

2nd July 2008

General Report

1. Sussex Day and Parish Walks

1.1 16 walks were organised by Parish Councils and other community organisations on or around Sussex Day (16 June). This County Council led initiative aims to enable communities to celebrate their local culture and countryside. Walks were generally well attended with both lead organisations and walkers reporting to have enjoyed themselves.

2. West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Rights of Way (ROW) Committee Meeting 19th May 2008 and Other Items of Interest to the Forum

2.1 Harting – diversion of part of Footpath 866 and creation of new footpath link

2.2 Stoughton – Permissive Path Agreement for access connecting Footpath 490 and Bridleway 498

2.3 A copy of the full unconfirmed ROW Committee Minutes will be available to view at the meeting.

3. Access Management Grant Scheme

3.1 Natural England has, once again, a pot of money that Access Authorities (including WSCC) can bid for to promote and improve access to CROW Access Land (not including statutory work to rights of way). WSCC is not proposing to apply for funding in 2008/09, however if members of CAFWS have any suggestions, WSCC (Jane Noble) would be happy to consider them.

4. Farmers Encouraged to Keep all Public Rights of Way Clear

4.1 In May and with the support of the National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Ramblers Association (RA), WSCC issued a press release reminding farmers to keep all public rights of way fully accessible by ensuring crops and overhanging vegetation are cleared, and ploughed paths reinstated. This resulted in articles appearing in several local papers and a radio interview.

5. Promoted routes

5.1 **Bill Way (Sustrans Route 88)– Phase 1 Chichester to Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre (Sidlesham)**. The first phase of the Bill Way, an off road cycle/walking route, was opened on Sunday 4th May

with a guided cycle ride along the route. Further details can be found at www.manhoodcyclenetwork.org.uk

- 5.2 **New Lipchis Way.** The New Lipchis Way, a 38 mile walking route from Liphook (Hampshire) to East Head, is to be launched on 23 August 2008, with a 3 day walk over the bank holiday week-end. The route passes through Midhurst and Chichester and has been revised by Footprints of Sussex in association with WSCC. Further details will be available at www.footprintsofsussex.co.uk .

6. Neighbouring LAFs

- 6.1 Neighbouring LAFs have either recently held meetings or have meetings scheduled. Members are welcome to attend neighbouring meetings. Please contact Fiona MacLeod if you are interested. Agenda items of interest since the last CAFWS meeting include:

- 6.2 Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum –22nd May 2008

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=b1116054>

- Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)
- National LAF Meeting
- Forman Street Gating Order
- South Downs Access Forum (SDAF) update
- LAF members Handbook
- NE training event
- Draft Marine Bill

Date of next meeting 10th July 2008

- 6.3 East Sussex Local Access Forum –4th June 2008

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/rightsofway/localaccessforum/default.htm>

- RoWIP Implementation and projects identified
- Presentation on the future of Transport & Environment
- Forum membership and recruitment
- Defra letter re Sections 53-56 of the CROW Act 2000
- Prioritisation of issues
- South Downs Access forum update

Date of next meeting 13th September 2008

- 6.4 Hampshire Countryside Access Forum (HCAF) – 23rd April 2008

<http://www.countrysideaccessforum.hants.org.uk/>

- Presentation of research finding re provision for Winchester's dog walkers
- Progress on the Discovering Hampshire Lost Ways Project
- Small Grants Scheme and planning for a Parish Council event
- Hampshire County Council bid to 'Access to Nature' fund
- Hampshire Countryside Access Plan (county overview document)
- Presentation on Sussex 'Pathwatch' scheme
- Update on coastal access

Date of next meeting 9th July 2008

6.5 Surrey Local Access Forum (SLAF) –21st April 2008

http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/SCCWebsite/sccwspages.nsf/LookupWebPagesByTITLE_RTF/Surrey+Country+Access+Forum?opendocument

- 'Crime is Rubbish' fly tipping video
- RoWIP delivery
- List of Streets
- Seale Meadow/Snakesfield
- Chobham Stakeholder Engagement
- Star Energy Planning Application – Albury
- Green Arc/Green Infrastructure update
- Rural Partnership/Rural Strategy review
- Feedback from member training

Date of next meeting 21st July 2008

7. Documents available to view at the meeting

7.1 The following may be of interest to Forum Members:

- Responses to consultations made since the last meeting(Keymer Brickworks, High Weald Forest Design Plan, Eco-towns – Living a Greener Future, Draft Marine Bill)
- Coastal Access Summary of Draft Marine Bill from New Forest Access Forum
- EAF Constitution
- Letters to/from Natural England regarding continued support for LAFs – Cath Hart, Regional Co-ordinator and New Forest Access Forum
- Rights of Way Committee meeting 19th May unconfirmed minutes
- Full report of the People with Mobility Needs Working Group
- Handbook for LAF members: Natural England March 2008
- Walking West Sussex Festival (1-5th October 2008) brochure and fliers
- South Downs Management Plan 2008-2013

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2nd July 2008