

South Downs

Local Access Forum

23rd October 2019 10.30am

Members Present:

Bob Damper BD, John Vannuffel JV, Richard Johnson RJ, Annie Brown AB, Roger Mullenger RM, Russell Cleaver RC, Val Bateman VB, Doug Jones DJ, Glynn Jones, GJ, Simon James SJ

Apologies:

Andy Hannaford AH, Robert Whitcombe RB, Edward Seymour ES, Sue Dunkley SD, Nick Taylor NT, Michael Clarke MC, Patricia Butcher PB

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);

Observers: Aileen Wood AW (Hampshire LAF), Paul Bickwell PB (Arun District Council)

1. Welcome & Apologies

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

2. Items for AOB

AB wanted to discuss the Toad Hole Valley Development in Hove with the Members of the LAF.

3. Minutes (25.07.19) 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 make sure user groups are invited to the next workshop meeting with VC	VC	AT – Additional Stakeholders were added to the list.
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	AG – No individual comments came back from LAF Members. AG noted that this was only the initial consultation and felt sure there would be other opportunities for further input at a later date.
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	JV offered to come up with examples – to carry forward to next meeting.

4. Matters arising from the LAF Update report

RM put forward an item for the agenda of the MOD liaison meeting on the 1st August 2019 concerning Chilcomb Firing Range. The aim was to try and find out when firing is happening on Chilcomb Firing Range. However, there seems to be no notification of this.

RM – the footpath is very confusing with regard to signage and the sign on the gate appears to aim to discourage people from using the path across the Firing Range.

AT- The third meeting of the three East of Winchester Vision Groups have taken place. The plan is to have further meetings as the output has been very positive and has helped to focus minds. The idea would be to have a collective vision when it comes to major schemes and there would be joint justifications for this as there would be a joining up through stakeholders and therefore it would be beneficial to keep the general feeling going.

There were no other updates on the report.

5. A27 Arundel Bypass Consultation

Allison Thorpe did a presentation to the Members of the LAF regarding the consultation on the Arundel A27 Bypass. The consultation is due to close on 24th October and Allison drafted a letter to go through and amend if needed to send on behalf of the LAF before the closing date.

A discussion took place regarding underpasses (with sufficient headroom for equestrians, walkers and cyclists) as an option to avoid lengthy diversions due to historic severance and for improved safety for users.

AB commented that many of the bridleways end in a dead-end and that crossing was too dangerous for non-road users due to high volume of traffic and the speed. Currently there is no feel for how many people are using the paths.

BD- commented that it should be stated that they do an impact assessment on all non- motorised road users.

AT - stated that Highways England (HE) will not be assessing the impact as there are a low level of non-motorised road users and that they are not assessing for this reason.

ACTION: BD – To look into the reasons why HE have not assessed the impact on non-motorised road users.

It was stated that there is a high level of opportunities to enhance walking and cycling facilities that have been identified by EAR. It was therefore agreed with the Members of the LAF that underpasses should be added to the draft letter.

RJ- commented that page 10 of the A27 Arundel Bypass Consultation was astonishingly negative towards Public Transport.

AB - asked if Arundel have a Public Transport Guide. AT- confirmed that they do but that it is treated separately as HE interest is to deliver the road.

RJ- felt that bus services could work more strategically to offer more services to link up with major towns and the South Downs National Park, as this is poorly served at the moment.

The Members of the LAF felt that HE need to take a more holistic approach to traffic demands by helping to produce new routes and services through bus travel and thereby reducing traffic congestion along the A27.

The LAF Members also discussed the duties under the Equalities Act and that accessibility for all users should be considered.

ACTION: AT – To add addition discussed items to the draft letter and sign off by BD before sending out on 24th October 2019.

6. Breaky Bottom, Open Access Site Restriction

Andy Gattiker did a presentation to the LAF on the Breaky Bottom site.

BD – recalls from the previous site visit that it was:

- 1) Dangerous
- 2) Fence was an option (but owners were not obliged to fence the site)
- 3) The enclosure could be reined in.

A general discussion took place regarding the site as there were many concerns. It was felt that although it was a small site it was the principle that the site is open access land and should be accessible to all. It was also felt that most people who would use the site would not look at the website for updates and would just use a map. Therefore the site could be deemed a Statutory Nuisance as the public could walk toward the quarry and fall in.

BD - A fence was offered and refused – perhaps try to open up the land away from the pit.

AB – Signage needs to be clear.

JV – The road around the site could have a right of way?

AT – Sussex Ramblers have done a lot of work but there are no pending DMMO's on the site.

It was felt that it would be useful to hold the LAF meeting near the site next year and do a site visit.

ACTION: AG – Start a dialogue with the landowner and report back/ arrange site visit for early next year.

7. Glover Review Final Report

Andy Gattiker did a presentation to the LAF on the Glover Review Final Report.

The report has now been published and LAF Members are urged to look through the report that has now been submitted to government.

DEFRA have been asked to look at the proposals and there are further consultations on the proposals.

BD – It is very encouraging as there are 27 proposals and I couldn't disagree with any of them. All of the things that we as a LAF have said have been taken on board. It is a fine document.

RM – Walkers appear to have preferential treatment and other user groups need to be taken into consideration.

8. Dates for LAF meetings 2020

AG – proposed that we create an online presence where discussions can take place on a regular basis. A lot of what is discussed does not require a statutory vote. Therefore we could reduce meetings from 4 meetings to 3 per year.

BD – I feel currently I am online saturated and I value face to face meeting as you have to devote time to it. This was discussed 2-3 years ago and decided to keep with 4 meetings. It is a shame that we are not always quorate, yet this is usually when we meet at one end of the park.

A discussion took place regarding being quorate and it was decided that there would need to be 10 Members in each meeting to make it quorate.

NJ – The SDNPA are happy to carry on hosting 4 meetings for 2020 under the understanding that each meeting will be quorate. However, we should pursue the idea of online voting.

VB – Make sure meetings do not clash with other LAF meetings.

ACTION: BD – to send an email 10 days before the LAF meeting takes place to remind Members that the meeting need to be quorate.

ACTION: AG – To look into online voting and dates for LAF 2020.

9. AOB

Reports from other LAF groups:

Hampshire – reviewing terms and conditions and engaging with Highways
Surrey – Lots of cuts

Toad’s Hole Valley Development:

AB – Outside Hove (mixed use development). I would quite like the LAF to engage. It has just passed the pre-app process. There is direct access in and out of the SDNP. SDNPA did submit a consultation. Need and support. When there is a revised application I strongly urge SDLAF work together with Brighton & Hove LAF.

AG – Alister Linton-Crook has been attending meetings with Brighton, alongside our planning team. Therefore we have someone on the inside to look at how users are accessing the Downs.

Permissive Paths:

Bruce Fawkes, Andy Gattiker and Nigel James

Priority 1 – Spoken to a number of Farmers. A bid will go forward to the SDNPA next year. We will liaise and work with landowners to make an offer.

RM – Thanked everyone for the work on getting permission for extending the Centurion Way.

BD – We will meet in January. Date and location to be decided.

ACTION LIST – SDLAF 23rd October 2019

Action	Who	Update/ Closed
ACTION 1: 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	
ACTION 2: To look into the reason that HE are not completing an assessment on the impact on non-road users	BD	
ACTION 3: To add addition discussed items to the draft letter and sign off by BD before sending out on 24 th October 2019.	AT	
ACTION 4 Start a dialogue with the landowner and report back/ arrange site visit for early next year.	AG	
ACTION 5 – to send an email 10 days before each LAF meeting takes place to remind Members that the meeting need to be quorate.	BD	
ACTION 6 – To look into online voting and dates for LAF 2020.	AG	