

**(Draft) KCAF – Minutes of the Meeting  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 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
Theresa Trussell	TT	Other Interest Representative – Multi User Groups
Averil Brice	ABr	User Representative – Walking
Amanda Corp	ACor	NFU – Landowner/Management Representative
Mandy Arthur	MA	Access Forum Support (Kent County Council)
Graham Rusling	GR	Public Rights of Way and Access Service Manager (KCC)
Richard Dickenson	RD	Vice Chair & User Representative – Motorised Vehicles
Chris Jelly	CJ	Other Interest Representative – Dog Walking
Anne Rillie	AR	User Representative – Equestrian
<b>Guest</b>		
Kevin Haugh	KH	Natural England
<b>Apologies</b>		
Jennie Bowen	JBow	Natural England
Ron Butcher	RB	Other Interest Representative – Parish Councils & Disability
Steve Neville	SN	User Representative – Cycling

**Action points**

- 1) KH to seek an update on the proposal to dispose of spoil to arrest coastal erosion the north Sheppey Coast.
- 2) KH requested KCAF help to identify hospitality business along the Camber to Ramsgate stretch of the England Coast Path. He wishes to get feedback from businesses about the impact of the creation of the ECP on business.
- 3) GR to arrange a meeting with Cycle UK and KCAF members.
- 4) GR to circulate details of the Experience Interreg Bid that Forum Members have been asked to support.
- 5) MA to send David Brazier and Charles Tassell KCAF membership forms.
- 6) JBox to contact Terry Martin – Kent Association of Local Councils regarding stand in Parish Councils rep.
- 7) GR to circulate list of current PRow Improvement projects.
- 8) RD: Letter to the Director of Highways to be directed to Simon Jones. Mike Whiting is the cabinet member.

**Welcome and Apologies**

Minutes of the last meeting

**Matters arising not on agenda**

- Future minutes are to have action points.
- Appendices are to be referenced and circulated with the minutes. Or where documents may not be circulated they will be summarised
- Minutes to be published in draft on the website at least 1 month in advance of the next meeting.

KCAF web pages may be found here: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering/countryside-volunteering/kent-countryside-access-forum>

Coastal Access Update (Natural England)

KH

Natural England is still looking to complete the whole project by 2020.

Within Kent

- Grain to Woolwich: Having to give careful consideration to the habitat regulations and the potential impacts on the local ecology. Looking to publish early 2019. .
- Iwade to Grain: There are some alignment issues in and around Ridham Docks. Looking to publish recommendations in March/ April 2019.
- Isle of Sheppey: Proposals have been notified to landowners and all stakeholders have been updated. NE looking to publish recommendations in Spring 2019 and implement in 2020. Problems arising with alignment on the North Coast. Negotiating with KCC Highways in respect of sections with on – road alignments.

TT: Sought information about the proposal to use spoil to create a leisure area at the base of the north Sheppey coast with the aim of arresting coastal erosion.

**Action: KH to seek further information.**

GR understood that there were fundamental issues with this project as the ecology of the area was dependent on the nutrients released as a result of coastal erosion.

- Marleybone Hill: Plough road; Looking to ensure that the route is safe for road users and pedestrians.
- JBox suggested making pedestrians priority and reducing speed. KH mentioned they are looking to put up signage there. GR stated that wherever there is an interface between road and highway cost is likely an issue in making safe provision. Highways would be looking for a safe solution if National trials are to be promoted on roads. AR: Any data on how many people use the route and how dangerous is it? Because if a route is dangerous, people are less likely to use it. GR felt that it would be beneficial to set up counters on these areas to measure the usage of roads by pedestrians. TT enquired how long the stretch of road is?

KH indicated about one kilometre. A lot of accepted land and crumbling coast; are issues.

- Lot of objections were made to the proposals for the Faversham area. The Inspectors decision is hoped for in early 2019.
- The potential impact of the Cleve Hill Solar Farm on amenity was raised by the Forum.
- Ramsgate to Whitstable stretch is held up by Kingsgate by planning issues.

JBox asked if NE would like any advice and help from KCAF.

**Action: KH requested KCAF help to identify hospitality business along the Camber to Ramsgate stretch of the England Coast Path. He wishes to get feedback from businesses about the impact of the creation of the ECP on business.**

Abe questioned if there is an issue regarding the footfall in Dungeness and the environmental impact.

KH recommends putting a visitor's book to state that they are doing the coastal walk.

GR: Identified that there are currently 103kms of the ECP open in Kent.

On completion the section from Dartford to Brighton will be approximately 480km – substantially longer than the North Downs Way, South Downs Way or Thames Path to which it connects.

#### AONB- NDW – Experience Bid

GR mentions this is a bid for European Union funding for a project that encourages increased visits during the 'shoulder season'.

There is capital funding available and a reasonable timescale for delivery. Staff costs may be met.

AR expressed concern that the increase in higher rights links along the North Downs corridor is being led by Cycling UK. There is concern that they are not aware of some of the history of routes used by equestrians such as at Fairlawne, and that promotion of these links may result in the loss of equestrian access.

Boxley road - very dangerous but being used by cyclists.

GR expressed support for multi-user routes as a means to deliver wider access, but recognised the importance of responsible use.

ACor suggests campaign where cyclist make themselves known when riding past horses.

**Action: GR to arrange a meeting with Cycle UK and KCAF members.**

**Action: GR to circulate further detail about the Experience bid.**

Katherine Bradley is leading on the bid for the AONB. The deadline is thought to be a January 2018.

Byways and Highways Working group

**House of Lords recommendations on the operation of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**

GR reported that the HoL, following a select committee, believe that too few TRO's are made and believe this is as a result of the complexity of the procedures.

DEFRA are sending out a consultation to local traffic authority; what are the issues with traffic regulations and what improvements can be made.

**Nettlepole Lane Update & Alkham discussion**

RD: Consultation finished a few ago and are waiting for report. GR hopes that the solutions will look towards eradicating nuisance issues.

ABe mentioned that at Alkham the banks beside the byway have been burnt by the landowner, to reduce vegetation. Other work carried out seems designed to prevent trespass but has disturbed the surface of the byway.

ACor: Suggested that actions may well be designed to prevent trespass. There has been a rise in criminal and antisocial behaviour.

Andrew Hutchinson and Michael Ellis are to bring reports for Alkham and Nettlestead to the Forum.

RD: Letter to the Director of Highways to be directed to Simon Jones. Mike Whiting is the cabinet member.

RD in contact with Neil Barnes regarding Lost Ways Project, volunteers working through ROW claims and now can work with any queries raised by KCAF.

TT Asked if there is an annual update regarding the Lost Ways Project (LWP).

GR provided some background on the project.

The project has:

- Dealt with the first five cases submitted by the ramblers.
- Looked at the first cases submitted by the BHS.

The research involves consideration of the PRoW and highway records that would otherwise not be readily available to user groups. The project aims to sift out those potentially claims that have previously been considered and to confirm the status of a route based on the highway record, allowing stakeholders to target their resource at those routes that may be demonstrated through historic research.

ABe: Is there an incentive from KCC to get this done?

GR is incentivised to get this done by 2026. From what LWP have looked at it can help direct stakeholder research. Ultimately it will be for the stakeholders to complete the historic research.

Abr: Scottish Libraries has a record for Ordnance Survey Maps..

Membership

David Braizer has confirmed that he will sit in KCAF forum as a KCC Elected Member. Charles Tassel has agreed to join KCAF as well.

**Action: MA to send documents to add to members group.**

**Vacancies** – Representation of land managers, agriculture, disabled users would be welcomed

JBox still looking for someone to represent disabled users and a stand in Parish Council rep.

**Action: JBox to meet with Terry Martin regarding stand in Parish Council rep.**

**SharePoint FAQs / Training requests**

DropBox is no longer in use. All previous data has been transferred into a zipped file. Please note that the zipped files contain documents before 2013.

Recent files will be made available separately. To view separate files, the documents will be downloaded to your personal machine.

Please email MA with any content/questions regarding FAQ's.

MA will email members with more up to date minutes and agendas as they are made available.

Note that there is a forum for members to bring up hot topics outside of meeting times.

GR: Inviting Access form members on Feb 12<sup>th</sup> for training sessions in Shorne Wood Country Park. The Definitive Map and Statement will be the subject.

**Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

**Prioritisation of projects to be delivered in year 1 of the plan:**

GR Introduced Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-28.

ABe had requested a list of projects including active projects.

GR identified a number of projects but stated that it is not possible to provide a list of all requested projects. See appendix 1.

ABe enquired regarding Highland Court. PROW and Access had objected and requested equestrian needs.

AR: Section 106 paths, maintenance. How is this managed?

GR: There is an established tariff card that forms the basis of TCPA 1990 section 106 requests.

Priority Improvement Plan Projects for Year 1 had been identified as:

- Planning applications and development : guidance and training for planners and developers
- Production of guidance for Parishes/ stakeholders relating to the creation of new PROW.
- Dog Ownership: marketed and targeted information regarding responsible dog ownership and behaviour around livestock.

MA to drop CJ an email for any literature to help raise awareness regarding dog ownership. ABe to distribute this to local vets/ groomers and related businesses.  
JBox recommends that the Forum supports a more detailed campaign and encourages this be regularly brought up.

ABe recommends a specific local guide for tourists regarding where livestock is and responsibility of dog owners.

**Weather/ climate change impacts**

JBox: There are some footpaths that are inaccessible in the winter and costs are high to maintain this. Need a plan for how public rights of way are maintained for the future.

Members are reluctant to close paths due to wet winters.

JBox: To some degree it is a message to landowners to maintain their paths.

**AOB**

**Household waste**

GR has given response to this issue. Are concerns that the policies pursued in neighbouring authorities will displace waste disposal rather than minimise waste. The need to mitigate any fly tipping that arises from policy changes has also been raised.

RD: Responsibility for fly tipping is down to district councils mostly that borough councils.

**Lower Thames crossing**

To be filed under consultations on SharePoint.

**Date of next meeting**

**Survey results**

Location: 4 votes for Natural England, 3 for Granary and 3 for Invicta. There was one suggestion for Shorne Wood country park.

Need to be proactive to increase awareness.

AR: Can we have a banner for KCAF meeting places? Allowing the agenda to relate to the venue.

JBox: To make a more active meeting, it's worth booking them at a venue reflecting the subject matter.

GR Asked if the KCAF would like a notice of forthcoming meetings in the Kent messenger.

**Future Meeting dates, times and venues**

MA to pick dates for the next meeting and email members.

DRAFT