

Minutes of the Coastal Plain SubForum held at Dell Quay classroom on Wednesday 8th August 2007

In attendance: Peter Brown (chairman), Helen Baldwin, Edwin Wrigley, Alison Fowler, Chris Boocock, Sue Stokes, Jane Noble.

Apologies: Andrew Loughan, David Biss, Carolyn Cobbold, David Ribbens and Bill Acraman (the latter two from the main Forum).

1. **Minutes** - of the meeting held on 8th March 2007 were approved.
2. **Matters arising** – Jane Noble reported that progress was being made on the ROWIP for West Sussex which should be published in November; she thanked the SubForum for its contribution.
3. **Any Other Business** – it was reported that Chichester District Council's core strategy for its Local Development Framework has been rejected.
4. **Improving Public Access to the English Coast** – this consultation from Defra was the main business of the meeting: a response was required by 11th September. The task had been delegated to the SubForum by CAFWS due to the short timescale. The SubForum scrutinised the document in detail and agreed responses to most of the 43 questions posed in the document. Its main conclusions were as follows:
 - While the concept of being able to walk around the coast of England is attractive, the SubForum does not believe there is a great demand and it is certainly not a priority in the context of improving access to the countryside
 - Accordingly, the SubForum does not support the proposed new legislation to create a new access corridor as it will divert resources and funding from other areas of equal merit.
 - A better way ahead is for the Government to improve the legislation relating to Rights of Way to simplify the system and bring much needed speed and flexibility into the system.
 - If resources are to be targeted on improving access to the coast it should be a more comprehensive approach including the needs of disabled, cyclists and horseriders; there should also be coordination with Coastal Zone Management Plans.
 - If it is decided to pursue Option 4, the SubForum rejects the suggestion that new access rights should be imposed on landowners and farmers without compensation.
 - Extension of access rights must be conditional on adequate resources for the protection, enhancement and management of the coastal landscape.

Agenda Item 8b

The detailed draft response will be attached to the minutes of this meeting. It will be circulated to all members and subject to further comments agreed by the chairman of CAFWS will be submitted to Defra.

- 5. Future meetings** – will be called as and when business requires. At the next meeting the agenda will include:
- Update on developing cycle network – Chris Boocock
 - Implementation of ROWIP – Jane Noble