

**SE LAF Regional Meeting Minutes**  
**6<sup>th</sup> October 2008**  
**Ashdown House, London**

**Present**

Mathew Balfour (Kent LAF) (Chairman), Dave Brookshaw (Brighton and Hove LAF/ South Downs LAF), Graham Butler (Surrey LAF), Alastair Duncan (New Forest LAF), John Elfe (Buckinghamshire LAF), Cath Hart (Regional LAF Secretary), Margery Hitchman (Slough LAF), Rita Hunt (Medway LAF), Glynn Jones (West Sussex LAF/ South Downs LAF), Jane Kiely (Mid and West Berkshire LAF), Alan Marlow (Hampshire LAF), Richard Mosses (Bracknell Forest LAF), Nicola Trafford (Natural England), Jacqui Wheeler (Slough Borough Council)

**Apologies**

Peter Brown (West Sussex LAF), Kevin Haugh (Natural England)

**Interaction between South East LAFs and England Access Forum**

It was agreed that regional SE LAF meetings should be held twice yearly and that other communication should be by e-mail. Each LAF should have a nominated contact. E-mails and information should also be copied to the LAF secretary to forward if the nominated contact was absent. The regional LAF newsletter could also be used to circulate information. Cath Hart suggested that this should continue on a twice yearly basis. Sub-groups could be set up where there were sub-regional issues such as the Thames Basin Heaths or where a quick response was needed.

Cath Hart was asked by the group to take on the role of regional LAF co-ordinator. She accepted subject to her authority, Hampshire County Council, being in agreement and no other SE LAF secretary expressing interest in the post.

Kevin Haugh is the Natural England contact for LAFs in the South East.

It was decided that the South East should not at the moment ask for greater representation on the England Access Forum.

The group confirmed the appointment of Matthew Balfour and Alan Marlow as the South East representatives to the England Access Forum. If Matthew or Alan are unable to attend, Cath Hart will send round an email to the group offering the place at the meeting.

**Other Topics**

**Thames Basin Heaths**

It was suggested that relevant LAFs form a subgroup to deal with Thames Basin Heaths issues. The SE planning authorities also have a Thames Basin Heaths subgroup. It would be useful for the group to liaise with them.

**Marine Bill**

**Action: Cath Hart to circulate the latest papers on the marine bill to the group.**

**Action: Nicola Trafford to find out the schedule for the Natural England SE coastal audit process.**

**Action: Nicola Trafford to investigate inviting a member of the Natural England Coastal Access team to the next regional LAF meeting.**

#### Gating Orders

Some LAFs are interested in gating orders.

**Action: Cath Hart to circulate SE officers' information on gating orders to the group.**

#### Access

**Action: Nicola Trafford to let the group know the timetable for the decadal review of open access land in the South East.**

#### Implementation of ROWIPs

The Hampshire LAF has set up a Discovering Lost Ways project. They have found that some of the "lost ways" meet some of the desire lines of the RoWIP.

LAFs could provide useful support to councils in ROWIP implementation by encouraging them to seek out sources of funding.

#### Natural England Review of Trails and Routes

**Action: All to e-mail Cath Hart with comments on the review, Cath to collate and forward to Natural England.**

#### London Region

There are no LAFs in London but it has been suggested that representatives from the London Boroughs might like to join the group.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Dates for the next meeting will be fixed once the dates of future England Access Forum meetings are known. The next meeting of the England Access Forum is expected to be in March/ April 09.