Walking strategies – timing tba (June 2018?)
2. Compliance with statutory responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand full range of statutory responsibilities Monitor compliance with statutory responsibilities Provide advice and guidance on compliance with statutory responsibilities Advise on mechanisms for delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June meeting. Annual stats on compliance with statutory duties to be available in April. Possible item on draft HCC Enforcement Policy (March 2018?)
3. Opportunities to improve access/ multi-user routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Communities Fund (formerly Small Grants Scheme) going forward Identify additional funding sources for access improvement projects and advise Engage with Parish and Town Councils and (through the Planning sub-group) with Local Planning Authorities Note: what has changed since the last Parish Conference? Any value in another conference, and if not, how else might this happen? E.g. through Planning work, Neighbourhood Plans Develop an agreed process for influencing and advising on the planning of access within and around Major Development Areas (MDAs) Engage with Hampshire Highways Engage with County Estates e.g. to understand how HCC policy is prioritised Monitor and engage with Country Park Transformation (CPT) 	<p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>RCF</u>: Analysis of first year/comparison with SGS in June 2018. <u>Parishes</u>: Community Engagement Rangers to report in September 2018 or whenever appropriate. <u>LPAs</u>: ongoing work for Planning sub-group <u>Highways</u>: ongoing (following Workshop in Nov 2017) <u>Estates</u>: ongoing, as required <u>MDAs</u>: ongoing, Planning sub-group* to report. <u>Parish/Town Councils</u>: CERs to report in September 2018, or as required.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>CPT</u>: ongoing – reports/site visits as appropriate
4. Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities to influence behaviour in the countryside and improve understanding • Identify and advise on the delivery of specific projects, e.g. Solent Bird Aware (formerly Solent Recreation Mitigation Project) • Engage with Hampshire Country Trust (formerly Hampshire Country Learning) and other partners on specific projects as appropriate • Engage with MoD/DIO to develop better understanding by users of MoD land 	Ongoing. Multi-user routes sub-group* to look at behaviours/ understanding in context of shared routes in 2018 .
5. Other matters as they arise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to statutory consultations and selected consultations as agreed by HCAF members • Provide advice and guidance to HCC/SCC/ PCC, District Councils and Highways Agency on the implementation of policies affecting access • Attend regional and national LAF conference • Liaise with NFAF, SDLAF and other neighbouring LAFs on specific topics as required • Liaise with members of other LAFs, including use of the Huddle network • Monitor progress with and implications of Brexit, and respond as appropriate 	All ongoing
6. Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RoW training • Other? – Forum to discuss under Matters Arising in March 2017 	RoW training for new members / revision for old in September or December

****NB The work of all sub-groups must have full Forum support before advice is issued.***

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2108*

Agenda item 5: *Equestrian Guidance (report from Gail Johnson)*

Following the request by HCAF members at the meeting on the 12 December 2017, please find attached the latest Equestrian Guidance draft. Please do not worry about the number of pages as this will change during the layout phase. The main points we want to put across are included in the front end of the document. The remaining text is to support the key points. The text in red will be created as info graphics. There will also be photographs depicting horse related activities – riding, carriage driving, horses being shod, etc.

Just as a reminder to HCAF members, it was agreed by HCAF in 2015 that there was a need to have a separate document on equestrian needs to sit alongside HCC's walking and cycling strategies. HCAF equestrians at that time (Gail Johnson and Sue Montilla) met with HCC Councillors in January 2016 when it was agreed that a non-binding guidance document should be produced, but due to lack of HCC resources it could not be a strategy. Gail Johnson, and subsequently Gill Plumbley, undertook to produce the document.

As discussed at the HCAF meeting on the 12th December 2017, there is a need to agree ownership of this document. It was recommended that it should reside with HCAF, but endorsed and supported by HCC Countryside Service and the national body of the British Horse Society (BHS). The reasons for this recommendation were as follows:

- As it is a non-binding guidance document neither Countryside Service nor the BHS have the authority to ensure decision makers take account of recommendations being made.
- HCAF is a statutory body and as such decision makers have to take notice of the advice given by this Forum, although it is non-binding.
- This is an opportunity for HCAF to strengthen its communication process regarding its role within Hampshire.

HCAF members should be aware that a similar document for dog walkers, written by the Kennel Club, was published using the Countryside Services branding. However, this information was published approximately 2 or more years ago and HCC's approach to these matters has changed as indicated by Jonathan Woods at the December meeting.

Could we please request that HCAF members debate and agree a way forward.

Gail Johnson
March 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2108*

Agenda item 6: *HCAF sub-groups (Petronella Natrass)*

a) Background

Hampshire Countryside Access Forum currently has up to 10 sub-groups that have formed over recent years in order to focus on specific areas of work. Some of these are currently very active; a few have been in abeyance for some time.

The relatively large number of groups is indicative both of the range of the Forum's activities and of the extent of commitment that individual members are making to the Forum's work, especially those who are involved with multiple groups.

At the Forum's last meeting in December it was suggested that with so many different groups currently active it would be useful to review and clarify the following for each group:

- Key purpose
- Membership
- Lead member

b) Action required from Forum

1. **Membership and status**

The attached table is a summary of HCAF sub-groups – their membership, purpose and current projects – based on recent feedback from Forum members.

Members are asked to review this information and

- i. Agree membership and **lead member**
- ii. Identify those groups that are in abeyance and consider if/how/when they should be revived

2. **Purpose and current focus**

After lunch there will be a short workshop for members to consider in greater depth

- i. The key purpose of each sub-group
- ii. Current work and next steps
- iii. The likely 'lifespan' of each group, based on its purpose
- iv. Priorities overall for sub-group work

Petronella Natrass
March 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2018*

Agenda item 7: *Brexit and the Defra consultation on “Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit”*

Background

Since the referendum on Britain’s membership of the European Union, there has been growing concern among Local Access Forums and user group organisations about the future of farm subsidies and what provision may be made for supporting public access to the countryside when we leave the EU. In February 2017 the Mid and West Berkshire LAF (MWBLAF) published its [‘Proposals for public access in future farm subsidies post Brexit’](#) (copy attached). Later last year a joint statement was issued by the British Horse Society, The Ramblers, Open Spaces Society and The Byways and Bridleways Trust on ‘How Public Access can be improved post Brexit’ (this was circulated to members on 4 January).

In January this year the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs , Michael Gove, set out proposals for farm subsidies post-Brexit, stating that Farmers will receive payments for "public goods", such as access to the countryside and planting meadows (see [BBC News report dated 4 January 2018](#)).

1. Defra Consultation

On 27 February Defra published an open consultation on the future for food, farming and the environment (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>) which runs for 10 weeks until **8 May 2018**. Forum members are asked to decide how they wish to develop their response to this consultation.

2. The HCAF perspective

The Forum may wish in addition to formalise its own recommendations in regard to public access within future farm subsidies, in the way that the MWBLAF has done.

Petronella Natrass
March 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2018*

Agenda item 8: *England Coast Path (John Truswell, Natural England)*

Highcliffe to Calshot:

- Scheduled to be published on 14th March 2018

Calshot to Gosport:

- Scheduled broadly to be published autumn 2018
- Continuing site visits and more focus due to delays on HCS
- Map and desk top exercises to outline a potential route
- Much of this stretch has the potential to follow existing PRow
- One or two pinch points due to coastal erosion issues and site visits needed to examine in more depth
- Sadly cancelled a Walk the Course(WTC) on 12th and 13th March due to HCS delay
- Other opportunities available when decided to WTC
- Meetings to be arranged with access authorities, statutory consultees etc

Gosport to Portsmouth:

The Gosport to Portsmouth stretch of the ECP is currently at stage 2/3, with an expected publication of end of May / early June 2018. The stretch starts at Lee-on-Solent and ends at the Round Tower site in Old Portsmouth. Our proposal will be to exercise our discretion to extend the trail around the Portsmouth Harbour, owing to the recreational benefit and good coastal views the harbour offers. The proposed alignment follows public rights of way and existing walked routes, including the Solent Way, the Gosport Waterfront Trail, the Alan King Way and the Millennium Walkway.

We are currently in the process of sending letters detailing our proposals to land owners in the Lee-on-Solent to Portchester area of the harbour. The letter invites legal interests to provide comments or suggestions regarding the proposals prior to publication - until approved by the Secretary of State an alignment can change. Our proposals for the alignment of the route around the eastern side of the harbour (from Port Solent down to Old Portsmouth) is still currently being determined, with ongoing talks with Portsmouth City Council.

IOW Update:

On the Island we are currently in Stage 2 and are consulting with landowners across the island to determine a draft route for the England Coast Path. In many places along this stretch the existing Isle of Wight Coast Path already provides good access but there are key areas where it deviates from the coast, sometimes quite far inland and others where upgrade works are needed, which the England Coast Path working with the IOW Council can provide

Completed to date:

- Initial letter mail out to all coastal landowners
- A series of community drop-in events held across the Island in November. These were well attended and like other stretches in the Solent allowed local stakeholders a good opportunity to ask questions.
- Consultation meetings with key stakeholders including the MOD, CLA, Wildlife Trust, NFU, Harbour Authorities, National Trust, Ramblers.
- Publication broadly scheduled for late winter 2018

We have made great progress on the route along the southern coast between the Needles and Bembridge. We expect to have a draft route for discussion with the Isle of Wight LAF soon.

John Truswell
March 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 12 December 2017*

Agenda item 10: *Forum Officer's report*

1. HCC Countryside Service update

- ***Changes within the teams***

A number of changes are taking place within the Area teams at the moment. Sam Jones and Jim Adkins have been seconded from their roles as Area Countryside Access Managers to the posts of Rural Programme Manager and Senior Project Manager for one and two years respectively. James Emmett (ACAM for Central/East) has moved to the North Area. Interviews are taking place to backfill the resulting vacancies as a matter of urgency.

Natalie Hands has moved on from her post as Community Engagement Ranger (South area) to become a Ranger with BirdAware Solent. She will be sadly missed, but we wish her well in her new role. This key vacancy within the team will be advertised shortly.

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

The latest round included the following applications:

- Tools for volunteers from Overton Walkers are Welcome £607
- Berkshire Ramblers – replacement of 3 stiles with pedestrian gates on Wield Fps 14 and 15 £500
- Tools for volunteers from North Hampshire Downs Ramblers £1,631
- Trail Riders Fellowship – re-surfacing of Upton Grey BOAT 18f £1,320
- Polhampton Farm Partnership – 3 stiles and 1 kissing gate to be replaced by pedestrian gates, provision of permissive access £946

These were approved, with the exception of the application by the Trail Riders Fellowship which was not supported by the parish council.

A further two applications have been received, but these will not be ready for approval until the next financial year.

Summary of applications for 2017-18:

Number of applications	16
Number of applications approved	15
Total funding applied for	£19,926
Total funding awarded	£18,606

The role of the Panel

During the last year the Panel have continued to review applications for grant funding as the Rural Communities Fund has taken over from the Small Grants Scheme, but without the regular pre-decision meetings. Applications have been emailed to Panel members individually for feedback, which is then forwarded to the decision-makers.

The Panel also recently approved a short guidance document for applicants, based on their comments about applications over the last few years.

Thanks to the Community Engagement Rangers' liaison with applicants early on the process, the standard of applications has improved greatly. Because of this, coupled with the other changes associated with the transfer from SGS to RCF and the adoption of the guidance document, it has been agreed the Panel's role should change from that of advising to one of monitoring funding approvals. Regular reports will be made to both HCAF and NFAF at their

quarterly meetings so that the two Forums can continue to keep track of what the RCF is delivering in terms of access improvements.

Hampshire County Council would like to thank members of the Panel for all the time, effort and advice that they have given to the Small Grants Scheme over the years. This has resulted in the funding and implementation of a significant range of access improvement projects across the county, and their contribution to this scheme has been greatly valued and appreciated.

3. LAF news

- ***Sub-regional LAF Chairs' meeting***

In January HCAF was invited to join a sub-regional Chairs' group which includes the LAFs for Mid and West Berkshire, Bracknell Forest, Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor, Slough, Surrey and (also newly-joined) Oxfordshire. Neither Rachel nor Alan were available, so I attended on behalf of HCAF. This group was formed after Natural England discontinued the twice-yearly South-East LAF Chairs' meetings, and provides an opportunity for neighbouring LAFs to compare notes on cross-boundary issues as well as more general/national issues ranging from Brexit and railway crossing closures. Much of the discussion focussed on the Thames Valley area, but it was a useful chance to meet up with other LAF Chairs and Officers. A copy of the meeting outcomes and actions is attached, for information.

Petronella Natrass, Forum Officer
March 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2018*

Agenda item 11a): *Byways Management – update from HCC*

James Emmett has sent an update to the Byways Management sub-group following on from the presentation to HCAF on 2 December, including the following points:

- The assessment form has been amended to reflect comments from the Forum at that meeting.
- The Access Team has also produced a draft Byways Operational Procedure for Area teams to reflect the proposed approach to managing the BOAT network.
- Both of these documents have been sent to the Byways Management sub-group for comments.
- They have also been presented to the elected Members for Petersfield/ Butser, Alton Rural, and Petersfield Hangers who are supportive of the approach.
- In addition, James took the opportunity to outline this future approach at a recent presentation given to Loddon Vale Trail Riders Fellowship, who were also supportive.
- Jonathan Woods will be presenting the approach to the New Forest Access Forum on 12 June.

Petronella Natrass
March 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2018*

Agenda item 11d): *List of Streets*

Four members of the List of Streets sub-group (Sue Coles, Alan Marlow, Gail Johnson and Gill Plumbley) met with Jonathan Woods (Access Team Manager), Mark Housby (Highways Information Manager) and Harry Goodchild (Senior Map Review Officer) on 7 February. The following actions were agreed at the meeting

1. Adding ORPAs to the OS Map

- **HARRY** to contact Jo Lines at Ordnance Survey to find out
 - a. how ORPAs get onto OS mapping
 - b. how/by whom were the new ORPAs at Hurstbourne Tarrant recorded?

Depending on the outcome of his enquiries, the identifications of missing ORPAs need to be checked and a decision taken (clarity needed about who to make this decision) about adding them to the OS map

2. Deleting routes from the List of Streets

Routes are taken off the LoS in respect of a legal Order, either through s247 Town & Country Planning Act (direct application to Secretary of State) or through s.116 Highways Act (HCC is required to post Notices on site and send them out at least 28 days beforehand any decision to: District and parish councils, London Gazette and Hampshire Chronicle and immediate neighbours. At present these Notices are not included on the HCC Public Notices web page.)

- **MARK** agreed to arrange to have Notices put onto HCC Public Notices web page

3. Management/maintenance of class 'T' routes

- **MARK and JONATHAN** to consider safety implications/liabilities for local users/volunteers clearing vegetation from T-class roads, given that this would be classified as being 'Work on a Highway'. This may take some time.
- For the time being, **ALL USERS** should continue to report issues on T-class roads via Highways, providing examples and photographs when possible.

4. Implications of the 2026 cut-off date for unrecorded rights

The 'safest' option would be simply to put in claims for all the routes.

- **ALAN** suggested that PATHH data (and possibly the remaining small cash reserve) should be migrated to support the Ramblers' 'Don't Lose Your Way' project – this would need to be approved and recorded at the next HCAF meeting on 20 March
- **HARRY** took the paper maps that Alan had annotated and will arrange to get them scanned and electronic copies circulated.

Petronella Natrass
March 2018

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Tuesday 20 March 2108*

Agenda item 11e): *MoD Liaison Group*

Meeting on 7 March 2018

1. The HCAF-MoD Liaison Group met on 7 March 2018 with representation from Surrey and South Downs LAFs. It was good and constructive meeting. James Nevitt is preparing a full report.
2. Among other things, the meeting considered a draft letter offering advice on factors to be considered during the current review of MoD bye-laws. It was agreed that the draft should be submitted to HCAF on 20 March; if then agreed it would be submitted to the South Downs LAF meeting on 17 April and the Surrey LAF meeting on 15 April, with the aim of agreeing a text for signature by Rachel Bryan on behalf of all three fora. Kieran Foster will, as it happens, be meeting people from Kent (also part of the MoD south eastern region) later this week and will sound them out on also being party to the advice.
3. The text is attached.

Does the Forum consider:

- (a) that the draft should/should not explicitly mention carriage drivers;**
- (b) that the draft letter should be adopted as HCAF advice;**
- (c) that, if other LAFs agree, it should be issued as joint advice?**

Alan Taylor
7 October 2018