

South Downs

Local Access Forum

25th July 2019 10.30am

Members Present:

Bob Damper BD, John Vannuffel JV, Richard Johnson RJ, Robert Whitcombe RB, Roger Mullenger RM, Russell Cleaver RC, Val Bateman VB,

Apologies:

Andy Hannaford AH, Annie Brown AB, Doug Jones DJ, Edward Seymour ES, Glynn Jones, GJ, Simon James SJ, Sue Dunkley SD, Susan Thompson ST Nick Taylor NT,

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),

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

Guest Speakers:

Veronica Craddock VC

Observers: Alan Marlow AM (HCAF & Ramblers), Petronella Natrass PN (BHS)

1. Welcome & Apologies

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

2. Items for AOB

JV wanted to bring to the attention of the LAF matters that he thought the LAF should be aware of that he felt they had not been consulted upon.

3. Minutes (30 April 2019) and matters arising

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

Actions from the previous meeting:

Action	Who	Update/ Closed
ACTION 1: To circulate list of current member and interested parties to the forum.	AG	LAF Forum decided there was no need to progress. Closed
ACTION 2: To add M3 Junction 9 meeting update to agenda for July	AG	Already done. Closed
ACTION 3: Run report on problems (old and new) and circulate.	AG	Updated and reported quarterly. Closed
ACTION 4 - To email over typos to AG to amend.	BD	Done and Closed
ACTION 5: To amend typos to Terms of Reference.	AG	AG – To Do. UPDATE
ACTION 6 Contribute to Workshop on Permissive Paths:	LAF FORUM	AG to supply NJ with a list of paths that are a priority. UPDATE
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	No Action. AG – Info from Local Highway Authority on current backlog. Closed
ACTION 8: Talk to group Re: Horse riding routes	VB/ TB	AT & VB have discussed to get people from BHS to take forward. PN happy

		to do this but would like direction from the LAF & SDNPA to achieve all priorities. AT – would like to create self-guided routes that volunteers have reccied in advance with the goal of having some guided rides on the SDNPA website that start from the horsebox car parks. UPDATE
ACTION 9: – To decide location for next meeting.	AG/BD	Closed

4. Matters arising from the LAF Update report

RM – Was unsure of the changes that had been made to update the report.

AT – The update to the report was from Natural England and refers to the decision by DEFRA to defer the review of CROW open access maps until 2024 – 2025. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-access-land-management-rights-and-responsibilities#review-of-open-access-maps>

RM – A long stretch of the Centurion Way has been negotiated, except for the railway station at Singleton. This is due to some ecological issue and has meant that the determination of the planning application has been delayed.

BD – The plans will bypass the tunnel at Singleton due to Bats within the tunnel.

NJ – There are currently quite a few issues of which Singleton Tunnel is one. There are some very rare Bats within the tunnel and therefore to avoid the tunnel and re-route the trail would be the simplest and less time consuming answer.

VB – Will horse riders be permitted to use the trail?

NJ – We are currently working with landowners to get further permission for equestrian use.

RC – What is the background on reasoning on the downgrade of two byways?

JV – Applications have been rejected. It is currently with the Secretary of State

AG – SDNPA has no evidence to support the downgrading.

5. Highways England M3 Junction 9 Consultation

Veronica Craddock from the South Downs National Park Authority gave a presentation about the M3 Junction 9 Consultation with Highway England before attending a site visit.

There was a general discussion around the table after the presentation.

AM – Felt that that user groups had not been involved in talks regarding the M3 junction 9

Veronica Craddock reported that she is working with the Access team, workshop groups and HCC to look at the issues in the area and where things are feasible. No access is being lost at this time. She invited that if anyone should have suggestion that they should direct them to herself, or Nigel James. To respond you can go online onto the official consultation document:

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m3-junction-9-improvements-statutory-consultation/>

Respond to section B3 – Footpaths, Cycleway & Bridleway

ACTION 1: VC – to make sure user groups are invited to the next workshop meeting.

6. Junction 9 Site Visit

The group were taken to site to show the proposed works and the access points at this current time.

7. M3 Junction 9 Site Visit Consultation

There was a discussion amongst the group regarding the site visit including the following points

- The standard three metre width proposed by Highways England is not adequate
- There needs to be separation

- Horse box parking on the east side of the M3
- Reinstate bridleway on the east side

ACTION 2: LAF group to go away and come back with their comments before the 27th August deadline. If they could email their comments to the access@ email address by 5th August

ACTION 3: AG – to email all members with comments and documents presented.

8. AOB

JV raised concerns that the SDNPA were not being consulted on all relevant highways matters and wanted to know how the LAF could make sure that this happens. It would seem that the SDNPA are not always consulted. However, we are sent a consultation of orders and there is a process that is followed for this but not all consultation timelines match up with the LAF meetings.

ACTION 4: JV – to draw up a list of matters we should be consulted on and circulate to AG to add to the agenda for the next meeting.

Next Meeting: 23rd October

ACTION LIST – SDLAF 25th July 2019

Action	Who	Update/ Closed
ACTION 1: To make sure user groups are invited to the next workshop meeting with VC	VC	
ACTION 2: LAF group to go away and come back with their comments on M3 J9 before the 27 th August deadline. If they could email their comments to the access@ email address by 5 th August	LAF	
ACTION 3: To email all members with comments and documents presented in relation to the M3 J9 consultation	AG	Sent 01/08/19
ACTION 4 To draw up a list of matters we should be consulted on and circulate to AG to add to the agenda for the next meeting	JV	