

# West Sussex Public Rights of Way

SDNPA Parishes Workshop  
6 June 2018

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# Public Rights of Way in West Sussex

Key points to cover:

- Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in West Sussex – what have we got?
- Responsibilities for PRoW management
- How WSCC manages PRoW
- How Parish and Towns Councils can help

# The Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network

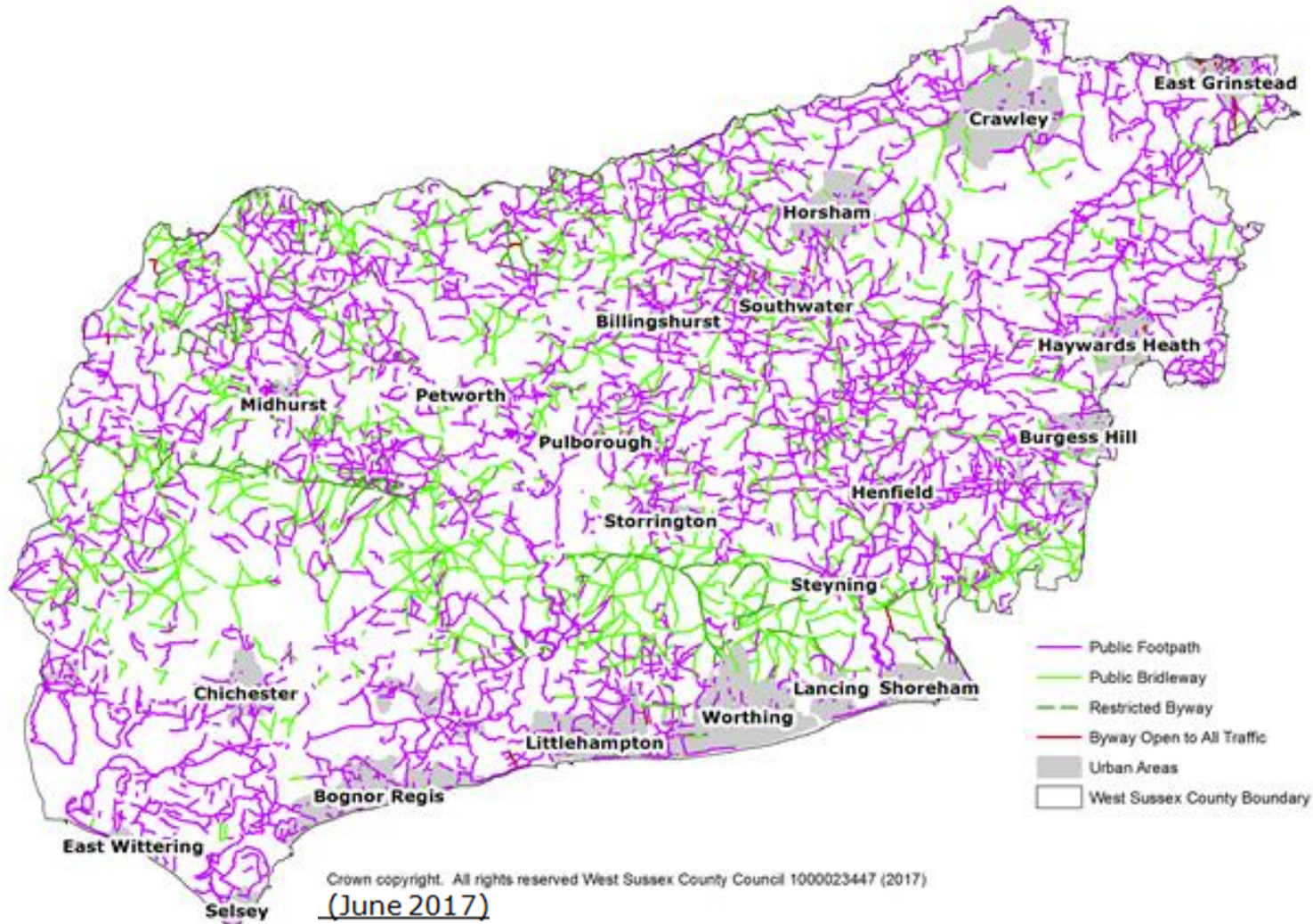


Type of PRoW	For use by	Symbol	Km	Miles	% of total
Footpath	Walkers		2,763	1717	68
Bridleway	Walkers, horse riders and cyclists		1,179	733	29
Restricted Byway	Walkers, horse riders, cyclists and horse-drawn carriages		130	81	3
BOAT	Walkers, horse riders, cyclists, horse-drawn carriages and motor vehicles		14	8	<1
<u>Length of PRoW by type (June 2017)</u>			<b>Total</b>	<b>4,086</b>	<b>2,539</b>

In addition WSCC:

- has permissive agreements with landowners giving access either on foot, by bike or on horse to 31km of additional paths
- Manages 45km of G class highways, primarily used for leisure

# The Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network



# Highway Authority's (WSCC) responsibilities

Statutory responsibilities include:

- Maintenance of surfaces and most bridges and boardwalks
- Signing rights of way from roads
- Enforcement work; working with landowners so they comply with the law
- Correct line on the ground
- Recording rights of way on the Definitive Map



# Landowner responsibilities

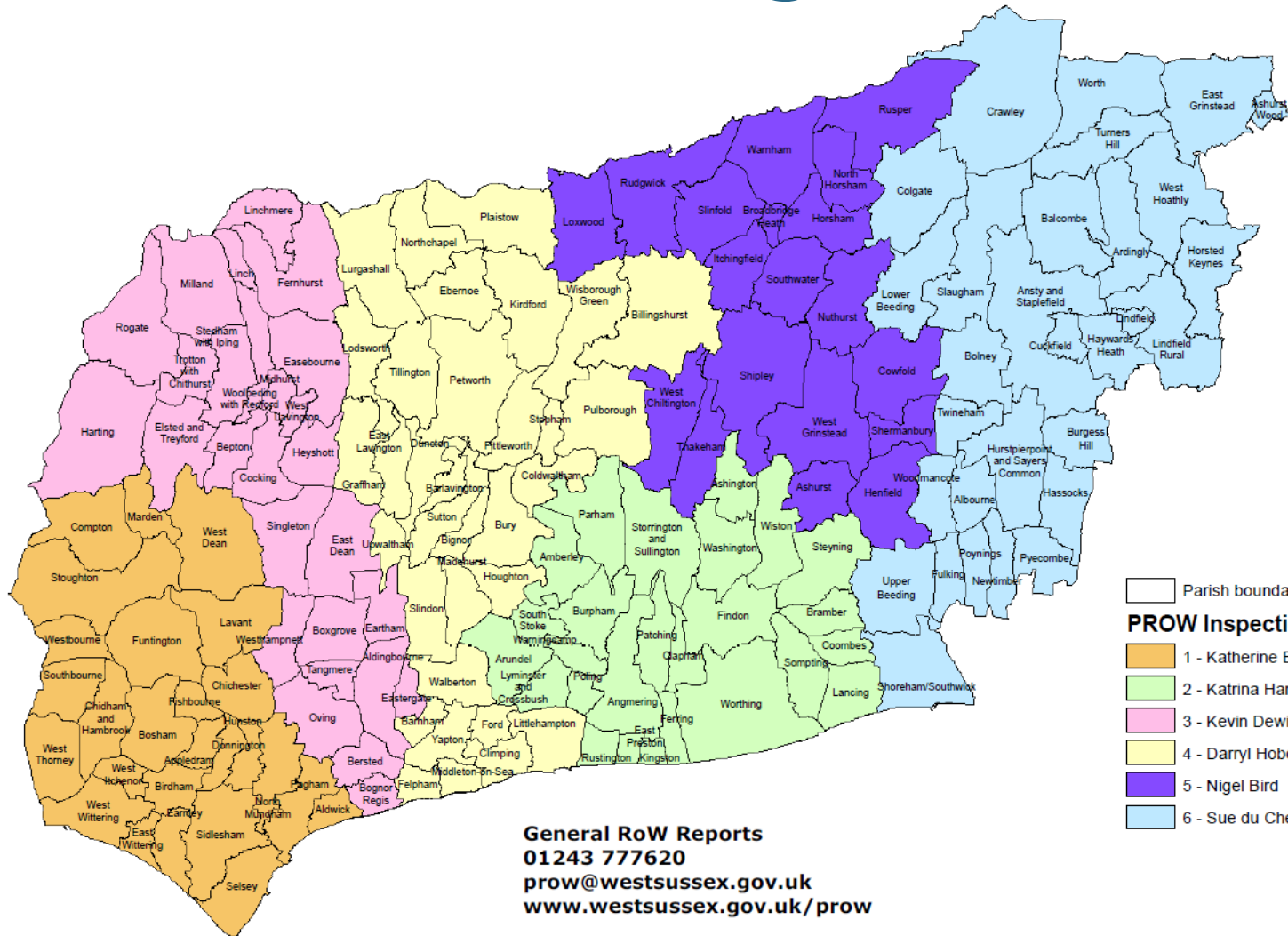
- Maintenance of existing stiles and gates (must obtain consent from Highways Authority for new stiles/gates)
- Keep rights of way free from obstructions and overhanging (including side) vegetation
- Not to plough paths at the edge of fields and to keep cross field paths free from crops
- Not to keep dangerous animals where a right of way passes
- Not to deter or endanger the public










# Managing Rights of Way

- Routine Inspection and Maintenance – 15 month cycle, by parish. Volunteers assist with inspections (2017: maintenance contractor replaced/repared 1580 signs and 145 bridges and boardwalks).
- Problem reports - Investigation of high priority problem reports outside I&M programme, other logged to be investigated during routine inspection
- Summer Clearance Programme – surface vegetation (over 300km cut annually, in addition to clearance as part of routine maintenance)
- Volunteers tasks –additional work such as bridges/boardwalks, steps, vegetation clearance etc. (2017: 3,500hours on 56 task days)
- Gates for stiles programme (2017: WSCC supported removal of 39 stiles)
- Capital programme – Major surfacing and bridge works (2017: £122,174 and £173,437 respectively)

# Access Ranger areas



-  Parish boundary
- PROW Inspection Areas**
-  1 - Katherine Eels
-  2 - Katrina Harper
-  3 - Kevin Dewitt
-  4 - Darryl Hobden
-  5 - Nigel Bird
-  6 - Sue du Chemin

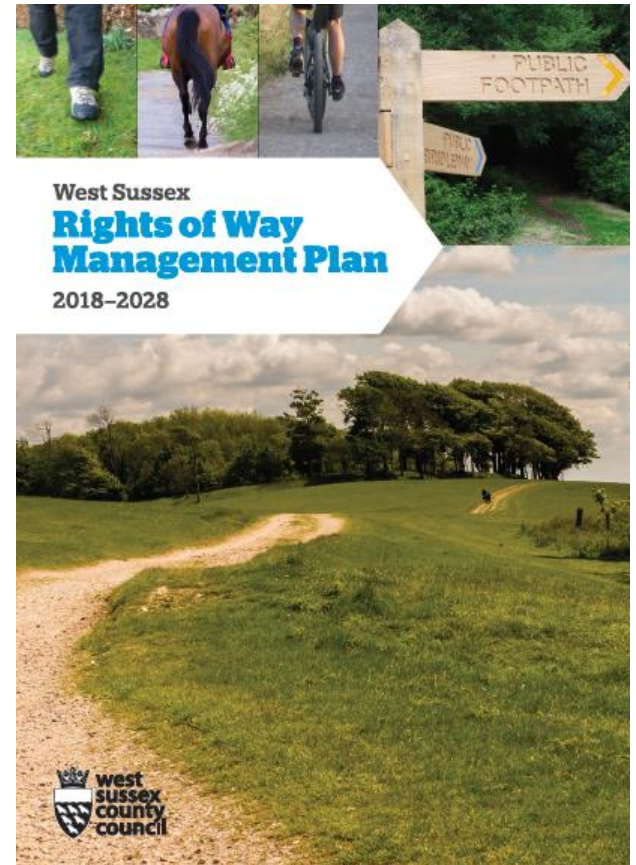


# Managing PRow (*continued*)

- **Planning** - Consider planning applications affecting PRow and Local Plan documents, including Neighbourhood Plans
- **Definitive Map changes** – Diversions, adding new routes through 'claims' and negotiation
- **England Coast Path** – working with Natural England
- **Rights of Way Improvement Plan** – Duty to publish under CRow Act 2000

# West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan, 2018-2028

- This is the West Sussex Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Outlines how WSCC and partners manage PRow now and over the next 10 years
- Available online at:  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk/RoWIP](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/RoWIP)



# The legal powers of Town and Parish Councils regarding access and PRow

These include:

- Definitive Map - To hold for public inspection
- To undertake maintenance of any footpath, bridleway or restricted bridleway
- To erect lighting on any footpath or bridleway
- To erect signs warning of local dangers
- Obstruction of the highway - To prosecute anyone who wilfully obstructs / ploughs or crops a path
- Waymarking - To insist that the highway authority signposts a particular right of way or to signpost FPs, BWs, RBs and BOATs on behalf of, and with the consent of, the highway authority
- To create new highways by agreement with the landowner

# How Parish and Town Councils can help

- **Build links with the local Access Ranger** – liaise with them over PRow issues
- **Report issues accurately** - with relevant information e.g. location, photos, where issues originate from etc, and understand our timescales for investigating issues.
- **Assist with landowner issues** - If the landowner is known you can contact them to try to resolve issues before escalating to WSCC.
- **Work with WSCC to gain improvements** - both to existing and creation of new PRowS, via the planning system.

# Reporting problems on the rights of way network

West Sussex County Council

**[www.westsussex.gov.uk/prowfeedback](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/prowfeedback)**

**01243 777620**

For more information on  
Public Rights of Way visit:

**[www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/prow)**



# Any Questions?

