



# Kent countryside access forum

## KCAF Meeting –

Meeting Date: **Monday 20 March 2023**

Meeting Time: **2pm to 4:15pm**

Meeting Venue:

**Hybrid meeting - Invicta House, County Hall and by MS Teams link**

<b>Attendees:</b>		
Jeremy Boxall	JBox	Chair
Richard Dickenson	RD	(Vice Chair) Vehicular User Representative
Robert Peel	RP	Walking User Representative
Steve Neville	SN	Cycling user Representative
Anne Rillie	AR	Equestrian User Representative
Amanda Corp	AC	Land Management Representative
Theresa Trussell	TT	Multi-User Representative
Sarah Barker	SB	Parish Council Representative (Kent Association of Local Councils)
Mark Lawrence	MB	District Council Representative - TW Borough Council
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Anne Beecham	AB	(Vice Chair) Tourism Representative
Charles Tassell	CT	Landowner/ Land Management Representative
Chris Jelly	CJ	Dog Walking Representative
<b>Advisor:</b>		
Graham Rusling	GR	KCC PROW and Access Service
<b>Guests:</b>		
Lorna Smith		KCC Road Safety and Active Travel Team
Darren Patey		KCC Road Safety and Active Travel Team
Mark Bunting		KCC Road Safety and Active Travel Team
<b>Minutes</b>		
Serena Mitchell-Burns		KCC PROW

### **Welcome and Apologies**

**JBox** began the meeting with welcome to all and apologies from the forum members unable to attend.

**JBox** welcomed new member Mark Lawrence, User Representative – Health and Wellbeing, to the forum.

## Safer Road User and Behaviour Change

The forum was joined by members of the KCC Road Safety and Active Travel Team, and their presentation was given out of sequence to the Agenda for the benefit of the running of the meeting.

Lorna Smith, Daren Patey, and Mark Bunting provided the forum with presentations on KCC's Vision Zero, Casualty Data, and Road Safety and Active Travel information, performance, and education.

The presenters talked about the structure of the team and how the team work collaboratively with outside agencies to ensure a cohesive approach to road safety and to active travel within Kent.

The presentations were followed by questions from forum members about:

- Statistics on horse riding.
  - **DP** advised that the Casualty Data for horse riders are captured within the pedestrian road user statistics. They are looking to hone this information going forward to better identify specific risks for horse riders.
- Cyclists & two-wheeled users and road surfaces in relation to safety on the road.
  - **LS** advised the forum of the Road Safety Team ongoing campaigns regarding cyclist and two-wheeled user safety on the roads, and **DP** advised that statistically the Casualty Data does not show higher accident rates for these type of users over others such as pedestrians.
- Education around farm and heavy /large vehicles on the road during seasonally busy periods.
  - **MB** advised that there are campaigns around awareness of heavy/large vehicles on the road, to help raise both user and driver awareness of safety issues and encourage respect for others. The campaigns are not targeted at seasonal periods. **LS** advised this is something the Road Safety team could look in to.
- How to deal with bike and motorcycle users riding across private / farming land.
  - **MB** advised that nuisance vehicles on roads, Public Rights of Way paths, or private land can be reported online to Kent police at [Report page \(Kent Police\)](#)
- Commercial van drivers and driving too close to vulnerable users on the road, and whether companies could be targeted for specific safety campaigns
  - **LS** advised that there are general campaigns directed at drivers regarding road safety and awareness of other road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, but nothing specifically targeted at van drivers or commercial drivers. It was also noted that a recent change to the Highway Code hierarchy of road users is designed to protect vulnerable road users.
- Being seen on the road – improving awareness to cyclists of the importance of being visible on the roads
  - **LS** advised that there are campaigns produced by the Road Safety Team to emphasise to users such as pedestrians, cyclists, and horse riders, the importance of being seen on the road both in daytime and at night. These campaigns will continue on a regular basis.

- Quiet Lanes in Kent.
  - It was noted by the Road Safety team that the Quiet lanes campaign had not fully had the desired effect as these lanes are often seen by some drivers as an opportunity to speed through the areas. Alternative options are in consultation.

### Minutes and Matters Arising from Last Meeting

#### 1. Approval of previous meeting minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 05 December 2022 were approved.

#### 2. Matters Arising Not on the Agenda

There were no matters not on the agenda raised at this time.

### Actions from Previous Meeting on – 05 December 2022

**December 2022 ACTION 1.** SB to circulate details of the alternative website to One Network (Roadworks.org) to use for road status information.

**Complete**

**December 2022 ACTION2.** GR to speak to Alison Hews about whether KCAF would have standing as an organisation to have full access to One Network (Roadworks.org)

**Complete**

**December 2022 ACTION 3.** Request from Mark Lawrence to join KCAF as a member, SMB to send application form out.

**Complete**

**December 2022 ACTION 4.** SMB to sign up KCAF to the KCC Consultation portal 'Lets Talk' on the KCC Website, so that future alerts can be forwarded to KCAF members.

**Complete**

**December 2022 ACTION 5.** JBox to create communication to go to District Councils to remind them that KCAF are a consultative body and that they should be actively engaging with and consulting the Forum.

**Ongoing – Awaiting Developments discussion at June 2023 KCAF meeting**

**December 2022 ACTION 6.** KCAF to create communication to be sent to Active Travel England to advise that in more rural areas equestrians should be considered in active travel schemes.

**Ongoing – JBox advised forum to be aware that Active Travel has received a 50% funding cut.**

**December 2022 ACTION 7.** CT to send details to AH of concrete structures allowing tractor entry but not standard vehicles.

**Complete**

**December 2022 ACTION 8.** GR to look at location options for an in-person KCAF meeting in March 2023.

**Complete**

## New Actions

**March 2023 Action 1.** Lower Thames Crossing grant application information to be circulated by **RD**.

**March 2023 Action 2.** **GR** to circulate the Deregulation Act 2026 cut of date update provided Richard Benyon, Minister of Stat for Biosecurity and Rural Affairs to the National Equestrian Forum.

## Membership

### 1. New Members

Mark Lawrence, user representative for health and wellbeing was welcomed to the Kent Countryside Access Forum as a new member.

### 2. Resignation.

David Brazier has stepped down from the Forum as the Kent County Council Elected Member representative.

### 3. Appointments

The Kent Countryside Access forum Chair, and two Vice Chair positions were due for reappointment.

**Chair** – Jeremy Boxall was proposed, seconded and voted for as Chair

**Vice Chair** – Richard Dickenson was proposed, seconded, and voted for as vice Chair.

**Vice Chair** – Anne Beecham was proposed, seconded, and voted for as Vice Chair.

The following members of the Kent Countryside Access forum all had their memberships renewed by being proposed and seconded:

Amanda Corp, Anne Rillie, Charles Tassell, Chris Jelly, Robert Peel, Sarah Barker, Steve Neville, and Theresa Trussell.

## Development Sites

### 1. Lower Thames Crossing Update

**RD** provided an update on the Lower Thames Crossing. A new Engagement Officer, Gemma Horax, had been appointed by National Highways. Information on the application process and opportunities for grant funding had been made available.

### 2. LTC Community Fund

**GR** advised that although the original deadline dates for Community Grants have passed there may still be opportunities to apply.

### 3. LTC Designated Funds Submission

**GR** advised that PROWAS had submitted a bid for a number of access improvement projects and a local network study to support future bids. Assessment by the LTC subject matter lead is awaited.

## Contributing to Improved Health

Due to time constraints Contributing to Improved Health will now be discussed in the June 2023 KCAF meeting.

## England Coastal Path

**GR** provided an update to the forum on the England Coastal Path including:

- The Kingsferry to Iwade section is delayed due to an awaited outcome of a Planning Inspectorate consideration of the route alignment and further safety audit and option appraisal for an on-road section.
- The Isle of Sheppey section. Establishment work is due to be completed in late summer 2023. A Planning Inspectorate recommendation is still waiting for a section of the north coast of the Island.
- Variation reports may be required due to development pressures and land use changes.
- The new South East England ECP partnership has been established for a stretch of the National Trail between (and including) Bexley and Brighton and Hove. East Sussex County Council is the lead partner.
- The Partnership is currently recruiting to the role of National Trail Officer.

## Any Other Business

1. **AR** asked **GR** for an update on the bridge and Stockbury, and whether KCAF and the British Horse Society should be asking for a non-motorised bridge. **GR** advised that following feasibility work National Highways had determined not to pursue the provision of the bridge or the proposed non motorised user improvements at M2 junction 5.
2. **AR** advised that there is a British Horse Society initiative to ask its members and the general public to write to their MPs regarding the repeal of the 2026 deadline in the Deregulation Act.
3. **GR** advised that Richard Benyon, Minister of State for Biosecurity and Rural Affairs provided an update at the National Equestrian Forum regarding the Deregulation Act and the cut-off date of 2026 and he will circulate this update to the forum members. **ACTION 2.**

## Next Meeting

Date: **12 June 2023**

Time: **1:30pm to 4:00pm**

Location: **TBC**

## Meeting Close