

## Coastal Plain SubForum

### Minutes of meeting at Pagham Harbour LNR Education Centre on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

**Present:** Peter Brown (chairman), Jane Noble, Helen Baldwin, Alison Fowler, David Biss, Kathy Eels, Chris Wright, Sue Stokes.

**Apologies:** Carolyn Cobbold, Chris Boocock, Andrew Loughan.

1. **Membership:** Kathy and Sue were welcomed and were both asked if they were happy to be co-opted onto the SubForum as they both can make important contributions; they agreed to join the SubForum.
2. **Minutes:** of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 were approved.  
Matters arising:
  - **Proposed Ford EcoTown** - David reported that the rate of house building had been reduced to 300 p.a. and so, if it goes ahead, it will be a very long term project.
  - **Draft Marine Bill** – Jane reported that the House of Commons' EFRA committee had picked up most of CAFWS's points in their report.
3. **Election of chairman:** Peter Brown was re-elected for the coming period.
4. **Pagham to East Head draft coastal strategy:** the Environment Agency had issued this for consultation to the end of August and had arranged excellent public exhibitions. At East Head they recommend Adaptive Management which can be refined as knowledge increases – it should maintain access across the “hinge.” At Medmerry, the preference is still to allow the beach to roll back and adopt a natural alignment: the SubForum is still concerned that this would sever the link between Selsey and East Wittering; the EA reassured us that it would be possible to provide a path along new clay banks at the design stage. **It was agreed** that CAFWS should ask that this should be a commitment and any such path should be for multi-use.

David reported that a draft strategy for the coast between Pagham and the River Arun is due early in 2009.

5. **Housing Development at Bognor Regis Site 6:** At Bersted, there was concern that the new ring road would sever Shripney Lane with only at-level crossing; furthermore, it appeared from a sketch map that there was no cycle track along the roadside. At Flansham, there was reference to providing a cycle track along the ring road which would link with the South Coast Cycle Route, but there was no reference to the developing cycle route from Barnham to Felpham, despite the expectation that it would be

partly funded by the development. **It was agreed** that Jane and Peter would discuss the SubForum's concerns with planning staff and especially make the case of grade separated crossings.

**6. Three Harbours and Coastal Plain LEADER:** Alison reported on this European Funded rural development programme with a budget of £1.6m over six years. The business plan was being finalised and procedures will be in place to approve large projects with a fast-track for minor ones. With the difficult economic climate, it will be challenging to attract the requisite matching funding. For details see [rdpeLEADER@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:rdpeLEADER@westsussex.gov.uk)

**7. Rights of Way Improvement Plan:** Following its publication, Peter reported on the CAFWS workshop which had addressed some of the issues relating to the development of an annual Action Plan and its delivery. CAFWS is keen for SubForums to make a major contribution and the first task will be to review the project log put forward in 2004/5. Projects to go into the Action Plan must be achievable and possible funding partners should be identified. This will be the focus for the next meeting. **It was agreed** that Jane would circulate the original Coastal Plain Projects report and the more detailed supplementary report.

**8. Pagham Harbour Byelaws:** There had been concern and misapprehension concerning a recent routine review of the bye laws for the LNR. Kathy confirmed that wheeling a bike would not contravene the revised byelaws. Members did express the hope that a cycling and horse riding link could be established from east to west between Sidlesham and Pagham communities. Local consultations on the byelaws had generally been helpful and WSCC now awaits final approval from DEFRA.

**9. Any Other Business:**

- **Chichester Harbour Management Plan** – Alison reported that the Conservancy valued the comments submitted on behalf of CAFWS and drew attention to the Annual Report just published.
- **Shoreham Bridge:** David reported that this ancient bridge – a listed structure – which once carried all the coastal traffic but is now an important bridleway bridge, has now been repaired and is open – thanks to a donation from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

**Date of next meeting:** 2pm on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Pagham Harbour LNR Education Centre at Sidlesham.