

**(Draft) KCAF – Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018**  
**Natural England offices, International House Dover Place, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1HU**

<b>In attendance</b>		
Jeremy Boxall	JBox	Chair
Anne Beecham	ABe	Vice Chair & Other Interest Representative – Tourism
Anne Rillie	AR	User Representative – Equestrian
Theresa Trussell	TT	Other Interest Representative – Multi User Groups
Averil Brice	ABr	User Representative – Walking
Amanda Corp	ACor	NFU – Landowner/Management Representative
Linda Griffin	LG	Other Interest Representative – Cultural and Landscape Heritage
Mandy Arthur	MA	Access Forum Support (Kent County Council)
Graham Rusling	GR	Public Rights of Way and Access Service Manager (Kent County Council)
Jennie Bowen	JBow	Natural England
<b>Guests</b>		
Francesca Sanchez	FS	Natural England
<b>Apologies</b>		
Richard Dickson	RD	Vice Chair & User Representative – Motorised Vehicles
Chris Jelly	CJ	Other Interest Representative – Dog Walking
Steve Neville	SN	User Representative – Cycling
Kirstie Williams	KW	Highways Manager (Kent County Council)
Denise Roffey	DR	CAIP Officer (Kent County Council)
Ron Butcher	RB	Other Interest Representative – Parish Councils & Disability

<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
Members welcomed Chair JBox to new role Members introduced themselves
<b>Minutes of last meeting</b>
Minutes of last meeting approved
<u>Project Updates</u> – No progress since last meeting
North Downs equestrian route: ABe, AR, ABr, TT to contact NDW Trail Manager to encourage progress of the project and whether KCAF members can support KCC Kent Downs AONB as an independent body to get things in motion.
JBox will invite Peter Morris – NDW National Trail Manager to meet to discuss North Downs Project.
ABe raised concern for safety for cycle riders on UK routes in comparison to European organised cycle routes.
<b>Coastal Access Update (Natural England)</b>
Appendix A – Draft Routes Table
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking to construct new access along the Swanscombe Peninsular - Wintering birds &amp; Industrial heritage will be a consideration.</li> </ul>

- Dual Branding is proposed for Thames Path and England Coastal Path as far as Grain

JBox enquired whether there are proposals for a shuttle linking the Kent and Essex sections of the England Coastal Path through the proposed Lower Thames crossing.

TT enquired about the arrangements to be made to prevent disturbance to wildlife by dogs along the new stretches such as Swanscombe.

FS assured that wintering bird areas are avoided and NE work with experienced consultants to ensure that the wildlife is not disturbed.

FS indicated that no new equestrian access has been negotiated.

JBow Summer/ Autumn plans

- Sheppey – Access around the island faces challenges. The ECP should generate tourists to Sheppey.
- Caravan sites owners have been supportive in the main. Where they are not the route is potentially pushed inland away from the coast.
- Internal drainage causes issues along the south coast. NE working towards an alternative.
- Access at King's Ferry Bridge poses a real challenge. Alternatives are being considered. as

TT brought up the potential for the ECP on Sheppey to deliver improved equestrian access.

JBow has mentioned that this will require landowner permissions.

AC – Farmers have been restricting access routes to land to stop trespass by the traveller community.

JBow then provided a further update on

- Chetney Marshes may need to be avoided because of land form and wildlife.
- Trying to get more space along Strawberry lane.
- Kingsnorth Power Station has planning that denies access
- Whitstable – Will visit all objection sites with an inspector soon.
- Delayed – Ramsgate to Whitstable stretch. Plans to open in 2019.
- Camber to Ramsgate: At Dungeness NE are working to keep the public off the shingle.

JBow assures that Coastal Path projects are working towards the 2020 deadline. Reports will indicate the proposed new provision.

JBow will report back to KCAF regarding 'higher rights'.

GR mentioned

- The ECP is expected to provide new access to approximately 25% of Kent's coast.
- A meeting is to be held on the 14 June with the aim of establishing a London to Brighton coast path partnership.

#### Future direction of KCAF – Objectives & potential achievements

LG raised need to create awareness of the role of KCAF as a statutory body and the need to consult it.

AR & AC discussed the absence of consultation from other organisations and stakeholders, for example Kent Highways and Transportation.

GR indicated that public health, planning authorities and key stakeholders need reminding of KCAF consultation role. There is a need for them to consult KCAF on certain projects.

Abe has made record of Forum achievements and involvement including consultations of KCAF. MA to assist converting to soft copy to be made available. Abe has raised the need for a publicity officer as had been previously discussed.

Discussed how KCAF is an independent group of varied representatives working towards improved public access to the countryside. This is the message that needs to be sent to key stakeholder.

JBox added to notify PROW & Access contacts via GR to let them know that KCAF is a statutory consultee to access matters.

Abe & ABr raised the need for to raise the profile with Parish Councils – Is there a ROW paths officer in Parish Councils?

GR referred KCAF to Kent Association of Parish Councils and JBox recommended setting up a meeting. GR added that Section 94 bodies need to be contacted in accordance with the GDPR regarding consultations. AR recommended inviting them to a meeting for a presentation.

ABr highlights that the Health and Wellbeing benefits of access to the population is a priority issue for Parish Councils.

AC mentioned that Kent Nature Partnership have reported regarding Health and Wellbeing and this may be worth referring to.

JBox recommended arranging a meeting to Draft Work Plan for KCAF. Of which, work plan includes

- Section 4.10 (DEFRA Guidance); Networking and raising awareness
- Responses to emails or letters
- Arrange meetings with key stakeholders

Abe — Highlighted the cumulative impact of development. Incremental building beside the bridleway at Highland Court Farm had resulted in it being tarmacked, and subject to higher levels of motor vehicle use. This had occurred without consultation.

LG enquired regarding Green Infrastructure – Have there been any new developments in guidance? AC raised awareness of potential priority of Government to deliver houses. Green Infrastructure should be integral to new development.

JBox to distil Guidance & make plan to meet with parties involved.

## Membership

JBox discussed the membership of the Forum

- David Braizer had been approached with a view to appointing him to the Forum as KCC Elected Member.
- There is a need for more members representing: land managers, agriculture, disabled users

Any recommendations are welcome.

- Members were asked to update the contact list (which was circulated).

#### Educating Dog Walkers

Update from CJ. APPENDIX B, C, D

Volunteers were requested to attend the County Show to promote the work of the Forum and responsible dog walking. NFU @ Kent County Show

ABr highlighted the privilege enjoyed in having access for walking dogs.

JBox to discuss with DJ & AC to make an annual campaign regarding this message. ABe Local Parishes to investigate and promote where their residents' dogs can be exercised off the lead.

JBox encouraged pursuit of a KCAF/NFU campaign 2018 – to promote responsible dog ownership given increasing numbers of dog attacks on farm livestock.

#### Countryside Access Improvement Plan (CAIP)

Meeting to be arranged by MA in Brabourne – 3<sup>rd</sup> /10<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.

#### Byways and Highways Working group

AR requested clarification on the Highways Inspectors maps with regards to equestrian access where routes are shown with blue & white lines.

#### Data Protection (GDPR General Data Protection Regulations 2018)

Members to complete Application form and forward to MA

#### KCAF Project/ Agenda Items for next meeting

Email JBox regarding items for the agenda

RD will contact ordnance survey concerning plans to stop showing ORPAS on OS 1:25000 and 1:50000 mapping

#### Date of next meeting

- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Time: 1.45pm  
Venue: International House, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent TN23 1HU.
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Time: 1.45pm  
Venue: International House, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent TN23 1HU.