

CAFWS – Draft Report on ROWIP Delivery

Introduction – Following the publication of the ROWIP for West Sussex, CAFWS held a well attended Workshop on 2nd July 2008 to see how CAFWS could support WSCC in the implementation of the ROWIP. It was explained that Jane Noble would be pulling together a project log of individual schemes that conformed with the Action Plan; as priorities are set and as funding is identified, they will roll forward into an Annual Action Plan.

While there are many potential partners, WSCC has the prime responsibility for delivery – so members concentrated on ways in which CAFWS and its members can contribute to this process. The constructive discussions have been written up under the headings of Improvements to the Network, Maintenance and Information/Promotion and can be read on the Website.

The following is a list of actions flowing from the Workshop, which now need to be taken forward by CAFWS.

Improvements to the Network

1. SubForums to revisit their local projects and confirm priorities and assess achievability. Involve local Access Rangers in discussions.
2. Lobby WSCC to ensure Definitive Map is complete by the inclusion of “G Roads”
3. Set up a joint project to get all public access land onto websites and O.S. maps – building on the excellent project in the South Downs.
4. Make contact with other main partners – especially District Councils – to facilitate joint funding.
5. Consider if it is possible to informally map permissive routes which provide useful links but are unknown to users.

Maintenance

1. Promote more use of volunteers throughout the county.
2. Speak directly to Parish Councils – possibly through their District Associations – and encourage them to be more pro-active and use the powers they possess.
3. Monitor WSCC expenditure to ensure core maintenance budget is not eroded.

Information/Promotion

1. Investigate with WSCC whether a separate CAFWS website is practicable and desirable and how the content can be dynamic and up-to-date.

2. Investigate whether in future CAFWS should have its own resources and whether it can apply for grants/funding on its own behalf.
3. Work towards stronger organisation, nationally, with other Access Forums with potential input to Govt. policies and to encourage better funding.
4. Support WSCC annual guided walks programme and investigate how a wider audience can be reached.
5. Maintain regular communication with WSCC staff and members and keep under review resources available to CAFWS.

Work Programme - These various tasks will now be fitted into CAFWS's and the SubForums programme for the coming year. It is good to look at our responsibilities in a positive way but we must also recognise that we are all volunteers, that most of us wear several other caps and that there is only one Jane Noble!

Peter Brown