

Local Access Forum Meeting - Minutes		Date: 17-01-2019
<b>Attendees</b> Maire McQueeney (MM) <i>Chair</i> Luke Burstow (LB) John Funnell (JF) Dave Brookshaw (DB) Becky Walton (BW) Andrew Coleman (AC) Annie Brown (AB)	Chantelle Hoppé (CH) Stephanie Stammers (SS)	<b>Apologies:</b> Peter Jarman (PJ) Melissa LaRoque (ML) Sue LaRoque (SL)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions	Responsibility	Date by
<b>2. Membership</b>	CH attended Equality and Diversity training today – looking at how to engage with volunteers from diverse communities. CH to invite Possibility People and Disabled Ramblers to the opening of the Parish Lane easy access trail when the surfacing is finished in 2019.			
<b>3. Minutes of Last meeting</b>	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.  Matters Arising – DB: would like to feedback various points to Andy Renaut in Highways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LAF would appreciate an update on the Road Crossings Plan (original)</li> <li>At the Transport Partnership meeting it was mentioned that DfT recently published a Cycling &amp; Walking Safety Review (2 year safety plan) – looking at how we can better protect vulnerable road users. BHCC are to be reviewing it and its conclusions in the coming months. The LAF would be</li> </ul>	Send original Road Crossings list  Send CH something to send to Andy Renaut	DB  DB	ASAP  ASAP

	<p>interested to hear the outcomes of this review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass on Times article about improving the environment for walkers</li> </ul> <p>AC suggested asking Andy Renaut if the LAF could write to their local MP to ask Highways England to give a response on the Road Crossings project (A27).</p>	<p>Ask Andy Renaut if this would be welcomed &amp; feedback to LAF</p>	<p>CH</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b>4. Information Updates (CH &amp; SS)</b></p>	<p><b>Maintenance &amp; Management:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We've had a couple of significant tree falls over the easy access trail in Stanmer and on the bridleway through Brighton &amp; Hove Golf course (BW H6). The latter has been cleared and the one on BW H6 should be dealt with soon. LB reported another behind Stanmer House – CH this is not on a PRow, but has been reported to the Arbs team.</li> <li>• A further 12 gates to be replaced on the Stanmer estate as part of the rolling program of furniture replacement (G008, G009, G011, G013, G015, G030, G043, G044, G065, G067, G070, G071)</li> <li>• Surfacing works completed: additional stone at Piddingworth gate on the easy access trail at Stanmer; northern section of the bridleway / new easy access trail at Parish Lane BW B26 (between Woodingdean &amp; Ovingdean)</li> <li>• Serious flooding issues on the bridleway around the edge of Waterhall. Estates are dealing with this as it is the main access track for residents and the farmer. Network Rail have a work station here and it is thought that their very wide wheel based vehicles have been damaging the drains, resulting in the flooding. SS reported that estates are about to install some side walls to prevent very wide vehicles using</li> </ul>	<p>Ask the estates team to put reflective signs on the new walls going in</p>	<p>SS</p>	<p>ASAP</p>



	<p>director of City Environmental Management for approval.</p> <p>AC – cyclists being ticketed for cycling on the pavement on Lewes Road / Wild Park. This is part of a National Cycling network route and the pavement used to be shared use. CH – has seen communications on this: when the Lewes Rd improvements were made and the new cycle path put in on the highway the shared use status of the footway was rescinded.</p>	<p>Find out who was responsible for this in Highways and ask them to send an explanation</p>	<p>CH</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b>5. Rights of Way Improvement Plan (CH)</b></p>	<p>The new ROWIP was agreed by the ETS Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and has now been formally adopted by the Council.</p> <p>CH showed the group the Delivery Plan for the ROWIP and went through the main highlights (this will be a standing item at future LAF meetings – to report on progress in delivering on the ROWIP aims and objectives):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolling program of furniture replacement is on-going (using internal funding)</li> <li>• Surfacing projects to improve accessibility (Stanmer easy access trail, Parish Lane BW – new easy access trail)</li> <li>• Changing the Chalk bid, led by National Trust, has failed (new multi-user paths to Ditchling Beacon &amp; Devil’s Dyke). The bid will be re-submitted elsewhere.</li> <li>• Partnership meeting with SDNPA – they are willing to consider different surface types – now investigating</li> <li>• Funding bid to improve accessibility of Moulsecomb Station has been submitted</li> <li>• January to March working on the new online access map</li> <li>• Savills are working on the Whole Estate Plan – perhaps get them to make a presentation on it to the LAF for the consultation</li> <li>• Launching Volunteer Path Warden scheme in spring / early</li> </ul>			

	<p>summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still hoping for an update on the Highways England project to improve crossing points over the A27 for walkers and cyclists</li> <li>• Stanmer ‘gateway to the Downs’ Restoration Project should be employing an Estate Manager and Stanmer Ranger in the summer</li> <li>• Various projects happening in the ‘green corridors’: e.g. Valley Gardens project, Toads Hole Valley development – improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>DB – At the recent Transport Partnership meeting they went through the city wide risk register. DB emphasised the importance of the ROWIP in helping to tackle congestion &amp; pollution. CH thanked DB for championing the ROWIP.</p> <p>AC – what about the bike buses idea? CH – the 79 bus from the Old Steine to Ditchling Beacon (Breeze Bus) has space for two bikes at weekends and on bank holiday Mondays. It would be good if this scheme could be expanded.</p> <p>JF – Volunteer Path Warden – the state of Coldean woods re rubbish is terrible. CH – Will, the Ranger is organising a tidy up day in March / April. AC – works for Brighton Uni and could get students involved.</p> <p>LB – shocked by the state of Stanmer Great woods after the recent felling. The apparent clear felling clashes with the public amenity use of the woods.</p>	<p>Ask Will if he’d like Brighton Uni students to join the tidy up day in Coldean</p> <p>Send comments on Stanmer felling to CH (will pass them onto the project manager)</p>	<p>CH</p> <p>ALL</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>
--	---	---	----------------------	-------------------------

<p><b>6. Missing Links (DB)</b></p>	<p>DB submitted DMMO for the Black Rock / Marina path</p> <p>Times article on 2026 – time is running out to make path claims (Chris Smith from East Sussex). It is estimated that over 10,000 miles of path are still to be claimed (more than 20,000 paths). In the UK only 22% is accessible to horse riders (CH – though in B&amp;H that figure is 46%). The article was asking Mr Gove to abolish the 2026 deadline to give volunteers time to claim the remaining paths.</p> <p>DB is aware that we have done well in B&amp;H to claim historic paths, but there are paths on B&amp;H land that fall within the East and West Sussex Authorities. He is hoping to have time to look at some of these paths.</p>			
<p><b>7. Farming &amp; Access Issues (AB)</b></p>	<p>AB – 10 year farm stewardship agreements are running out. The proposed new scheme has not gone down well, so Natural England a rolling forward existing agreements year by year. Everything is being rolled forward except the permissive path agreements.</p> <p>Andy Gatticker (SDNPA) has been writing to all the farmers in the national park who have expiring agreements to try and secure the permissive paths.</p> <p>Other changes – now you have to have a Woodland Management Plan to get payments for them.</p>			

	<p>Cluster group public engagement plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In December a group of farmers took over SDNPA Twitter feed. Next it will be Saddlescomb Farm...</li> <li>• 6 waymark posts have been put in between Adur and Arun with Q codes so people with smart phones can see what the farmers are up to. Great idea, as long as they are kept up to date...</li> </ul> <p>DB hopes that stewardship payments get better for smaller farmers – at the moment it’s done by hectare rather than on merit</p> <p>AB – new idea from Gove is for payments for natural capital (wildlife, access, soil, air quality, water quality etc) – but the difficulty is how to measure this and make it an equitable system.</p> <p>AB – at the moment farmers receive a Single Farm Payment plus a Farm Stewardship payment – the plan is to roll this into one single payment.</p> <p>AC – the idea of ecosystem services comes from Dieter Helm / Gove. If Gove gets moved on in a Parliament re-shuffle, Helm may also go and the idea of ecosystem services may fall by the wayside....</p> <p>There is obviously a lot of uncertainty in the farming community at the moment, as in the country as a whole.</p>			
<p><b>8. AOB</b></p>	<p>BW – on a recent Healthwalk at Castle Hill it appeared that there were new earthworks near the entrance. CH not aware of any works – it may be Natural England as they manage this part of the reserve (not within Brighton &amp; Hove authority boundary).</p> <p>DB – has had difficulty with using the online Highways Map</p>	<p>Report to the GIS Team</p>	<p>CH</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

	<p>DB – Volunteer Path Warden scheme – it would be good to be able to attach photos to the report form. CH agreed – in the meantime, keep emailing them to me.</p> <p>LB – LAF meeting notes need updating on the council website</p>	<p>Update LAF minutes on council website</p>	<p>CH</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b>9. Date of next meetings</b></p>	<p>6pm at Hollingdean Depot:  25<sup>th</sup> April 2019  18<sup>th</sup> July 2019  17<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (AGM)</p>			