

**Minutes of the Coastal Plain SubForum held at the Grain Store on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**

**In attendance:** Peter Brown (chair), Helen Baldwin, Carolyn Cobbold, Alison Fowler, Andrew Loughan, David Biss, Chris Boocock.

**Apologies:** Neil Mitchell, Edwin Wrigley and Jane Noble.

- 1. Welcome and membership** - Chris Boocock was welcomed as the new representative from Sustrans. It was noted that, under the WSCC fundamental review, Neil Mitchell would be leaving and would no longer be a member of this group.
- 2. Minutes** - of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2006 were approved.
- 3. Rights of Way Improvement Plan** – members had copies of the main Forum’s comments on the draft ROWIP and were pleased to see that the SubForum’s comments had been adopted. PB reported that the County Council were joining with other local authorities in calling for the government to provide proper funding and support for the implementation of ROWIPs.
- 4. CAFWS’s Work Programme** – Two items will be of particular interest to the Coastal Plain SubForum in future.
  - Natural England are about to consult on improving access to the coastline – the main proposal is likely to be that a corridor should be created right round the English coastline for public access, but no compensation will be offered to landowners. While welcoming the prospect of better access, members were worried about possible impact on farming and privacy and possible damage to wildlife sites.
  - The second item is the need to anticipate large residential developments in West Sussex and try to ensure that the rights of way network is fit for the needs of an enlarged local population.
- 5. Pagham-East Head Coastal Defence Strategy 2007** – The SubForum went through this consultation in some detail and was concerned that there was little reference to the importance of public access. **Attached to these minutes** is a draft letter to be sent to the Environment Agency which will be the formal response of the CAFWS. It was noted that a similar exercise was being undertaken elsewhere along the coast and the SubForum would be convened as necessary. It was depressing to read yet again that the whole exercise may prove to be undermined by the lack of any certain funding from any source.

**6. Any Other Business**

- CB reported that the Chichester to Selsey cycleway was making good progress as far as Sidlesham; AL pointed out that the big problem was a safe road crossing at The Ferry – if that could be solved he thought a solution could be found from there to Selsey.
- HB brought up the fact that despite some people trying for up to 40 years there was still no progress on increasing the number of bridleways on the Manhood; yet numbers of horses continue to increase as does the volume of motor traffic. PB confirmed that it was in the draft ROWIP and it must be hoped that resources will be made available.
- HB reported that new parking had become available near Goodwood for horse boxes using a locked gate system.
- Sheepwash Lane – part of Saltern's Way – still needs to be clearly signposted as being multi-use: AF to liaise.