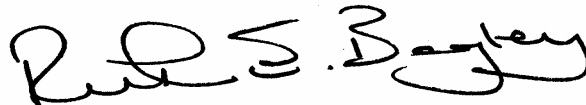


Date of issue: 1st September 2009

MEETING	LOCAL ACCESS FORUM Laurie Tucker (Chair), Councillors Dodds and Parmar, David Coe, Toby Evans, Margery Hitchman, Malcolm Hellings, Ian Houghton, Margaret Innis and Ken Wright)
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2009 AT 5.30 PM
VENUE:	MAYOR'S CONFERENCE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	TERESA CLARK 01753 875018
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM SECRETARY	JACQUI WHEELER, RIGHTS OF WAY OFFICER 01753 477479

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

NOTE TO MEMBERS

This meeting is an approved duty for the payment of travel expenses.

AGENDA

PART 1

AGENDA

REPORT TITLE

PAGE



<u>AGENDA</u> <u>ITEM</u> <u>ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>TIME</u> <u>ALLOCATED</u>
1.	Apologies		
2.	Declarations of Interest (Members are reminded of their duty to declare personal and prejudicial interests as set out in the Slough Local Access Forum Terms of Reference)		
3.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 13th May 2009	1 - 6	
4.	Matters Arising	7 - 8	15 Mins
5.	Membership Update		5 Mins
6.	Update on Mildenhall Road to Lerwick Drive Gating Order		15 Mins
7.	Meeting with Transport Planning Consultants regarding SEGRO proposals for Slough Trading Estate- Update Report	9 - 20	5 Mins
8.	Cinder Track- new action plan- Environmental Visual Audit (EVA)	21 - 22	10 Mins
9.	Regional and National Update including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent English Access Forum (EAF) Meeting • Defra consultation on 'Coastal Change Policy' 	23 - 28	10 Mins
10.	Feedback on meeting with John Coombs, Bucks LAF Member	29 - 30	15 Mins
11.	Garrard Road to Long Furlong Drive Diversion Order		10 Mins
12.	Any Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SE LAF Newsletter published. • New BR Route • Dog waste bags in Cippenham • Beechwood Gardens- Modification Order Update 	31 - 34	10 Mins

AGENDA
ITEM

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

TIME
ALLOCATED

13. Next Meeting Date- TBA

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

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Local Access Forum – Meeting held on Wednesday, 13th May, 2009 at the Committee Room 2, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough

Present:-

LAF Members

Laurie Tucker (Chair)
Councillor May Dodds
Toby Evans
Malcolm Hellings
Margery Hitchman
Ian Houghton
Margaret Innis
Councillor Satpal Parmar
Ken Wright

Observers

Councillor Tony Haines

Officers, Slough Borough Council

Alex Deans, Principal Engineer, Highways
Gerald Pleace, Parks Development Officer
Jacqui Wheeler, Rights of Way Officer

24. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dodds advised that she is the Chair of the Planning Committee.

25. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 11th February 2009

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th February, 2009 were approved as a correct record.

26. Matters Arising

Nursery Lane Towpath

Jacqui Wheeler (JW) advised that she had taken photos at the end of the lane and had found that there was a 'no through road' sign on the wall. She has spoken to Rhoda Barnett, a consultant in countryside access who had advised that there had been a case judgement that a 'Private Road' sign did not indicate that use on foot or horseback was private and this notice had a similar effect. She suggested that eventhough the sign was not legally misleading members of the footpath from using the footpath, it was certainly discouraging them. It was suggested that the Rights of Way Officer in Bucks

Local Access Forum - 13.05.09

be sent a LAF recommendation to improve the signage of this path. **Action: JW**

Councillor Haines had observed that there were a number of very large barns in the locality and South Bucks Council should be made aware of this. JW advised that she would be in contact with South Bucks District Council to discuss this and other related matters. **Action: JW**

Canal

Councillor Haines advised that he had attended a meeting in the previous week with British Waterways who had advised that they owned a 5 metre strip of land for a 2 miles stretch of the canal. Councillor Haines assumed that the stretch extended all the way to Middle Green Bridge and suggested there would be lots of opportunities for moorings or a public walking space in this location.

Letter to Eton College

JW advised that there had been a delay in sending the letter to Eton College relating to Bridleway No. 17 but this had been sent out in late April and a reply was expected in the very near future. Toby Evans asked whether a survey had been done to assess whether people were in favour of the widening of the path and that people he had spoken to were not in favour of this. Alex Deans advised that people had indicated that they were in favour of the widening of the footpath. Councillor Dodds felt that the pathway was currently a mess and should be widened.

27. Canal- Site Meeting with British Waterways

Councillor Haines advised that a piece of art work produced by local school children would be displayed on the Uxbridge Road bridge during the end of June/July. The Friends of the Canal had put in a grant for landscaping and voluntary groups such as the British Trust of Conservation Volunteers were working on the restoration of the towpath. Spading (the turning over of grass to restore gravel) was being carried out by other voluntary groups. It was also hoped that a number of secondary school pupils would be encouraged to assist with the spading and there would be rewards such as boat trips on the canal. It was also hoped that this would be an opportunity to introduce young people to the canal voluntary keepers and the community wardens in the area. It was noted that British Waterways were currently talking with the Iqra School to tidy a section of the Canal on the north side. SBC was currently looking at Canal Basin regeneration scheme and British Waterways hoped to increase the area of the land around the Basin. The scheme was in its infancy at the moment but it was hoped that the Canal would be seen as an asset within the area. It was noted that Property Services were working on the scheme at the moment.

Local Access Forum - 13.05.09

Agreed – That the Slough Local Access Forum would write to SBC to outline its support of the scheme and request that a presentation is made to a future Forum meeting. **Action: JW.**

Councillor Haines advised that there were concerns relating to the riding of bikes along the towpath and this issue needed to be looked at. **Action: JW.**

28. Membership Update

There were no changes in membership to report.

29. Gating Order- Mildenhall Road to Lerwick Drive

JW submitted a report on the intention to make a Gating Order for the public highway between Mildenhall Road and Lerwick Drive. The Officer advised that following complaints made by residents and Councillors the Community Safety Team undertook an informal consultation of local residents to gauge support for a Gating Order. The police were consulted and were in favour of the gating. Members noted the results of the consultation where over 50% of those responding were in favour of the gating. The Order would stipulate that the gates would be closed at all times and alternative routes along Stoke Poges Lane and Granville Avenue or across Granville playing field, Waterbeach Road and Thurston Road would be used. The success of the gating would be monitored and would be reviewed if necessary.

Toby Evans was concerned that the average response to the consultation was low and only 24% of residents had replied. He was concerned that a copy of the questionnaire was not available and that the questions may have been leading. Councillor Parmar advised that the questions were clear and that there had been many concerns for years in the locality and residents were in favour of the Order. Ian Houghton was concerned that the Gating Order would prevent people from walking through a popular route. The Chair suggested that a vote be taken to determine whether the Forum was in favour or against the proposed Gating Order. The voting was as follows:-

In favour of the Order:	5
Against the Order:	3
Abstentions:	1

It was agreed that this vote was a preliminary one and once the actual notice for the Gating Order was published, JW would circulate this to Members for and official LAF response. **Action: JW**

30. SEGRO- Proposals for regeneration of Slough Trading Estate

Alex Deans submitted a detailed plan to the meeting outlining the detail of planning applications for the Trading Estate. JW advised that it was hoped that the Trading Estate would be made more attractive to cyclists and walkers and it was hoped that a meeting could be set up with a few LAF Members to discuss the plans with SEGRO.

Local Access Forum - 13.05.09

Agreed - That Ian Houghton, Toby Evans and Malcolm Hellings would attend a meeting with SEGRO to discuss the plans.

31. **LAF Regional Update- SE LAF Members Conference; South East LAF Meeting; and EAF Meeting**

Members noted the content of the report updating Members of the recent meetings and conference that had taken place. The subject of Gating Orders had been discussed and it was clear that there were many problems relating to this issue. A recommendation was made that LAF's should ensure that their respective Highway Authorities had a clear published policy on Gating Orders which should include the involvement of the LAF as required by the Regulations.

Agreed - That JW would write to the Highway Authority on behalf of the LAF and request that a clear published policy on Gating Orders be made available. **Action: JW**

32. **How the LAF runs- possibilities for Members to take ownership**

A report was tabled to engage Members in discussion about how to run the LAF in the future and ways in which Members could become more involved and take ownership of the Group.

Agreed - That Members would consider the report and that the item be placed on the next LAF Agenda for consideration.

33. **AOB**

Letter to Bucks LAF to consider Cross Boundary Routes

JW advised that John Coombe would like the Forum to have a meeting to discuss cross boundary routes and it was agreed that JW would arrange this. **Action: JW**

Articles for South-East LAF Newsletter

JW asked Members to consider whether they had any suitable material for items for the Newsletter.

New BR Route - Update

JW advised that the route from Mercian Recreation Ground to the Jubilee River had been upgraded now but there were no funds available yet for the parapets on the motorway bridge to be raised.

Beechwood Gardens Modification Order

Local Access Forum - 13.05.09

JW advised that an Order had been made to turn the route into a public footpath based on historical evidence. It was noted that an objection had been made to the Order by landowners and a response sent to try and persuade them to withdraw the objection.

Cinder Track linked to Farnham Royal

JW advised that she needed agreement from Bucks Highways Dept to place signs pointing to the Cinder Track on their side and it was agreed that a letter would be forwarded to the Definitive Map team in Bucks to recommend that the public footpath on their side of the boundary be upgraded to a bridleway to create a cohesive network. **Action: JW**

Cycle Map

A Member had viewed the new cycle map and was disappointed that it showed incorrect information. JW advised that this had been pointed out to Officers.

34. Next Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting date would be arranged for early September 2009.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.20 pm)

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5th August 2009

Slough Local Access Forum

Mike Jennings
Acting Assistant Director Property
Services
Slough Borough Council
1st Floor East
St Martins Place
51 Bath Road,
Slough
Berks

Replies to: Officer to Slough Local Access Forum
(Jacqui Wheeler)
Highways Engineering
Slough Borough Council
P.O Box 580
Slough, SL1 3UQ

Tel: 01753 477 479
Fax: 01753 875 660
Email: Localaccessforum@slough.gov.uk
Ref: Canal basin regeneration

Dear Mike,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Slough Local Access Forum (SLAF) about the Slough Canal Basin Regeneration Scheme. The SLAF is a statutory group set up under The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to advise local authorities and other bodies on local access issues. The Forum operates autonomously, though is supported by Slough Borough Council.

The SLAF is very aware of the significance of Slough Arm of the canal as an attractive natural habitat and well used access link for walking and cycling journeys. Consequently, the SLAF is concerned that this local resource is managed to the benefit of all the residents of and visitors to Slough.

Having established relationships with the Friends of Slough Canal and British Waterways, Forum members understand that a feasibility study is currently being undertaken jointly by Slough Borough Council and British Waterways to assess improvements to the Basin end of the canal.

These improvements will include moving the existing building merchants businesses and complete redevelopment of the land surrounding the Basin to enhance the local area and amongst other things provide improved public access.

The SLAF would like to declare its support for the regeneration of the canal Basin with public access and protection of the natural habitat as the focus. Once the feasibility study is complete the SLAF would like to invite you to attend a meeting to present the scheme to members.

Yours sincerely,

Laurie Tucker
Chair 2009, Slough Local Access Forum

Cc. Ruth Bagley Chief Executive,
Tony Haines, Chair of Friends of Slough Canal
Sam Thomas, British Waterways

From: Jenkins, Dan [Dan.Jenkins@atkinsglobal.com]
Sent: 06 August 2009 10:43
To: Wheeler Jacqui
Subject: RE: SEGRO regeneration meeting
Hi Jacqui,

Sorry for the delay, but we've been involved in long discussions with the applicant's consultant over technical disagreements about their analysis work. We were trying to resolve these before dealing with specific schemes that can be included in the package that the applicant will be asked to fund.

We should be moving onto this fairly soon though - although with many people being on holiday, everything is taking a little longer. Alternatively, what might happen is that the applicant will simply be asked to contribute a sum of money towards unspecified pedestrian / cycle schemes, in which case the detail of those schemes will be covered when the funding is received.

I'll let you know more when I do. Sorry I can't be more helpful just now.

Regards,

Dan Jenkins
Senior Consultant, Development & Regeneration

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for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

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Email: dan.jenkins@atkinsglobal.com | Web: www.atkinsglobal.com

From: Wheeler Jacqui [mailto:jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk]
Sent: 05 August 2009 11:06
To: Jenkins, Dan
Subject: FW: SEGRO regeneration meeting

Hi Dan,

I was wondering how things are progressing with the SEGRO plans. Do you need any further input from LAF members, Toby and Ian?

regards

Jacqui Wheeler
Rights of Way Officer
Highways Development
Slough Borough Council
Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UQ
Tel: 01753 477 479
jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk

From: Jenkins, Dan [mailto:Dan.Jenkins@atkinsglobal.com]
Sent: 08 June 2009 10:12

To: Wheeler Jacqui
Subject: RE: SEGRO regeneration meeting

Thanks Jacqui.

I will be in touch very soon. I have a lot of work to do on responding to some technical reports by the applicant this week, so I may have to wait until next week to address this. But it will not be forgotten.

Regards,

Dan Jenkins
Senior Consultant, Development & Regeneration

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Email: dan.jenkins@atkinsglobal.com | Web: www.atkinsglobal.com

From: Wheeler Jacqui [mailto:jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk]
Sent: 08 June 2009 10:06
To: Jenkins, Dan
Subject: SEGRO regeneration meeting

Hi Dan,

Thanks for the meeting last Thursday evening. I hope it was of some use to you. Please let me know if you would like to visit any sites or require any further info. Of course Toby and Ian would be happy to hear from you for any additional discussions on what improvements they would like to see for pedestrians/cyclists as members of the LAF. I know Toby in particular would like to visit the actual sites with you.

Please see attached my list possible improvements I took to the meeting. (it may be of help)

Regards
Jacqui

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Possible improvements

Possible Cycle hire scheme between railway stns and locations on STE and within locations on STE (Could spread across the borough).

Need a surfaced path through Fenner Brockway to link to Whittaker Road/Littlebrook Avenue

Incorporate round Slough walking/cycling route – contribution

Properly surfaced and lit cycling/walking route through Kennedy Park from Long Furlong

Northborough Est to Farnham Road via STE walking/cycling routes (Bodmin Ave or Greenside and Furnival Ave

Upgrade FP15 from the south - Viv has looked at on site

Improve crossing points along the Bath Road from the south and east to west eg; at Leigh Road

Widen the ped/cycle crossing islands at the Dover Road bridge junction on Bath Rd

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From: Vallance, Viv [Viv.Vallance@atkinsglobal.com]

Sent: 15 June 2009 17:32

To: Wheeler Jacqui

Cc: Jenkins, Dan

Subject: RE: Pentland Road to Wentworth Ave path

Jacqui,

Thank you for passing on this one. If you were to split Kennedy Park in two, SEGRO own the southern half and SBC the northern half. There is already a long term proposal to construct a ped / cycle route north south along this alignment - Alex Deans has a plan I think.

Dan could we add this proposal to the wish list of schemes for S106 - I would think that it should be relatively high on the list as it provides good ped / cycle link. SEGRO would need to dedicate land and build the southern half. SBC the northern half as part of regeneration of Kennedy Park proposal, which is currently being discussed at pre-application stage.

The photos illustrate it well and I know there were some proposals for an east west path along the southside of the land within the ownership of SEGRO.

Cheers

Viv

From: Wheeler Jacqui [mailto:jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk]

Sent: 15 June 2009 14:38

To: Jenkins, Dan ; Vallance, Viv

Subject: FW: Pentland Road to Wentworth Ave path

Hi Dan,

I just received this from Ian, showing the route we discussed from Pentland Road is a definite candidate for improvement.

Regards

Jacqui

From: Ian & Penny [mailto:ian@fonant.co.uk]

Sent: 15 June 2009 13:55

To: toby evans; Wheeler Jacqui

Subject: Pentland Road to Wentworth Ave path

Hi,

I have had a look at the proposed route between Pentland Road and Wentworth Ave. This is currently a very well used path as you can see in the attached photos, but with a steep slope at the Pentland road end. The south part of Kennedy Park was once fenced off and the land is built up - Jacqui is all this land council owned? There are also many other tracks accross this park.

I had a chat to some dog walkers and they were happy about an offical path going in but not happy about using some of the park for new shops. They were not aware of anyone who was consulted and think that moving the shops will just move the anti-social behaviour.

Regards

Ian

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Cinder Track Action Pan June 2009

Site Visit	Attendees	Apologies	
19/05/09	Jacqui Wheeler; Vinay Vyas; David Kilby; Ken Wright(LAF + North Slough Residents Forum); PCSO Soden; Residents; Jean Sellars and ?	Savio Decruz	
Item	Detail	Owner	Progress / Action
Lighting	Light number 013 (between Oatlands Drive and Warrington Ave) – No lantern cover	JW	Lighting engineer informed
	Foliage covering lights in Gloucester Ave – Hampshire Ave section	JW	Lighting engineer informed
	Granville Ave – Cumberland Ave section. 032 and 035 obscured. 039 lantern cover come off	JW	Lighting engineer informed
Fencing	Is the chain link fencing temporary?	SD	No they are permanent
	Maintenance schedule for fences that are vandalised?	SD	During installation of the fence
Gating	Letters to be sent to residents of 166 and 164A/B Canterbury Avenue about gating off path leading to cinder track.	VV	Consultation may need to be wider. Gate vis-à-vis permanent barrier to be considered
Surface of Path	Fibre Gravel loose. Concerns raised about risk to cyclists.	SD	Gravel will be swept off as soon as primary layer is bedded in. Expected to be swept in September 09
Planning issues	84 Gloucester Avenue – large brick built extension + glass on top of brick wall	VV	Planning enforcement informed
	Hampshire Ave – Canterbury Ave section. Fake blue garage shutter door hiding UPVC doors and windows section leading to possible accommodation.	VV	Planning enforcement informed
	Barbwire on rear fence panel (opp 1 Granville Ave)	VV	Planning enforcement informed
Dog Fouling	Dog bin installation	SD	3 bins installed as. 4 general waste bins to be installed
ASB	Increase patrolling in hotspot locations.	VV	PCSOs, Wardens and Police aware
Graffiti	Gloucester Ave – Hampshire Ave section – Cable boxes heavily graffitied.	VV	Outstanding. To be actioned
Fly Tip	Rear of 126 / 128 Canterbury Ave flytipped.	VV	Outstanding. To be actioned

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England Access Forum, Fourth Meeting, Tuesday 30th June 2009, London

LAF representatives

Alan Marlow, South East
Matthew Balfour, South East
Andrew McCloy, East Midlands
Andrew Shirley, East Midlands
Bob Smith, East of England
Liddy Lawrence, East of England (joined later)
Duncan Graham, North West (Chair)
Edgar Ernstbrunner, North West
Edgar Powell, West Midlands
Hazel Armstrong, Yorkshire & Humber
Richard Holmes, Yorkshire & Humber
Pam Brookes, North East
Paul Heal, South West
Ray Newbigin, South West

Natural England representatives

Andrew Wood
Amanda Earnshaw
Paul Johnson

Observer

Cath Hart, Regional LAF Coordinator, South East

Apologies

John Sugden, North East
Steve Scoffin, North East
David Bowden, West Midlands

1. Minutes of third EAF meeting, 11th March 2009

Agreed

General discussion around the fact that not all LAFs appear to be receiving copies of papers discussed by EAF. Request that **all** papers be posted on the EAF section of the Natural England website with a general rider that minutes would not be fully approved until the following EAF meeting.

Action: EAF Secretariat to post all non restricted papers on website once draft minutes of EAF and Working Group minutes approved and ensure that through the regional co-ordinators each LAF receives an individual copy.

2. Outstanding actions from 30th April EAF Working Group

Due to unexpected circumstances a paper relating to outstanding actions was not circulated prior to the meeting. It was accepted that this made consideration of items difficult. Agreed that in future papers be circulated in advance of meetings.

- Relationship diagram for EAF and LAFs circulated at meeting – **Action: diagram to include a date and be amended to show link between Natural England LAF Liaison and EAF**
- Verbal report provided on the first regional LAF coordinators meeting – **Action: note of coordinators meeting to be circulated to EAF members at the same time as it goes out to coordinators**
- Dual status routes – the paper discussed by the WG had unfortunately not been circulated to regional coordinators as agreed so no feedback received from LAFs – **Action: AW said Natural England would produce a paper for EAF setting out the issue, the scale of the problem and proposals for what could be done to resolve it. Feedback from regions would be incorporated in this**

- Creation of rights of way code of practice – action has been taken to amend the front cover of the document to identify originator and date of publication
 - Surfacing of shared routes – discussed as main agenda item
 - Proposed Ministerial meeting – a letter has been sent by EAF chairman and awaiting a response from the Minister
 - Items remitted – no feedback available on impact on RoW from major road improvements – **Action: Natural England to provide feedback as soon as possible to EAF**
 - AOB – no feedback on either fencing of woodland plantations or gating orders from LAFs – **Action: circulate any feedback as soon as it is received**
- Statement on legal status of LAFs - **Action: Natural England too follow up**

3. Natural England's policy on access – update

Prior to discussion on this item the Chairman took the opportunity to feedback to AW the outcome of the pre-meeting of LAF representatives. LAF members of EAF felt that the preparation for this meeting had been inadequate and were significantly concerned at the failure of NE to support and finance adequately the work of EAF: they questioned whether EAF could continue its work effectively without a significant change of heart. It had been agreed that DG and MB should arrange to meet AW to discuss how EAF could help Natural England achieve its objectives within support and resource parameters adequate for the purpose. Both AW and EAF members were confident that a way forward could be found.

AW informed the meeting that the Board had considered the access policy, which had been slightly amended to reflect comments made during consultation. The policy has been signed off and will now be published on the website. Natural England will be going back to consultees to inform them of how their comments were responded to.

4. Inspiring People policy consultation

MB reported back to EAF that the consultation event had been well attended, despite the tube strike. The day was an opportunity for attendees to give their views on the policy and overall the majority were supportive. Concerns were expressed about the language used and the sometimes patronising tone. Also concern about the lack of empirical evidence for some of the statements and there were obvious gaps in knowledge. Comments about it being nice words but no action which were understandable as this policy sets the scene for delivery. General feeling that what was said on the day would be taken into account by NE but would not necessarily change the policy.

Some EAF members voiced concern that they had been unaware that the policy was out to consultation and had missed the opportunity to comment as a result.

Action: EAF Secretariat to send EAF members a link to the consultation page on the Natural England website and alert them whenever a new document was posted. A similar alert would be sent to regional coordinators and through them to individual LAFs

5. Coastal Access briefing – LAF role

AE updated the meeting on the recent workshops held in Carlisle as part of the coastal access testing project. These had focussed on best the views of local people could be feed into project delivery. One mechanism that Natural England was exploring was the role that LAFs could have in raising local awareness of coastal access and gathering information from interested parties that could inform the alignment process. It was hoped that a model for how this might work would be available for consideration at the next EAF meeting. A pilot project being conducted in Cumbria would inform the outcomes.

6. Surfacing of shared use public rights of way

PB was interested to learn if this was becoming a national problem as locally they were experiencing an urbanisation of the countryside as routes provided essentially for road bike use.

Reported that Kent have produced a paper on shared use and often surface issues are a by product of the perceived conflicts of shared use.

Around the county it would appear that providing a surface for one category of user, cyclists, was forcing other legitimate users off the route.

Decided that EAF need to open a dialogue with Sustrans.

Action: In the first instance, Natural England to explore if the issue was sufficiently widespread to require action to address it and Duncan Mackay, the relationship manager for Sustrans, would be asked to follow this up. Future action by EAF would be based on the outcome.

7. Decadal review

PB reported back to EAF on the recent stakeholder meeting to discuss Natural England's approach to decadal review.

How the review would be conducted had to be linked to coastal access as happening concurrently. Review seen as major opportunity to engage the public and promote open access.

Legislation requires a 10 year review but it needs to be proportionate to the outcome

AW reported that there was a meeting on 2 July where a decision would be made on how to take the review forward. Unlikely that the whole mapping exercise would be repeated but it would address issues raised by stakeholders and be delivered alongside coastal access.

8. Stakeholder Working Group

PJ informed the meeting that the SWG had been set up to bring the main protagonists together and get them to suggest a range of measures that could take forward the unrecorded rights issues. The SWG had just had its 7th meeting and was due to report to Natural England at the end of the year.

The SWG had recently considered a paper on options for the 2026 cut-off date, which had been seen by some members of EAF. This paper merely captured workshop discussion and did not form part of the main reforms that were needed.

EAF expressed concerns that SWG outputs were not being shared more widely. PJ explained that as negotiation on much of the emerging proposals were at an early stage it was necessary to hold discussions in camera. As options started to firm up things would be shared with a wider community. Outline minutes of the SWG discussions were posted on the website and regional co-ordinators would be kept up-to-date.

9. Open Access Relevant Authority Guidance consultation

This item will be discussed at the next meeting

10. Membership of the Working Group

DG asked for EAF approval to appoint Ray Newbigin to the WG. Agreed

11. Access points on Maps

Highway authorities are providing insufficient information to OS for them to identify access points on their maps.

Action: EAF secretariat to circulate recent correspondence that Lancashire LAF have had with OS.

12. AOB

Recent guidance issued by Defra on LAF's role in providing advice on access to water has caused some confusion. DG had been in correspondence with Defra to clarify the position.

Action: copy correspondence to be circulated to EAF members

Shoreline Management plans appear to give no consideration to access issues and perhaps something needs to go out to those leading on SMPs drawing attention to access, LAFs and ROWIPs

Action: Natural England takes forward

Date of next meeting

In the autumn, date to be agreed

Amanda Earnshaw
3 July 2009

SLOUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 10TH SEPT 2009

REPORT ON: DEFRA CONSULTATION ON COASTAL CHANGE POLICY AND NATURAL ENGLAND'S COASTAL PATHS AUDIT REPORT.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform members about the above consultation sent to LAFs nationally and the coastal paths audit report.

1. Coastal Change Policy

1.1. On 11th August, Jacqui Wheeler and Margery Hitchman met to look through the Consultation on Coastal Change to highlight anything of relevance or interest to Slough Local Access Forum.

1.2 The document is 50 pages long and sets out Defra's ideas on how coastal communities can successfully adapt to the impacts of coastal change and the Government's role in supporting this.

“The Government is committed to effective management of flood and coastal erosion risk. They will defend where it is sustainable and affordable to do so. However, there will be some locations where it is not sustainable or desirable to either build new defence structures or maintain existing ones.”

1.3 The section on the Natural and Historic environment describes the importance of sustaining and enhancing the natural environment and enabling access and appreciation of it for all. Section 5.38 states:

“Natural England is working with others to develop ways of managing the coast that maintain and improve its ecological interest, amenity and landscape value while allowing for the inevitable and essential changes that coastal change brings. This includes ensuring that the Government's coastal access initiative is delivered in practical ways which allow the coastal access corridor to roll back as the coast erodes.”

1.4 The document asks for examples of good practice and ideas for coastal community involvement and consultation.

1.5 Slough Local Access Forum agrees with the Government's commitment as explained, however it is felt that the consultation is aimed mainly at coastal communities and LAFs in those areas.

2. Coastal Paths Audit Report

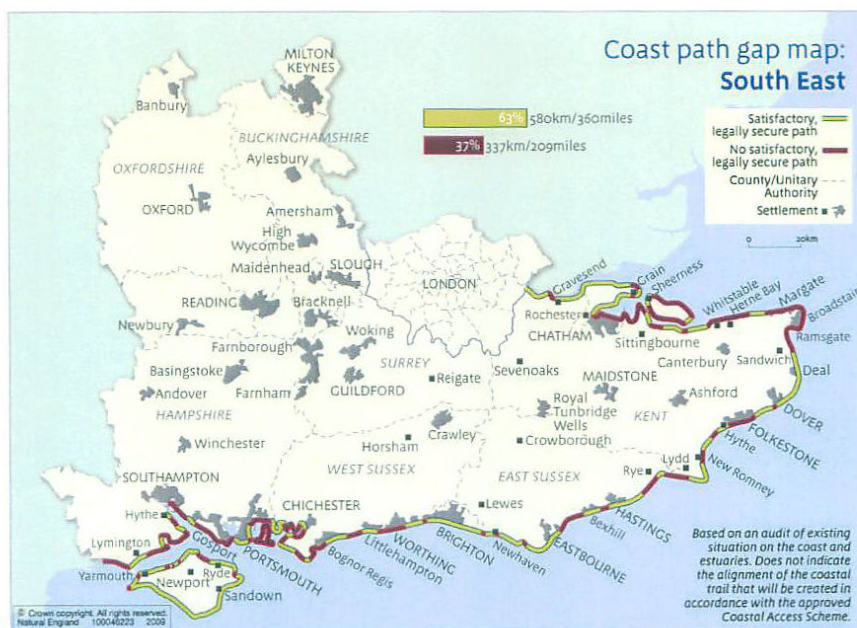
2.1 Natural England has worked with 53 coastal access authorities to complete a desk based audit of 4,422km (2748 miles) of English

coastline. This audit provides an indication of the current extent of a satisfactory, legally-secure coastal path and where there are gaps in such a satisfactory, legally-secure coastal path.

- 2.2 It shows that 66% of the coast currently has a satisfactory, legally-secure path along the coast. Of the remaining 34%, 48% has no path at all, whilst the rest is a mixture of permissive or de facto situations.
- 2.3 The findings of this national audit have been published by Natural England to show how much works will be needed once the Marine Bill provisions become law.
- 2.4 See extract below of Coastal Paths Audit Report showing the situation in the South East, which is similar to most other regions.

Coastal access: an audit of coastal paths in England 2008-09

The scale of the map limits the detail that can be displayed. Some shorter sections on the coast will not be evident.



5th August 2009

Slough Local Access Forum

Definitive Map Team
Public Rights of Way
Walton Street,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire
HP20 1UA

Replies to: Officer to Slough Local Access Forum
(Jacqui Wheeler)
Highways Engineering
Slough Borough Council
P.O Box 580
Slough, SL1 3UQ

Tel: 01753 477 479
Fax: 01753 875 660
Email: Localaccessforum@slough.gov.uk
Ref: Cinder Track link to Bucks FP

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Slough Local Access Forum (SLAF) about a public footpath in Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire which links to Footpath no. 24a in Slough. As you will be aware the SLAF is a statutory group set up under The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to advise local authorities and other bodies on local access issues. The Forum operates autonomously, though is supported by Slough Borough Council.

The Cinder Track as Footpath 24a-e is known, is currently being upgraded to a bridleway to legalise the cycling usage it receives. It is considered that to ensure cohesion of the network continuing north into Church Road, Farnham Royal, the public footpath no. in Bucks could be upgraded to a bridleway as well.

The SLAF members have agreed that this would be a beneficial outcome and would like to recommend that the public footpath no. in Bucks be upgraded to bridleway status.

Please find enclosed a plan of the area indicating the routes as explained. I would appreciate a response to this letter once you have considered its contents.

Yours faithfully,

Laurie Tucker
Chair 2009, Slough Local Access Forum

Photos of bags in trees and Enterprise removing them



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July 22 2009

SENT/09

Trees fall foul of dog muck

Slough Borough Council is calling on residents of Cippenham to be vigilant after a spate of dog poo bags have been found in the trees of the bridal way leading from Mercian Way recreational ground to the Jubilee River.

It's not known who has been doing this or why, but the situation has grown over the last few months as used poo bags are being thrown up into the tree branches.

This is not only littering, but could also be a health risk. The council is asking residents to call the community wardens on 01753 875255 if they see anything.

Joe Byrne, community warden, said: "Not only does it look unsightly having bags full of dog poo hanging from the trees, but it isn't the healthiest of pastimes – either for the person(s) involved or residents trying to enjoy the bridal way.

"We had the same problem in Mercian Park last year, which we sorted out. I'm now following this up after speaking to residents and I'd urge anyone who sees this happening to call me. Anyone caught will be fined for littering."

One resident who uses the bridal way to walk their dog said: "I've seen the bags in the trees before and often wondered why people would throw them up there.

"I called the council to let them know and they cleared it up very quickly, but they shouldn't have to be picking up dog mess from trees."

Commissioner for environment and open spaces, Cllr Satpal Parmar, added: "The council is committed to improving the local environment to make Slough a great place to live, work and play.

“I can’t understand why someone would find it amusing to throw dog mess up into the trees. Not only makes it harder for people to enjoy the park, but it’s not very nice for the council staff who have to clear it up.

“Residents have been very good at cleaning up after their pets. We all need to help keep our communities clean and safe.”

Ends

For more media information, please contact Samantha Daynes on 01753 875026