

# South Downs Local Access Forum

## Members Update January 2018

### 1.0 Purpose of this Report

This report is to update South Downs Local Access Forum Members on activity since the last SD LAF meeting and to provide information on projects and activities that may be of interest to LAF Members, but do not require debate or discussion time within the meeting. This is to provide maximum time to LAF Members during the LAF meetings to discuss and conclude important issues.

There will always be a standing item on each LAF agenda to allow Members to raise any issues as a result of these updates

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## 2.0 Chair's Update

2.1 To follow.

## 3.0 South Downs Way National Trail Update (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 1st October – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017)

### 3.1.0 Staff, Administration & Business planning.

3.1.1 Budget forecasts have been submitted to SDNPA for 2018-19. A slight increase in budget has been requested partly to accommodate increased signage costs outlined below.

3.1.2 Following pressure from the National Trail Partnerships Natural England sent out letters to each partnership confirming continued financial support for National Trails. The letter included an interim grant offer for 2018/19 confirming 50% of the value of 2017/18 grant. This was to prevent the need for redundancy letters to be sent to some of the National Trail Officers from their host authorities. A further grant award is expected once DEFRA budgets are confirmed in March / April. It is not expected at this time that National Trails will receive any funding cuts (although this can't be guaranteed).

3.1.3 In December we heard that the National bid to HLF Resilient Heritage fund had been successful. The HLF Resilience Fund have awarded the full 100% grant for our application "National Trails, 'On the right path'". The project will allow us to fully explore options for the possible establishment of a national body, what forms that body could take and what specific functions it could perform.

With the longer term aim of allowing the National Trails family to:

- Improve long-term management and sustainability of National Trails.
- Adapt to current and future financial challenges.
- Respond to opportunities more rapidly and in a coordinated manner.
- Look at new ideas and test new ways of working as a family of National Trails.
- Make National Trails more resilient to changes in government policy and other external threats.

### 3.2 Trail Maintenance

3.2.1 14 issues have been resolved this quarter, comprising of: -

- 1 New bridleway gate installed
- 4 bridleway gates repaired or serviced
- 1 finger posts repaired.
- 3 vegetation issues. ( 2491 metres of clearance)
- 5 sections of trail resurfaced (1535m)

As of 31/12/17 the following issues were unresolved.

- 1 issue against stiles
- 25 issues against gates
- 0 issues against bridges
- 3 issues against waymark posts
- 23 issues against fingerposts.
- 1 issues against missing directional signage
- 14 issues against terrain

Number of high priority issues: 2 made up of: -

- Missing directional signs.

A total of 54 days of practical volunteer work and 5 days of survey work was completed this quarter.

### **3.3.0 Trail improvements and Route changes**

3.3.1 Trail surface improvements on 5 sections of trail have been completed. These are Buriton Byway 25, Duncton 744-1 & Sutton 744-1 (Littleton Farm), Amberley 3646 (River Arun flood bank) and Amberley 2671 (South Farm Amberley).

### **3.4.0 User feedback & Stakeholder engagement**

3.4.1 User feedback

65 people completed the on-line feedback survey this quarter. See attached feedback. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 80% rating the SDW as Excellent and 20% Good.

3.4.2 LAF and user groups

Nothing new to report this quarter.

3.4.3 People counters

3 of the 10 people counters are not working correctly. Traffic Technology have been informed and we are awaiting a date for a site visit.

### **3.5.0 Press, Promotion & Web**

3.5.1 The SDW pages of the National Trails website continue to be the most visited of the family of National Trails. SDW pages received 29,211 visitors that viewed 106,154 pages. 4900 Twitter followers as of the end of September.

### **3.6.0 Trail corridor & added value projects**

3.6.1 A number of corridor improvement projects were submitted for funding from Natural England. 3 projects were successful, these were; scrub clearance at Tower Hill SSSI, West Sussex, tree felling and fencing to facilitate grazing at Elsted Hanger SSSI and Fencing, access

gates and interpretation at Heyshott Cross Dykes SAM. All the works are adjacent to the SDW and totalled £18,500.

### 3.7.0 SDW Budget & Income generation

#### 3.7.1 Current budgetary position.

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget Remaining</b>
Natural England core grant	£86,983		
Natural England Capital grants	£9875.00		
Local Highway Authorities funding	£13,000		
SDNPA Core funding	£34,500		
SDNPA additional funding	£8000		
Donations	£3625		
Sales	£2212		
Other Grants	£6000		
Staff		£60,000	
Materials		£6921	
Equipment		£2278	
Payments to Contractors		£61,916	
Publicity & Marketing		£4300	
Other		£2342	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£164,195</b>	<b>£137,757</b>	<b>£26,438</b>

### 3.8.0 Priorities for the coming quarter

- Complete all SDW surfacing works
- Send out invites for annual SDW events forum.
- Push sales through National Trails shop in run-up to Christmas.
- Agree surfacing priorities for 2018-19

## 4.0 South Downs National Park Authority Update

### 4.1 South Downs National Park' response to WSCC RoW management Plan

- 4.1.1 WSCC published its Rights of Way Management Plan 2018 – 2028 in mid-November inviting comments by 31<sup>st</sup> January. The Management Plan and consultation questionnaire can be viewed [here](#).
- 4.1.2 The SDNPA draft response is circulated to the LAF via a separate email attachment. The SD LAF may wish to submit its own response or endorse the response submitted by the SDNPA.

### 4.2 SDNPA signs 3 year deal with Gatwick Airport for access improvements.

- 4.2.1 The SDNPA has secured a 3 year partnership with Gatwick Airport to deliver access improvements across the National Park. The deal will see Gatwick funding £20,000 of 'Access for All' improvements and projects per year for the next 3 years to 2021. Some projects have already been identified for spring 2018, but further projects and improvements will be identified in the coming months.

## 5.0 Natural England & DEFRA Updates

### 5.1 Government publish 25 year Environment Plan

- 5.1.1 The Government has now published its 25 year Environment Plan. This plan and Michael Gove' speech at the recent Oxford Farm Conference says some good positive things about protecting the natural environment and especially about public access. How the government translates this into action on the ground remains to be seen. The full report can be read [here](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

## 6.0 Rights of Way Orders received by SDNPA since the last LAF Update.

Path / Location	Type of Consultation / order	Date received	Order Making Authority
Warnford FP13	Made Order Extinguishment & DMMO	20/12/17	HCC

## 7.0 Updates from Neighbouring LAFs

### 7.1 Please see links below for dates & minutes of the neighbouring LAFs

#### **East Sussex LAF**

Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 not currently published.

Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/8347/minutes-april-2017-draft.pdf>

Next meeting 21st February 2018.

#### **West Sussex LAF**

General update report from 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

[https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10547/wslaf\\_general\\_report\\_18oct2017.pdf](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10547/wslaf_general_report_18oct2017.pdf)

Minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Unconfirmed)

[https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10859/wslaf\\_unconfirmed\\_minutes\\_20171018.pdf](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10859/wslaf_unconfirmed_minutes_20171018.pdf)

Date of next meeting: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

#### **Brighton & Hove LAF**

Minutes of last meeting 11<sup>th</sup> January, not yet published.

Minutes from 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017. <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/BHLAF%20Minutes%2005-10-2017.pdf>

Date of next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

#### **Hampshire Countryside Access Forum**

Unconfirmed minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/HCAF20173minutes.pdf>

Date of next meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

#### **Surrey LAF**

Last meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Minutes not yet published)

Minutes of meeting from 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

[https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/143740/17.07.17-draft.pdf](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/143740/17.07.17-draft.pdf)

Date of next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.