

DRAFT KCAF Meeting – Monday 7th March 2022
Meeting venue: Microsoft Teams
Meeting started at 2:00pm

Attendees:		
Jeremy Boxall	J Box	Chair
Anne Beecham	AB	Other Interest Representative – Tourism
Amanda Corp	AC	Land Management Representative - NFU
Richard Dickenson	RD	User representative – Motorised vehicles
Chris Jelly	CJ	Other Interest Representative – Dog Walking
Steve Neville	SN	User group – Cycling
Robert Peel	RP	User representative – Walkers
Anne Rillie	AR	User representative – Equestrian
Charles Tassell	CT	Land Management Representative – CLA
Theresa Trussell	TR	User representative – Multiuser
Advisor		
Graham Rusling	GR	KCC - PROW
Pauline Harmer	PH	KCC – Highways
Minutes		
Alison Clifton	ACI	KCC
Apologies:		
Sarah Barker	SB	Kent Association of Local Councils
Jenny Bowen	JBo	Natural England
David Brazier	DB	KCC – Member
Hazel Walters	HW	KCC – Highways
Guest:		
Sarah Rayfield	SR	British Horse Society
Previous Actions		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SB to enquire about the levels of and capacity of Parish Councils to undertake maintenance work on PROW. 2. JBox to circulate RD's 'Development update' and Thames Crossing video, to all. 3. All to send recommendations for future Feasibility Schemes to GR 		
Actions		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GR to send breakdown / tabulation of 'dead-end routes' carrying higher rights to AB. 2. GR to ask Explore Kent and KALC to promote the Forum' Membership. 3. AR to draft a response to the M2 J5 / A247 Consultation, on behalf of the Forum and circulate for comments. 4. JBox to ask Active Travel, if equestrians will be included in the carbon neutral transport system? 5. JBox to request an additional cycle route from Stone Station (on behalf of the Forum). 6. GR to seek Forum's comments on 'KCC's - Network Hierarchy Policy.' 7. GR to circulate 'Draft' PROW Policies, to be discuss at future meetings. 8. All Members to read the Government response to the Glover Review. The motor vehicle elements to be discussed at the next meeting. 		

9. GR and PH to discuss 'Tracks and Fault Reporting' at the next meeting.
10. GR to meet to discuss Interactive map / Permissive Paths with AR and Neil (@ KCC)
11. AB to circulate details to the 'Dog Control Consultation' and discuss with CJ.

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the 6 Dec 2021, were agreed.

Matters arising not on agenda

SB had notified the Forum that KALC had recently appointed a new CEO.

GR and AB had not had the opportunity to discuss dead-end routes carrying higher rights.

Action: GR to send breakdown / tabulation of 'dead-end routes' carrying higher rights to AB.

Membership

No expressions of interest have been received.

Action: GR to ask Explore Kent and KALC to promote the Forum's Membership.

Development sites

Lower Thames Crossing:

RD circulated an update from: LTC Community Engagement Co-ordinator.

National Highways released new images showing over 60km of new or improved pathways for walkers, cyclist and horse riders, that will be delivered in Kent, Thurrock, Essex and Havering as part of the Lower Thames Crossing project.

Further information can be found on project's website here.

Local communities will have a chance to see the plans and speak to project staff.

The public and stakeholders will have the opportunity to give feedback on changes in a new consultation being planned later in the spring.

Cyclopark – Shorne: AR & SR attended presentation and asked if the route @ Cyclopark could be included in this project. GR confirmed KCC is looking to develop strategic links between the Cyclopark and Shorne (via s106 contributions).

Thames / Medway canal: Improvements will also be sought through s106 contributions.

Further improvements are being identified to be progressed through DoT Designated Funds

In addition a Community Fund is to be established through which grants of up to £10 K can be sought. (via the Parish Council's).

M2 J5 + A247 (equestrian bridge):

AR was consulted on the route.

Action: AR to draft a response to the M2 J5 / A247 Consultation, on behalf of the Forum and circulate for comments.

TT asked if the bridge should be designed for all non-motorised users?

Active Travel England (new executive agency, has been launched).

Active Travel England builds on government commitment to boost cycling and walking and deliver a healthy, safe and carbon-neutral transport system.

Concern raised that the agency had not included horse riding.

Action: JBox to ask Active Travel, if equestrians will be included in the carbon neutral transport system?

Medway Towpath: this route is currently closed at Aylesford following failure of a retaining wall. Funding is needed to repair section and is being sought through Active Travel Tranche 3 funding

KCC looking to secure a proportion of £2b Government has identified to improve cycling and walking infrastructure. (And opportunities for equestrians)

Stone Pit One – woodland:

RD asked if there was an opportunity for the footpaths to be given ‘higher rights’ access, to include cyclists and equestrians?

Concern was also raised:

- walkers and cyclists would need to be segregated.
- Equestrians would need parking.
- access into the site, will this be improved?
- are there any details re: biodiversity?

Action: JBox to request an additional cycle route from Stone Station (on behalf of the Forum).

GR expressed the view that each site, will need to be assessed, under its own merits: connectivity, woodland access, health and wellbeing and benefit to the public.

England Coastal Path

Woolwich to Grain: now open however several sections are closed, due to health and safety, fly tipping or development - Diversions in place

Grain – Whitstable: awaiting Planning Inspectorate recommendations following site visits.

London – Brighton Trail Partnership: KCC, Medway, East Sussex, Brighton & Hove and South Downs National Park) are looking to establish a trail partnership. This will enable funding to be drawn down and allocated according to priority/ management plan, for the whole stretch. RP is currently working on a Walking Guide.

Litter: concern raised, litter is a permanent feature along the Thames bank.

Land Management

Countryside Code - [new landowners guidance](#) is now available: NFU and CLA have received good feedback.

This is a comprehensive guide for: livestock, dogs, firearms, crossing points for walkers and reporting incidents to the Police, i.e. dogs worrying livestock.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service

Public Rights of Way – Policies:

Most Policies have not changed, however some need to be updated and some areas require new policy to be established.

Action: GR to seek Forum’s comments on ‘KCC’s - Network Hierarchy Policy.’

Action: GR to circulate ‘Draft’ PROW Policies, to be discussed at future meetings, the first tranche is likely to include:

- **Route hierarchy and prioritisation.**
- **Temporary closures including rail crossings.**

Government Response to the Glover Review

Please see the DEFRA consultation on the [Landscapes review \(National Parks and AONBs\)](#).

This consultation includes two questions about restricting motor vehicle use on unsealed highways in the National Parks and AONBs, and potentially wider.

Action: All Members to read the ‘Glover Review’ and discuss at the next meeting.

Any Other business

KCC’s Fault Reporting:

SN – KCC has ‘Fault Reporting’ for Highways and Public Rights of Way.

The approach and response received in respect of unsealed roads and BOATs differs dependent on the system used?

Action: GR and PH to discuss ‘Tracks and Fault Reporting’ at the next meeting on 6/6/22.

Permissive Paths:

AR asked if Permissive Paths including those required to be provided through planning agreements could be shown on KCC’s interactive map?

ie Cyclopark and route beside West Malling Bypass

KCC may be able to promote the ‘Permissive Routes’ on the Interactive map.

Action: GR to discuss Interactive map / Permissive Paths with AR and Neil (@ KCC)

Folkestone and Hythe - Dog Control Consultation:

AB confirmed F&H are looking to restrict dogs in children’s play areas, beaches, and cemeteries.

Consultation closes: 4th May 2022

Action: AB to circulate details to ‘Dog Control Consultation’ and discuss with CJ.

Deregulation Act – 2026 ‘Cut Off’

KCAF understand the 2026 cut of date is to be repealed.

GR highlighted that while KCAF had requested postponement of the 2026 cut off date the indication is that the majority of the recommendations of the National Stakeholder Working Group will not now be taken forward. Many of these recommendations were viewed as beneficial. DEFRA has indicated that the “right to apply” and “whole cost recovery” will be implemented.

Future meeting dates, times, and venues

Date:	Monday 6th June 2022
Time:	1pm (to be confirmed)
Site visit:	Bethersden, Ashford
Topic:	Vehicles in the Countryside
Date:	Monday 5th September 2022
Time:	2pm
Venue:	tbc / virtual?
Topic:	Electrically assisted cycles and motor powered vehicles
Date:	Monday 5th December 2022
Time:	2pm
Venue:	tbc / virtual?
Topic:	

Meeting close – 16.08