

South Downs

Local Access Forum

30 April 2019 10.30am
South Down Centre

Members Present:

Andy Hannaford AH, Annie Brown AB, Bob Damper BD, Doug Jones DJ, Edward Seymour ES, Glynn Jones, GJ, Neville Harrison NH, Richard Johnson RJ, Roger Mullenger RM, Russell Cleaver RC, Simon James SJ, Sue Dunkley SD, , Val Bateman VB

Apologies: Nick Taylor NT, Robert Whitcombe RW, Lorraine Lines LL, Michael Clarke MC, Susan Thompson ST

Not Present, John Vannuffel JV

SDNPA Officers In attendance:

Allison Thorpe AT (Access & Recreation Strategy Lead), Andy Gattiker AG (National Trail & ROW Lead), Nigel James NJ (Countryside & Policy Manager), Tania Hunt (Support Services Officer - Minutes), Paul Slade (Support Services Officer - Support)

Apologies: Andrew Lee AL (Director, Countryside & Policy Management);

Guest Speakers:

Andy Blaxland (Esso)
Phillippa Gardner (Esso)

Observers: Rob Self (South Downs Society), Tricia Butcher (WSLAF), Lorraine Taylor (Findon Valley Residents Association), Lance Allen (Findon Valley Residents Association), Paul Bicknell (Arun District Council)

1. Welcome & Apologies

BD welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were given, as listed above.

2. Items for AOB

NH – Required an updated list of members of the LAF and interested parties.

BD – The information required is on the last page of the Annual Report and on the Website.

ACTION 1: – AG – To circulate list of current members and interested parties to the forum.

3. Minutes (31 January 2019) and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true record.

Actions from the previous meeting:

<u>Action</u>	<u>Who</u>	<u>Update/ Closed</u>
ACTION 1: SO to change date and venue on the minutes for the meeting held on 21 November 2018.	SO	Done (01/02/19)
ACTION 2: RJ to draft letter opposing WSCC bus timetable changes. SO to circulate to SDLAF Members.	SO/ AG	Done (01/02/19) Feedback from WSCC was that it was worth making

		the point and pleased with feedback. However, the cuts have been made.
ACTION 3: AG to put open access signage and publicity on the agenda for the next meeting.	RM/ SO	Done Item 9 on Agenda 30/04/19

4. Matters arising from the LAF Update report

BD informed Members he had attended a meeting with Highways England regarding Junction 9 of the M3. Access discussed for walking, cycling and horse riding. No equestrian representation. The slides from the meeting are available for those who want to see them. It was suggested that the standard 3 meters was not sufficient and the maximum of 5 meters was taken on board. There is a further meeting scheduled for July.

ACTION 2: AG – to add M3 Junction 9 meeting update to agenda for July

BD attended PMP workshop – referred to in agenda papers.

BD attended MOD Liaison Meeting – held at Longmoor. Part of the Longmoor Estate is used for training. Many of the notices are being defaced as it is the general thought amongst users of the land that the MOD closes the estate for training when no training is taking place.

Question from Observer: Is it possible to have an update from CAMS on problems old and new?
AG- It is possible to run a report to show how long problems have been in the database

ACTION 3: AG – Run report on problems (old and new) and circulate

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

AG – Spoken to Bob Damper and he is happy to continue as Chair.

Open to the room – anyone open for Chair and Vice Chair?

The forum unanimously decided to keep Bob Damper as the Chair.

BD – nominated Richard Johnson as Vice Chair. Doug Jones seconded the nomination and Richard Johnson was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

6. Terms of Reference

Bob Damper commented that there were couple typos in the document.
No other comments were made regarding the Terms of Reference.

ACTION 4 – BD – To email over typos to AG to amend

ACTION 5 – AG – To amend typos to Terms of Reference

6a. Esso Pipeline:

Andy Blaxland and Phillippa Gordon from Jacobs gave a presentation about a project to replace the Esso Pipeline which runs through the National Park from Southampton. LAF members raised a number of questions about the construction process and the likely impact on rights of way. The team from Jacobs confirmed that 20 footpaths and 7 bridleways would be crossed by the pipeline. Most disruptions would be less than 100 meters in length and less than one week in duration. It was confirmed that temporary diversions would be advertised via HCC's website and a dedicated website for the project which would be keep users up to date with construction progress etc.

7. Update on Permissive Pathways Review & Next Steps

AG confirmed that letters had been sent to those landowners with permissive paths in HLS agreements and that we have had some very helpful comments from landowners in return.

It was suggested that Bruce Fowkes – Farming Officer could come and talk to the LAF about the proposed new Agri-Environment Scheme and explain how he is currently working with Farm Clusters in the National Park.

NJ explained that in the National Park groups of farmers from the Farming Cluster Groups will concentrate on different aspects of the proposed new arrangements. The Western cluster group will look at Access and the Eastern will concentrate on the Chalk Landscape.

Phase 1 of Defra has a timescale of 1 year.

Defra has 49 trials going on. The aspiration is for a universal scheme.

LAF members discussed the proposed arrangements and expressed a range of views including concerns that it may be difficult to have improved ecology and increased public access. It was suggested that SDNPA could assist the scheme by providing signage for farmers with access paths. It was also suggested that SDNPA should explore the costs of providing funding for those paths which are worth retaining. NJ recommended the LAF members identify priority paths and it was suggested that the LAF could send a representative to the Western Area workshop.

ACTION 6 – LAF member to be invited to contribute to Workshop on Permissive Paths

8. Backlog of DMMO claims

The deadline for addition of missing or ‘lost ways’ to the Definitive Map is 1st January 2026. The mechanism for doing this via a DMMO or Definitive Map Modification Order.

AG confirmed that there is a huge backlog nationally and within some of the Highways Authorities that cover the SDNPA.

Hampshire currently have the biggest backlog.

Hampshire has 130+, which had doubled since 2016. They have employed more staff to deal with this and the oldest application on the waiting list is 11 years old. They are envisaging a large backlog by 2026.

Brighton and Hove have no backlog. West Sussex have 11 outstanding, but receiving more all the time. East Sussex have 55 – the oldest is 8 years old and they have 2-4 applications a year. 9 are waiting for the Secretary of State as they have objections against them.

A discussion followed with members raising concerns about the lack of clarity around the cut-off date as the government has not yet published the regulations/guidance for local authorities.

Councils require clarity as it is not black and white as each authority comes to a different conclusion.

ACTION 7 – Bob Damper proposed that the LAF go to DEFRA to seek clarity and to point out the issues and problems that are occurring.

9. Signage and publicity of Open Access Land

Members discussed issues relating to Open Access Land. In particular, the lack of information and signage for the public was a concern. Some members would like to see signage and on line information about rules for walking dogs on access land. AG reminded members of the

10 maps on the ‘Friends of the South Downs’ website. This shows key areas of Access Land and the Countryside Code to adhere to. The map also shows where and where you can’t access the routes.

10. Projects for the coming year (Horse riding routes/ Access improvements/ Access potential mapping?)

Projects for the coming year:

Updates to SDNPA Website –

- To add more horse riding routes to the website, as there are currently very limited horse riding opportunities. Perhaps liaising with BHS and utilising their publications to adapt and make routes for the SDNPA?
- To add information about Open Access and explain what it means.

ACTION 8 – VB/ TB– Talk to horse riders and volunteers Re: Horse riding routes.

11. AOB and Location of next meeting

Lance Allen – Findon Village Residents Association – Findon borders the SDNP on 3 sides. What can we do to promote what is right and what is wrong? Open to helping as residents represent 2000 homes – we want people to get out and we want them to do it responsibly.

It was generally considered that updating local residents regarding Access would be beneficial. AT proposed that it is possible to sign up to the newsletter and get updates and information.

Next meeting could possibly be in Winchester (as the M3 junction 9 consultation is in July) Petersfield or SDC. To be confirmed.

Date: 25th July

ACTION 9 – AG/BD – to decide location for next meeting.

ACTION LIST – SDLAF 30 April 2019

Action	Who	Update/ Closed
ACTION 1: To circulate list of current member and interested parties to the forum.	AG	
ACTION 2: To add M3 Junction 9 meeting update to agenda for July	AG	
ACTION 3: Run report on problems (old and new) and circulate.	AG	
ACTION 4 - To email over typos to AG to amend.	BD	
ACTION 5: To amend typos to Terms of Reference.	AG	
ACTION 6 Contribute to Workshop on Permissive Paths:	LAF FORUM	
ACTION 7: Bob Damper proposed that the LAF go to DEFRA to seek clarity and to point out the issues and problems that are occurring.	LAF FORUM	
ACTION 8: Talk to group Re: Horse riding routes	VB/ TB	
ACTION 9: – To decide location for next meeting.	AG/BD	