

# South Downs Local Access Forum

## Members Update November 2017

### 1.0 Purpose of this Report

This report is to update South Downs Local Access Forum Members on activity since the last SD LAF meeting and to provide information on projects and activities that may be of interest to LAF Members, but do not require debate or discussion time within the meeting. This is to provide maximum time to LAF Members during the LAF meetings to discuss and conclude important issues.

There will always be a standing item on each LAF agenda to allow Members to raise any issues as a result of these updates

#### Contents

<a href="#">Chair's Update</a>	<a href="#">Page 2</a>
<a href="#">South Downs Way National Trail Update.</a>	<a href="#">Page 2</a>
<a href="#">South Downs National Park Authority Update.</a>	<a href="#">Page 6</a>
<a href="#">NE / DEFRA Update.</a>	<a href="#">Page 6</a>
<a href="#">Rights of Way orders Received since last Members Update</a>	<a href="#">Page 7</a>
<a href="#">Updates from Neighbouring LAF's</a>	<a href="#">Page 8</a>

## 2.0 Chair's Update

- 2.1 A site visit regarding a proposed path extinguishment in Fittleworth was undertaken with Russell Cleaver, Val Bateman, Neville Harrison and Sarah Manchester. It showed the value of walking these paths rather than just interpreting the maps. As a result, two letters were written, one regarding the order which we objected to and one being a comment about the state of the path and its furniture
- 2.2 I am attending the meetings of HCAF and Surrey LAF with the MoD. One item has been Chilcombe (separate item) and the other by-laws relating MoD land which are being revised. There are meeting separately from the MoD on this subject because of the sensitivity.
- 2.3 I was invited to the launch of the Rampion offshore wind farm but could not attend.
- 2.4 I attended the South Downs Partnership which discussed the South Downs Park Trust, Local Plan and Partnership Management Plan review.
- 2.5 I have submitted personal comments on the SDNP Local Plan consultation, in general welcoming the document particularly the policy on integrating new routes into the existing rights of way network in new developments.

## 3.0 South Downs Way National Trail Update (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 1st July – 31<sup>st</sup> September)

### 3.1.0 Staff, Administration & Business planning.

- 3.1.1 Budget forecasts have been submitted to SDNPA for 2018-19. A slight increase in budget has been requested partly to accommodate increased signage costs outlined below.
- 3.1.2 Following several meetings of the Chairs of National Trails Partnerships and on-going consultation regarding the future of the National Trails family, it had been agreed to submit a HLF Resilient Heritage bid. This bid will be a stage one bid to fund specialist advice to present options on future organisational structures at a national level. The funding will be at 100%. The bid is due to be submitted in early to mid-November.
- 3.1.3 The national group of National Trail Partnerships has commissioned Coast Communications to continue work raise awareness of National Trails at senior civil servant level and through the House of Commons and House of Lords. They have specific targets including the establishment of a National Trails All Party Parliamentary Group.

### 3.2 Trail Maintenance

- 3.2.1 Both CAMs desktop and CAMsWeb are now fully operations and in use across the SDNPA. SDW wardens issues and CROW access land surveys are now being inputted via CAMsWeb. All SDNPA Ranger staff has had training in the use of CAMsWeb.
- 3.2.2 33 issues have been resolved this quarter, comprising of: -
  - 1 bridleway gate replaced

- 13 bridleway gates repaired or serviced
- 4 finger posts replaced.
- 2 Waymark post replaced
- 1 Waymark posts Removed.
- 4 vegetation issues. ( 577 metres of clearance and 1 fallen tree)
- 8 regular clearance cuts (6679 metres of clearance.)

As of 30/09/17 the following issues were unresolved.

- 0 issue against stiles
- 18 issues against gates
- 0 issues against bridges
- 5 issues against waymark posts
- 16 issues against fingerposts.
- 1 issues against missing directional signage
- 13 issues against terrain

Number of high priority issues: 0 made up of: -

- None.

3.2.3 A total of 97 days of practical volunteer work and 12 days of survey work was completed this quarter.

3.2.4 2 new Pilot volunteer groups continued their work on 2 sections of the SDW this quarter. These small largely autonomous groups, one from Queen Elizabeth Country Park and one from Stanmer Park worked through summer vegetation clearance. These pilots will be evaluated over the next month to see if they were effective and should be roles out in the Central Downs too.

### **3.3.0 Trail improvements and Route changes**

3.3.1 Trail surface improvements on 3 sections of trail have been put out to tender. These are Buriton Byway 25, Duncton 744-1, Littleton Farm and South Farm Amberley. The lots have been awarded, with Buriton 25 being completed, Duncton half complete and Amberley awaiting start date.

3.3.2 Following the review of SDW signage and the conclusion from the partnership that they were happy for the SDW fingers to change so long as there was no additional financial burden on the individual Local Highway Authorities, costs have been obtained and the new style of finger will come into use this coming quarter. The new larger fingers will cost £50 extra per double finger, which on average is £3500 extra over a year. This ongoing sum has been secured from the SDNPA.

### **3.4.0 User feedback & Stakeholder engagement**

3.4.1 169 people completed the on-line feedback survey this quarter. 72% rated the trail as “Excellent” and 28% rated is as “Good”. 11 people chose to receive a paid for certificate.

3.4.2 To avoid wasting time travelling and preparing for meetings and to avoid award gaps between SDW Trail Partnership Meetings, dates have been set for the LAF, SDW Partnership

and Local Highway Authority liaison meetings for 2018. All of the above meetings will take place one after the other on each date. This will allow both the Partnership and the LAF to debate SDW issues at the same time. It may also encourage more participation by the LAF in the SDW Partnership. The dates for 2018 are as follows 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 17<sup>th</sup> July and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The SD LAF being in the morning and the SDW Partnership / LHA liaison meeting in the afternoon.

- 3.4.3 3 of the 10 people counters are not working correctly. Traffic Technology have been informed and we are awaiting a date for a site visit.

### **3.5.0 Press, Promotion & Web**

- 3.5.1 The SDW pages of the National Trails website continue to be the most visited, with 113,000 visitors between January and June 2017 an increase of 22% of the same period last year.
- 3.5.2 SDW pages received 56,555 visitors that viewed 226,155 pages.
- 3.5.3 4768 Twitter followers as of the end of September.

### **3.6.0 Trail corridor & added value projects**

- 3.6.1 A number of trail improvements and circular routes have been identified as part of a 'Miles without Stiles' access improvement project. It is hoped that some of these can be funded through corporate sponsorship.

### **3.7.0 SDW Budget & Income generation**

- 3.7.1 So far this year we have received £3625 from donations (£2513 direct and £1112 via the website). This includes both donations from the public and from events. We are also still expecting around an additional £2000 in from events. We have also brought in £2212 from sales (£1330 via the website and £882 direct)
- 3.7.2 Also this quarter we have learnt that we won £6000 toward trail maintenance from Tesco "Bags of Help" fund. £4000 (1<sup>st</sup> place) from the Petersfield region and £2000 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) from the Eastbourne region.
- 3.7.3 This brings are total additional income so far this year to £11,837
- 3.7.4 The SDW team attended "Live at the Langhams" beer festival in August. The event was used to launch the Partnership between the SDNPA and Langhams Brewery. Langhams are rebranding all of their bottled beers with the South Downs shared Identity and have agreed to donate 5p from the sale of every bottle to the South Downs Trust. As the SDW team were investigating a similar scheme the Trust has agreed to ring-fence this income for SDW projects. The agreement is for 2 years and is expected to bring in £2000 - £4000.
- 3.7.5 SDW improvement projects have been chosen to be feature projects in the national British Mountaineering Council' "Mend our Mountain" campaign. The year-long campaign is aiming to raise £1 million. The SDW is aiming to raise £120,000. The official launch will be at Westminster in November.
- 3.7.6 Current budgetary position.

<b>Detail</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Budget Remaining</b>
Natural England core grant	£86,983		

Local Highway Authorities funding	£13,000		
SDNPA Core funding	£34,500		
SDNPA additional funding	£4000		
Donations	£3625		
Sales	£2212		
Other Grants	£6000		
Staff		£40,000	
Materials		£6921	
Equipment		£2278	
Payments to Contractors		£49,916	
Publicity & Marketing		£4300	
Other		£2342	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£150,320</b>	<b>£105,799</b>	<b>£40,521</b>

### 3.8.0 Priorities for the coming quarter

- Complete all SDW surfacing works
- Send out invites for annual SDW events forum.
- Push sales through National Trails shop in run-up to Christmas.
- Agree surfacing priorities for 2018-19

## 4.0 South Downs National Park Authority Update

### 4.1 Launch of the South Downs National Park Trust

The South Downs National Park Trust has officially been launched with the aim “to work with partners to enhance and protect the South Downs National Park for future generations.” The trust is governed by an independent board of trustees. The trust aims to raise funds to support 5 key areas of work, these are:-

- Conserving our landscape and its heritage.
- Engaging people in outdoor learning.
- Access for all
- Protecting plants and species
- Working with communities.

Their first major fundraising campaign is the “Mend Our Way” campaign. This is part of a national campaign lead by the British Mountaineering Council. The aim locally is to raise £120,000 for surfacing improvements along the South Downs Way.

You can find out more about the trust at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/donate/>

### 4.2 Completion of infrastructure survey of CROW access land.

Over the last few months the South Downs National Park Rangers have carried out an extensive survey of all the CROW open access infrastructure across the park. The data has all been added to the Authorities Countryside Access Management System. In total 682 items have been recorded and 353 issues raised. Most issues are small signage issues, but 27 new gates or stiles have been identified for replacement. The access team are now able to prioritise these issues and start to improve access to these sites.

### 4.3 West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan (draft) 2018-2028

WSSCC have launched a public consultation on the above [https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/rowmp/consult\\_view/](https://haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk/highways-and-transport/rowmp/consult_view/) The consultation closes on 31 January 2018. SDLAF may wish to respond collectively or as individuals.

## 5.0 Natural England & DEFRA Updates

5.1 No updates to report

## 6.0 Rights of Way Orders received by SDNPA since the last LAF Update.

Path / Location	Type of Consultation / order	Date received	Order Making Authority
Ditchling 46a	Pre order (HA 1980)	21/04/2017	ESCC
Falmer B50	Pre order (HA 1980)	05/06/2017	BHCC
Hollingdean B61a	Pre order (HA 1980)	05/06/2017	BHCC
Mile Oak Farm BHCC	Pre order (HA 1980)	05/06/2017	BHCC
Standean B72	Pre order (HA 1980)	05/06/2017	BHCC
Part of Quellwood Common, Lurgashall	Commons Act 2006	12/06/2017	WSCC
Steep FP30 Diversion	Pre order (HA 1980)	15/06/2017	Hampshire
Greenway Lane Buriton	DMMO	15/06/2017	Hampshire
Horndean Made Order	DMMO	21/06/2017	Hampshire
Binsted 55	Made order (TCPA 1990)	29/06/2017	SDNPA
St Catherine's Hill, Winchester DMMO	DMMO	03/07/2017	Hampshire
Hamsey 17, St Ann Without 3, Lewes 29	Pre order (HA 1980)		ESCC
Warnford FP 13	Pre order (HA 1980)	21/08/2017	Hampshire
Steep FP30 Diversion	Made order (HA 1980)	23/08/2017	Hampshire
Steep FP1	DMMO	21/09/2017	Hampshire
Midhurst Common (Part)	Commons Act 2006	21/09/2017	WSCC
Angmering Park Estate	Pre order (TCPA 1990)	17/10/2017	SDNPA
Bramdean and Hinton Ampner	Pre order (HA 1980)	22/11/2017	Hampshire

## 7.0 Updates from Neighbouring LAFs

**7.1 Please see links below for minutes of the last LAF meetings for all our neighbouring LAFs.**

### **East Sussex LAF**

Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 not currently published.

Minutes from 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/8347/minutes-april-2017-draft.pdf>

Next meeting 21st February 2018.

### **West Sussex LAF**

General update report from 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

[https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10547/wslaf\\_general\\_report\\_18oct2017.pdf](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10547/wslaf_general_report_18oct2017.pdf)

Minutes of meeting from 18<sup>th</sup> October not yet published.

Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

[https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10219/wslaf\\_unconfirmed\\_minutes\\_19072017.pdf](https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/10219/wslaf_unconfirmed_minutes_19072017.pdf)

Date of next meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

### **Brighton & Hove LAF**

Minutes of last meeting 5<sup>th</sup> October, not yet published.

Minutes from 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017. <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/BHLAF%20Minutes%2006-07-2017.pdf>

Date of next meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

### **Hampshire Countryside Access Forum**

Unconfirmed minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/countryside/HCAF20173minutes.pdf>

Date of next meeting: 12th December 2017.

### **Surrey LAF**

Last meeting 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (Minutes not yet published)

Minutes of meeting from 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

[https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/143740/17.07.17-draft.pdf](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/143740/17.07.17-draft.pdf)

Date of next meeting: Dates for 2018 not yet released.