

Local Access Forum Meeting - Minutes		Date: 05-10-2017
<b>Attendees</b> Luke Burstow (LB) Maire McQueeney (MM) <i>Chair</i> Andrew Coleman (AC) Peter Jarman (PJ) Dave Brookshaw (DB) Ellie Cooper (EC) Annie Brown (AB)	Chantelle Hoppé (CH) David Larkin (DL)	<b>Apologies:</b> Stephanie Stammers (SS) John Funnell (JF)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions	Responsibility	Date by
<b>2. AGM &amp; membership</b>	<p>DL presided over proceedings. MM kindly offered to serve another year as Chair and was unanimously voted in by members</p> <p>It is with regret that Corinna Edwards Colledge has had to step down from her position on the LAF due to other competing commitments. MM and the group voiced their gratitude to Corinna for her valuable contributions over the last 8 years.</p>	Write to Corinna to express our thanks for her work	MM	ASAP
<b>3. Minutes of Last meeting</b>	<p>Minutes of the last meeting were agreed</p> <p>Review of last year's activities are summarised in the ROWIP under Chapter 5. Aims going forward are summarised in ROWIP chapter 7. (Items for discussion under the agenda)</p> <p><i>Natural England have not asked for an Annual Report this year and hence have not sent around the template for it.</i></p> <p>Events of note during the year (MM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome back to DB and his invaluable contribution, particularly leading on work on unrecorded ways</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- (PJ) Roedean Residents Association won their claim for a footpath at Roedean Paddock, with the aid of the Ramblers Association</li> <li>- (AB) has enjoyed the diversity of the group, its grown membership and hearing diverse opinions on matters arising and praised the Chair</li> <li>- (AC) added post meeting – the positive dialogue that has happened in the last year with Luke’s involvement from Brighton MTB. Also, the new Hire Bikes – they are very effectively encouraging visitors and residents to access our 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest open space (the beach)</li> </ul> <p>(DB) Meeting on Unrecorded Ways held on 21<sup>st</sup> September. This was a successful introductory meeting (the notes of which will be circulated to the whole group with the minutes for this meeting). In attendance: CH, DB, MM, EC, JF, PJ, SS. In summary, there are 9 years left to the 2026 cut-off date. DB has been in contact with the East &amp; West Sussex group (led by Chris Smith), working on unrecorded ways to make sure there is no overlap (BW to attend their next meeting). Unrecorded Ways will be an agenda item at the next LAF meeting in January.</p> <p>(LB) Brighton Past Facebook page may be a good source of information on paths used in the past</p> <p>(CH)As part of this work we will look into gaps in the network. These gaps often came about because BHCC is not the landowner – in many cases its Southern Water. As a first action we will write to them to see if they are now willing to dedicate the paths</p> <p>Stanmer Park Project</p> <p>MM, JF &amp; LB have had site visits with Fiona Le Garsmeur from</p>	<p>Have a look at the Missing Links / Gaps list in the ROWIP &amp; do some preliminary investigations</p> <p>Post up on Brighton Past FB page &amp; collate responses</p> <p>Put Fiona in touch</p>	<p>Any LAF member interested</p> <p>LB</p> <p>CH</p>	<p>LAF meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January</p> <p>LAF meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January</p> <p>ASAP</p>
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	<p>Parks Projects to talk about walking / cycling trails.</p> <p>(LB) Fiona seemed happy that the mountain bike trails she saw were not interfering with sensitive areas for ecology or heritage. The group will block off any routes that do. They looked at a route to link the new greenway with the ‘easy access trail’ / new multi-user trail around the park. New active management of the woodland may affect some existing routes used. There is still a drive to create designated MTB areas in the park. Volunteers could then be given access to materials to tools to help maintain trails.</p> <p>(MM)</p>	<p>with Ellie re equestrian interests in the park</p>		
<p><b>4. Brighton &amp; Hove Way</b></p>	<p>Councillor Pete West attended the LAF meeting to talk about the establishment of Brighton &amp; Hove way in the wake of the great success of the Mayor’s Boundary Walk in 2017.</p> <p>Councillor West sits on the ETS Committee, is a member of SDNPA LAF, is an ex BHCC LAF member and has a keen interest in long distance paths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor West is keen on a named path as it attracts people to walk on a recognised path – it adds the challenge element.</li> <li>• The South Downs Way does not come near the city</li> <li>• 40% of Brighton &amp; Hove Authority is downland (much of which is owned by the council, however, many people have no idea what is on their doorstep and don’t get out and use the PRow network</li> <li>• The Brighton &amp; Hove Way would wrap around the urban fringe, taking in some the key attractions: Stanmer, Chattri, Foredown Tower</li> <li>• The Mayor’s charities would benefit from an annual sponsored</li> </ul>			

	<p>event based on walking the boundary of the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rise led on the organisation of the charity event on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017. 320 people took part and over £16,000 was raised for the various charities</li> <li>• It was a great opportunity for people to meet each other, walk and talk and experience different sites. Many participants were inexperienced walkers</li> <li>• The route goes from Saltdean Oval, through Castle Hill NNR, along the Falmer Rd multi-user path (providing a stretch of easy access route), through Stanmer Estate, Patcham Open Access (and the Chattri), over the A23 bridge at Waterhall, to Foredown Tower and terminating at Emmaus in Portslade. Alternate routes could be promoted e.g. avoiding the Falmer road, or a route for cyclists to use</li> <li>• Support was provided by City Parks – with Rangers and Four wheel drive vehicles</li> <li>• Rise will be running the event again in 2018, on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, for the Mayor’s Charities.</li> <li>• The hope is that this will become an annual event – celebrating our city downland and bringing together our diverse communities</li> <li>• The next steps are to finalise the route (with easy access to public transport, and radial routes from the city, so people can do smaller sections of the walk)</li> <li>• The path needs to be endorsed by not only BHCC but the other two authorities it touches upon (ESCC, WSCC) and the SDNPA</li> <li>• Funding needs to be sought for signage of the route</li> <li>• Volunteers are needed to monitor and help look after the route (hopefully this will be achieved through the, soon to be</li> </ul>			
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	<p>launched, Volunteer Path Warden scheme)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need to get landowners and land managers, tenant farmers on board</li> <li>• As part of this we need to promote responsible use, as well as where it is and how to get to it (e.g. through Visit Brighton)</li> <li>• We need an Association to push these things forward and take responsibility</li> <li>• The Brighton &amp; Hove Way Association FB page and email has already been set up</li> <li>• The inaugural meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> November at 6.30pm at Hove Town Hall.</li> </ul> <p>MM – current Healthwalks programme is covering the boundary walk in smaller chunks, led to Maire</p> <p>AC – concerned that it needs longevity – PW has the commitment to keep it going, helps if there is a group. It would be good if the annual spring time event is not over a bank holiday weekend.</p> <p>The group voiced how good it was to have a councillor at the LAF meeting and expressed a wish to have more councillor involvement. It was suggested that as the ROWIP was going to ETS committee in January, maybe this would be a good time to either write a letter to the chair of the committee or take a deputation to the meeting to ask for this.</p> <p>Discussion for future (LB, AB, DB):  What is the future for our downland estate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would a Trust be the best way forward – to protect against</li> </ul>	<p>Send invite out to the meeting</p>	<p>PW &amp; CH</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
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	<p>development (though it has a layer of protection as it is in SDNPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The majority of Missing Links have been achieved because BHCC is the landowner and can negotiate when farm tenancy agreements come up for renewal</li> <li>• From a farming perspective, extensive grazing is becoming increasingly unviable. If this continues, there could be an abandonment of the Downs – leading to neglect and scrub encroachment</li> </ul>			
<b>5. Information Updates</b>	<p>Reports were circulated on Maintenance and Management of the PRoW network and Progress on Legal issues.</p> <p>These reports were not discussed during the meeting due to time constraints</p>			
<b>6. Rights of Way Improvement Plan</b>	<p>The first draft of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan has now been written (CH)</p> <p>A copy was sent to each of the LAF members for comment Please return comments by the end of next week (with page numbers / paragraph references)</p>	Send comments on ROWIP to CH	ALL	By 13/11
<b>7. AOB</b>	<p>MM – Stanmer Restoration Project. Good site meeting with Fiona from Parks Projects – on heritage aspects of the park, for a possible heritage walk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The family monument with the headless tortoises is due to be repaired as part of the project</li> <li>• The church yard has one of the finest memorials in the city – it is a double memorial to the 2 Earls who died within 10 days of each other (Eric Gill design – who worked on the Pelham Estate). Miss Pelham was Eric Gill’s only female apprentice</li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a lot of agricultural and WWII heritage – Canadian Soldiers posted here. Old Water Catchment system and underground tanks.</li> </ul> <p>CH – Stanmer – FYI, fixed penalty notices will be issued to people parking on the bridleway from the beginning of November (parking has become even more of an issue since the University closed a couple of its car parks due to development works)</p>			
<b>8. Date of next meetings</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2018, 6pm at Hollingdean Depot			