

# South Downs

## Local Access Forum

**17 July 2018, 10.30 am**  
**East Meon Village Hall, Workhouse Lane, East Meon**

**Members Present:**

Annie Brown AB, Bob Damper BD, Doug Jones DJ, Edward Seymour ES, Nick Taylor NT, Russell Cleaver RC, Richard Johnson RJ, Roger Mullenger RM, Simon James SJ, Val Bateman VB

**Apologies:** Andy Hannaford AH, Neville Harrison NH, Sue Dunkley SD,

**Not Present:** Glynn Jones, GJ, John Vannuffel JV, Robert Whitcombe RW, Susan Thompson ST,

**SDNPA Officers In attendance:**

Andy Gattiker AG (National Trail & ROW Lead), Nigel James NJ (Countryside & Policy Manager) Andrew Lee AL (Director, Countryside & Policy Management); Sara Osman (Support Services Officer - Minutes)

**Apologies:** Trevor Beattie TB (CEO), Allison Thorpe AT (Access & Recreation Strategy Lead)

**Observers:**

Aileen Wood AW (HCAF), Patricia Butcher PB (WSLAF), Paul Bould (Sussex Ramblers)

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

BD welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given (see above).

**2. Items for AOB**

There were no items of AOB.

**3. Minutes (17 July 2018) and matters arising**

The minutes of the 17 July 2018 AGM meeting were accepted as a true record.

**Actions from the previous meeting:**

<u>Action</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Update/ Closed</u>
<b>Action 1</b> to review SDLAF membership and also to contact those who have not attended in the last 12 months.	<b>NJ, AG &amp; AT</b>	This action is in progress.
<b>Action 2</b> The 2017 annual review was not sent to all SDNP parish contacts.	<b>AG/ SO</b>	It was agreed that a web link to the Annual Review should be sent to Parish Council Clerks.
<b>Action 3 AG</b> to email the SDLAF membership and seek further volunteers to join the M3 site visit working group.	<b>AG</b>	AL updated Members. The SDNPA have met a contractor to look at Winchester Landscape Plan. It was agreed SDLAF members would be kept up to date and that a site visit would be more appropriate at a later stage. NJ to follow up early in Spring 2019.
<b>Action 4 AG</b> to talk to Andy Beattie to obtain an update on the M3 and circulate to the members.	<b>AG</b>	This action is no longer needed. See Action 3 above.

**Outstanding matters from previous meeting's Actions:**

<b>Action 5 AG</b> to circulate report on Exceat Bridge to SDLAF members.	<b>AG/ SO</b>	This action had been completed in February 2018 but SO to resend. <u>Update:</u> Email and document resent to all 21/11/18 - COMPLETED
<b>Action 6 AG</b> - notes from the site visit/form completion exercise to be collated and sent to HCC.	<b>AG</b>	AG has sent collated comments to HCC but will follow up as he has not had a response from HCC. COMPLETED

**ACTION I:** SO/AG to send the web link for the SDLAF 2017 annual review to all 176 Parish Councils.

## 4. Matters arising from the LAF Update report

### 2.0: Chairs Update:

- BD attended an MoD access meeting on 8 August and noted there was positive activity to get permissive RoW on MoD land. The next meeting is 5 December. BD and RM to agree between them who will attend.
- Report on junction 9 of M3. Final decision from inspector was to uphold the interim decision which states that part of the route is not a bridleway and cycling on it is illegal;
- BD updated the SDLAF on their objection to Adur and Worthing Council on the Ikea development in Lancing, just outside Park. The scheme was passed by the Council and the development will go ahead with the existing Sussex Pad crossing of the A27 closed. There will be no underpass or overpass as proposed by the SDLAF (and other objectors). The route accepted by the Council is not felt to be fit for purpose, and does not constitute an improvement in access to the Park.

### 3.1.1: Bus user surveys:

- BD thanked RJ for his work on developing a response to the WSCC Bus User Survey, which was circulated to all Members for comment and has been submitted.
- RJ highlighted the excellent response SDNPA submitted to the HCC transport survey and asked for the response to be circulated.
- It was noted that there may be reductions to the bus service in ESCC in the future.

There were no other matters arising from the update report.

**ACTION 2:** SO/AG to send a copy to the SDNPA response to HCC's transport survey to SDLAF Members

## 5. Glover review of protected landscapes

AL summarised the background to the review of National Parks and AONBs, which was launched in May 2018. Mr Glover visited the SDNP early into the review. The Call for Evidence is an 8 week consultation period from 20 October to 18 December 2018. The SDNPA is drafting up its response and encouraged its Partners, including the SDLAF, to submit their own independent response. AG outlined the review questions, which were circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed the SDLAF should respond and RM agreed to collate responses. Comments should focus on the questions most relevant to Access issues, which were agreed to be:

- 11 (in relation to potential impact on permissive paths),
- 12 (in relation to managing access and recreation),
- 14 (relating to transport and access to National Parks, and housing to ensure new housing leads to better access through paths being created and not destroyed),
- 17 (relating to 'access for all' and health & wellbeing).

**ACTION 3:** ALL to email comments on questions 11, 12, 14 & 17 of the Glover Review to RM by Friday 30 November. RM to collate and circulate a draft response before submitting before the deadline of 18 December. SO to send a copy of final response to other LAFs.

## 6. South Downs Partnership Management Plan Action Plan 2019 - 2024

The SDNPA is in the process of setting out its Partnership Management Plan (PMP) for 2019-2024. AG invited comments from SDLAF Members and led a short workshop to gather input on the following PMP outcomes which are relevant to Access:

- **5.1.** Widen participation of those groups currently under-represented in the SDNP visitor profile (BAME, people with disabilities, young people and people from areas of social deprivation) through targeted activities and promotion
- **5.2.** Develop, deliver and manage a network of high quality National Trails and NMO routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways.
- **5.3.** Improve visitor services, interpretation, information and infrastructure to increase accessibility to as wide a number of users as possible to and around the National Park
- **5.4.** Work with bus and rail operators to develop information and initiatives that encourage sustainable access into and around the National Park
- **5.5.** Promote the National Park as an outdoor activity destination

- **8.1.** Diversify the types of volunteers and the range of volunteering opportunities available supporting NP Purposes and Duty.
- **9.5.** Encourage the retention and expansion of rural transport services.
- **10.3.** Work with regional tourism and economic partners to strengthen the regional competitive position through cross boundary tourism programmes to obtain large scale funding for the development of regional experiences and growth in the visitor economy.
- **11.2.** Develop and support initiatives which enable local communities and individuals to improve health and wellbeing

The SDNPA will be holding a further workshop on 24th January 2019 to feed into the PMP.

## 7. England Coast Path Report Representation

Natural England have now published their report which is open for comment until 23 November 2018. There are no changes to the route, as previously discussed by the SDLAF. AG reminded Members that the route followed the walked line and not the existing SDW RoW. The Coast Path is a strip of Access land and does not have to follow a RoW. This allows for better views and also means that the path will be moved if needed in the event of any threat from coastal erosion, whereas any RoW that falls into the sea as a result of erosion will not be replaced.

AG will be submitting a response from the SDNPA stating the route is as expected and they have no further comment to make. He encourage the SDLAF to make their own representation and gave the following responses to questions.

- Once the coast path is made the SDNPA are likely to put in a request to the Secretary of State to move the current route of the SDW in line with the new coast path along the last section.
- There are several car parks along the proposed route of the Coastal Path.
- Maintenance of the new coast path will be overseen in a partnership between relevant landowners and Local Authorities, which will include the SDNPA.

It was agreed that the SDLAF should submit a response in support of this report.

**ACTION 4:** AG to draft a response to Natural England's report on the England Coast Path.

## 8. Updates from neighbouring LAFs

- HCAF have had a lot of discussions on equestrian issues and are developing an equestrian guide for users.
- WSLAF will now only be supported by WSCC for 2 formal meetings annually but have agreed to hold 2 informal meetings to enable them to continue going forward without current support from WSCC. They had submitted a response regarding the Sussex Pad with view that it should be replaced by a bridge as they felt the proposed alternative was not suitable for a bridleway.
- BHCAF were due to have a presentation by BHCC head of Transport which was cancelled due to lack of information from Highways England. They are working on a rolling programme of gate replacements, and have been looking at sympathetic but long lasting surfaces for trails.

## 9. Any Other Business None.

**10. Close** The meeting closed at 12:34

## Next SDLAF Meeting for 2019: TBC

AG will send dates for the 2019 year. The next meeting will be in the East and include a site visit to look at the Egrets Way.

**ACTION 5:** SO/AG to send dates for next 4 meetings for 2019.

## ACTION LIST – SDLAF 21 NOVEMBER 2018

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Update/ Closed</b>
<b>ACTION 1:</b> SO/AG to send the web link for the SDLAF 2017 annual review to all 176 Parish Councils.	<b>SO/ AG</b>	SO has drafted an email for approval (22/11/18)
<b>ACTION 2:</b> SO/AG to send a copy to the SDNPA response to HCC's transport survey to SDLAF Members	<b>SO/ AG</b>	A copy is ready to send (LAF meeting folder – Actions) (22/11/18)
<b>ACTION 3:</b> ALL to email comments on questions 11, 12, 14 & 17 of the Glover Review to RM by Friday 30 November. RM to collate and circulate a draft response before submitting before the deadline of 18 December. SO to send a copy of final response to other LAFs	<b>RM/ SO</b>	
<b>ACTION 4:</b> AG to draft response to Natural England's report on the England Coast Path.	<b>AG</b>	
<b>ACTION 5:</b> SO/AG to send dates for next 4 meetings for 2019.	<b>SO/ AG</b>	