

Local Access Forum Meeting - Minutes		Date: 11-01-2018
Attendees Luke Burstow (LB) Maire McQueeney (MM) <i>Chair</i> Peter Jarman (PJ) Dave Brookshaw (DB) Annie Brown (AB) John Funnell (JF) Becky Walton (BW)	Chantelle Hoppé (CH) David Larkin (DL) Stephanie Stammers (SS) Fiona Le Garsmeur (FG)	Apologies: Ellie Cooper (EC) Andrew Coleman (AC)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions	Responsibility	Date by
2. Membership	Welcome to Becky Walton from HealthWalks. Becky is attending the meeting with a view to become a member.			ASAP
3. Minutes of Last meeting	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Action points to be covered in the agenda items for this meeting. Update on the Brighton & Hove Way Association Inaugural meeting (21/11/2017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was very successful with a high attendance – around 35 to 40 people • A committee of 8 was elected, with Councillor Pete West as Chair • As a result of the meeting 10 people have become Volunteer Path Wardens for sections on the trail – to help look after it 	Follow up with the volunteers	CH	Feb – Mar
4. Stanmer Project	Fiona Le Garsmeur from Parks Projects attended the meeting to discuss the Access & Woodland Management aspects of the Stanmer Project (an update on the infrastructure side of the project will be provided at the April LAF meeting)			

	<p>wood. LB – this is a good long run and not an area heavily used by walkers. FG to do more investigation into liability and insurance. CH – Forestry Commission have experience of running MTB trails (Tilgate and Friston).</p> <p>LB – the MTB group would happily take on maintenance of the track (along with the new MTB shop in the village) if they were given materials. They are signed up to go on leadership and first aid training with the Ranger Team.</p> <p>FG / LB – also important is the information sharing on archaeologically and ecologically sensitive areas to steer clear of.</p> <p>FG and MM met to walk a heritage route of Stanmer. This took in the Franklin monument, the village & surrounding buildings, the water catcher, orchard and walled garden. FG looking at creating a one hour circular route from the centre. When the walled garden is restored there will be new café, shop and toilet facilities there.</p> <p>DB – the access work being carried out looks good. Some concern over leaving areas for quiet enjoyment – rather than just creating lots of new trails.</p> <p>FG – the new trails will be promoting / upgrading existing paths. New users to the area will be encourage to use these routes as they will show the distance, time, features etc. There will still be plenty of space for quiet enjoyment of the access areas – both in the woodland and the open access fields.</p> <p>DB – concerned that the project also focuses on the major infrastructure in the park, such as sorting out the car parking issues and the facilities provided such as toilets.</p> <p>FG – the main part of the HLF funded project is dealing with these</p>	<p>into setting up MTB route / area</p> <p>Map 1 hour heritage loop</p> <p>Invite Rob Dumbill</p>	<p>FG</p> <p>CH</p>	
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	<p>aspects. This is in the design phase at the moment. Rob Dumbrill will come to the April LAF meeting to update on progress.</p> <p>FG – can say that there will be new toilets in the Walled garden and at the Kiosk at the Lower Lodges.</p> <p>SS – parking is being dealt with by legal and Paul Cambell. DL – parking control has been brought in since November and cars parked on the road are now being ticketed (this was necessary as university car parks have been closed causing over flow into the park). A longer term solution for the park is being sought through the project.</p> <p>FG – Woodland Management Plan for consultation</p> <p>LB – couldn't download some parts of it. FG – should all be available to view now (email her directly if not).</p> <p>DL – in the short to medium term some woodland work is going to be carried out to remove Chalara infected large standards from the woodland. This is being done now – while the trees still have some value. If we wait until the trees die back further and fall down – they will have no value and the council will have to spend a lot of money having them removed when they fall over rides.</p> <p>LB – concern over damage to surface of rides with heavy machinery. DL – the short term work will be carried out with horses to minimise impact.</p> <p>FG – work will be localised and paths will be re-instated if damaged. There is a section in the plan on maintaining public access – with repairing and drainage work to be carried out where necessary.</p> <p>LB – will it be clear felling or thinning work? Currently there is small scale coppicing work to bring more light to the woodland floor and thinning along some rides for Silver Wash Frattillery butterflies</p>	<p>to next LAF meeting</p>		
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	<p>(DL)</p> <p>FG – it will be thinning work, allowing for standards to mature, with additional planting of mixed deciduous woodland. (Much of the woodland is secondary Ash & Sycamore of similar ages – since the great storm) – there is concern for resilience of the woodland in the face of diseases such as Ash Die Back.</p> <p>PJ – will any paths be permanently closed due to woodland work?</p> <p>DL – no, only temporary closures while trees are actually being felled in an area – for public safety.</p> <p>FG – the woodland management plan is available on the portal for feedback.</p> <p>Stanmer Woodland Management Plan: http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/public/bhcc/env/countryside/stanmer_wmp/stanmer_woodlands_management_plan</p>	<p>Feedback on Stanmer woodland Management Plan</p>	<p>ALL</p>	
<p>5. Information Updates (CH & SS)</p>	<p>RoW Maintenance & Management Report:</p> <p>A number of maintenance projects have now been completed to improve rights of way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stanmer Easy Access Trail (FP B53) – surfacing around the vehicle barrier at Upper Lodges - Bevendean Down (BW B47) – new surfacing laid to increase the level of the ground under the equestrian gate and make it usable for horse riders - Whiteways Lane, Rottingdean (BW B8) – filled in pot holes and made a ramp to improve disabled access to the Scout Hut - Bishopstone Drive, Saltdean (BW B5) – new surfacing laid on deeply rutted bridleway, with drainage issues - Sheepcote, East Brighton Golf (BW B32) – drainage works 			

	<p>to bridleway and car park area for users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mile Oak Farm (FP P17) – new, level stone surface laid to the side of the gate so users can have improved access 24/7. - Pickershill Farm, Saltdean (BW B4) – surface laid to give access to bridleway gate (installed when vehicle barrier put in to stop fly tipping and arson attacks at night). <p>Remaining Budget we are looking at: replacing steps in Hollingbury Woods (popular commuter route), drainage works on cycle path in Waterhall, surface improvements on bridleway in Ovingdean, Hangleton Underpass – mobility friendly Kissing gate to stop unauthorised users, pot holes in car parks along Saddlescomb & Devil’s Dyke Road</p> <p>Legal & Mapping:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roedean Paddock – final notice on site (and in newspaper) on 17th January for 42 days. Then the footpath can be waymarked. - Diversion order at Standean (BW B72) – this involves east and west sussex – awaiting on paperwork from these highways authorities - Fishersgate Station – network rail are moving the bridge so that part of the footpath in W. Sussex will be diverted into Brighton & Hove. Meeting with rights of way officer from Adur on 18th January to discuss the boundary and which part will be in our area. - For information – the farmers at Ovingdean have closed off access to a field edge for conservation reasons. This has caused a lot of complaints from local walkers who used to use it as a path. However, the farmers are within their right 			
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	<p>to restrict access as it is not a public right of way, permissive path or access land.</p>			
<p>6. Rights of Way Improvement Plan (CH)</p>	<p>Draft 3 of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan goes to ETS Committee on 23rd January. We are asking for approval for the document to go out to wider public consultation. This will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advertising in two local newspapers for 12 weeks (the document will be on the council website) - Sending the draft out to consultee organisations: Natural England, SDNPA, surrounding authorities etc, <p>Once the consultation is complete the ROWIP will go back to ETS Committee for approval in June 2018.</p> <p>MM – it would be useful to have a definition of Open Access Land i.e. it's for walkers only, and how it differs to other types of access e.g. dogs must be on a short lead around livestock, dogs should be on a lead between March and July (for nesting birds) – AB.</p> <p>DB – attended the Local Transport Partnership meeting on Tuesday. There was a presentation on Transport Project Strategy in which walking and cycling was mentioned on the last slide. DB feels that it should be given a higher priority given that it is a sustainable form of travel and feels that the ROWIP adds weight to this. Gill Mitchell was at the meeting and said she was looking forward to seeing the ROWIP. DB feels the ROWIP has done the LAF a great service in this respect.</p> <p>DB – Appendix 12 – can this be changed for a higher resolution image</p> <p>At the beginning it would be good to have a statement that PRoW</p>	<p>Make amendments to draft 3 of ROWIP</p>	<p>CH</p>	<p>Feb – Mar</p>

	are highways just as roads are (Ramblers Blue Book – ProW & highways – a way in which the public have a right of access).			
7. Missing Links (DB)	<p>Since the last meeting DB has attended the ‘Don’t Lose Your Way’ group meeting – mostly covering East Sussex (some of west sussex).</p> <p>DB let them know what we are doing in our area and let them know that some routes outside of the authority would still be on Brighton & Hove land.</p> <p>DB has been actioned to go to the Keep and look at the records of SDS</p> <p>In some ways our LAF is ahead of the game and has achieved many of the Missing Links identified in the first ROWIP.</p> <p>CH – those outstanding Missing Links are in the recent draft of the 2017 ROWIP</p> <p>PJ – what about the Missing Links that are on Brighton & Hove land but not in our Authority?</p> <p>CH – these would have to be progressed with East and West Sussex County Councils – as they would ultimately appear on their Def Map if proven to exist.</p> <p>DB – will go through our Missing Links table and pass on the ones outside of the authority to the ‘Don’t Lose Your Way’ group</p> <p>DB asks that the LAF members have a look at the Missing Links list to see if there are any they would like to progress – or if there are any historic routes the group may know about that we don’t have included on the list at the moment</p>	Have a look at the Missing Links list	ALL	Before April meeting
8. Farming & Access Issues (AB & DL)	<p>AB – Farm Cluster Meeting at Saddlescomb Farm (National Trust) in December.</p> <p>There was good attendance from farmers and it was attended by a local dog walker.</p> <p>The consensus was that farmers need to improve signage and</p>			

	<p>interaction with the public. If signs go up telling people when and where the stock will be – some people will choose to not go in those fields, others will at least be warned to control their dog. However, it is vital that the signs are removed when stock are not there (otherwise people will start to ignore the signage and it becomes redundant).</p> <p>DL – the council has a conservation grazing project on the urban fringe. They have a lot of experience of grazing in heavily populated areas. Many dog walkers have now become volunteer lookers. Good / timely signage and interaction is vital to the success of this project. DL helping at Mile Oak farm, where they have recently had Exmoor ponies taken off due to an incident with a dog off lead.</p> <p>LB – Green Ridge is an excellent example of grazing in a heavily populated area with lots of dog walkers. The sheep are moved around compartments and the signage is very good.</p> <p>AB – the group are keen to promote British Farming and the importance of grazing the South Downs. If farmers are not supported and stop grazing the Downs that landscape will change radically – we will lose the species rich chalk grassland in favour of scrub and eventually woodland.</p> <p>The National Park is encouraging cluster groups to have a wider presence and engage with people who visit.</p> <p>There is a Facebook page but it's not very active at the moment. The group is called East and South Downs Farm Cluster. (There are 6 groups in all, across the South Downs). This group runs from Adur to Eastbourne. This is a huge area, but Natural England is pushing for landscape scale bids. The group has a 5 year funding grant.</p>			
<p>9. AOB</p>	<p>CH – if LAF members are able, could they have a look at the consultation on the Toad's Hole Valley development. There are plans</p>			

	<p>for green infrastructure, cycle paths and improved connections to the National Park over the A27. https://www.toadsholevalley.co.uk/yourfeedback/ When you give your feedback please identify yourself as a BHLAF member.</p> <p>BW – really enjoyed the meeting and would be very interested in attending further meetings and becoming a member of the group.</p> <p>AB / MM – AB can't attend the next SDNPA LAF meeting on 23rd January, but MM may be able to (it is in Adur, not Midhurst).</p> <p>DB asked for clarification on the status of the undercliff path as it wasn't clear on the Highways Map. CH confirmed that the undercliff path is a Public Footpath, with additional permissive cycle access.</p>	<p>Feedback to Toads Hole Valley Development consultation</p> <p>Send LAF induction materials</p> <p>Check Highways map is working / update symbols</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CH</p> <p>CH</p>	<p>End Jan</p> <p>ASAP</p> <p>ASAP</p>
<p>10. Date of next meetings</p>	<p>6pm at Hollingdean Depot: 12th April 2018 12th July 2018 11th October 2018 17th January 2019</p>			