



West Sussex Local Access Forum

Annual Report: May 2022 – March 2023

Introduction

Welcome to this WSLAF Annual Report within which I hope you will find some items of interest. This was the first year post pandemic and although as with many other organisations members had maintained their work on-line, we were all very pleased to return to face-to-face meetings.



We are keen to recruit new members from all sectors of interest to maintain a balanced forum and bring in fresh ideas, and if this is something you might consider, why not come along to a future meeting as an observer to see what it's all about? We will be very pleased to see you.

We have continued to provide an independent view on consultations affecting all aspects of the access network and will remain involved with a number of long-term projects which have yet to reach their conclusion.

I thank the Members for their ongoing support and commitment to the Forum and to our Forum Officer, Jane Noble, for her support and help throughout the year.

Graham Elvey – Chairman



WSLAF Meetings

WSLAF holds four meetings per year. Two Formal meetings are fully supported by WSCC and two Informal meetings are organised and run solely by WSLAF members.

Meetings over the past year concerned items related to our work programme and other work concerning Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and the wider access network.



The meetings included the following presentations:-

- West Sussex County Council Public Rights of Way Annual Report – Nick Scott, WSCC Principal Rights of Way Officer
- Public Rights of Way Legal Orders - Ami Dye, Senior Rights of Way Officer.

Summary of WSLAF work

WSLAF's core aim is to improve public access to the countryside for informal outdoor leisure, mainly using the public rights of way and greater access network.

We endeavour to provide balanced independent advice through planning applications, highway improvement consultations and the Local Plan process. We try to ensure responsible use of access and encourage respect for those who are working and living in these areas.

Consultations and advice

The Forum has responded to a considerable number of consultations over the past year. There have been fewer consultations concerning large housing developments, possibly due to Natural England's policy on Water Neutrality. The consultations the Forum responded to include:

- GLaM Action Plan - Green links Across the Manhood Peninsular
- Barnham Footpath Diversions – National Rail
- B2144, Oving Road Chichester – WSCC
- A27 De-Trunking - Highways England
- Shoreham Cement Works – South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA)
- A259 Chichester to Bognor Regis Corridor Feasibility Study – WSCC
- Worthing Sustainable Transport Corridors - WSCC
- Rampion 2 Modifications to onshore cable route - Rampion
- Mid Sussex District plan – Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC)
- Kithurst Hill Car Park - WSCC/SDNPA/Horsham DC
- Horsted Keynes to Haywards Heath branch line (Bluebell Railway) – MSDC
- Ford to Hunston Greenway Project - Chris Sprules

Long Term Projects

A27 Arundel bypass

The Department of Transport has confirmed that this scheme will be deferred until 2025 to 2030. This will also delay the de-trunking of the existing A27 in this area, a project WSLAF has been closely involved with.

A281/Downs Link Crossing

Following the tragic fatality that occurred at this crossing in 2020 and the

Regulation 28: Report to Prevent Future Deaths issued by the Senior Coroner for West Sussex, WSCC have been investigating the provision of either a Pegasus or bridge crossing for users at this location.

Whilst an initial bid for bridge funding at the end of last year was unsuccessful, this remains the preferred option for all involved including WSLAF and it is hoped an alternative source of funding will become available for a new bid later in the year.

WSLAF has continued to be engaged with the process to try to ensure that the outcome of the project will provide an improved and safe crossing for all.



Rampion 2 Windfarm

Our representative on the PRow Project Liaison Group continued to monitor and comment on the design stage of the project including the route of the on-shore cable and plans for dealing with PRow; the location of the proposed sub-station; consultation responses and updates on surveys and data collection.

A Development Consent Order application is expected over summer 2023, with Pre-examination in Autumn 2023, Examination in Spring 2024 and Decision early 2025.

The Forum is trying to ensure that disruption is minimised and access is maintained as far as possible during the course of the site work and that reinstatement of the ground will be to a high standard on completion.



A283 NMU crossing at Washington

WSCC's original proposal for this crossing to provide a much-needed safe link across the A283 between bridleways 2623 and 2697 has proved too difficult to complete. A new proposal to move the crossing further west is now being investigated.

FP 5K Woodside Underpass, Hassocks

The diversion of FP5K through the new Network Rail underpass has been confirmed. WSLAF is supporting WSCC's ongoing proposal to provide a safe east/west route for all NMUs from London Road to Ockley Lane through the new underpass and housing developments either side.

Looking Forward

The Forum will continue to provide advice on strategic housing developments, road improvements and Active Travel schemes to ensure

the maximum available public access is provided to all users.

Some of the projects currently of interest will continue beyond 2023 and WSLAF will maintain its monitoring and advising until the projects have been completed.



Contact the Forum/further information

WSLAF meeting dates, agenda, minutes, work programme, consultation responses and a list of members can be found on the Forum's website:

www.wslaf.org

We have now returned to face-to-face meetings and we will welcome observers at the Formal Meetings. Please check for updates on the website.

The Forum is always looking for new members, particularly from those representing landownership or land management to ensure a balance of members. Please contact the Forum Officer (details below) for further information.

Forum Officer Jane Noble

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***If this information is required in an alternative format please contact us
and we will try to meet your needs.***