

KCAF Meeting – Monday 6th December 2021
Meeting venue: Microsoft Teams
Meeting started at 2:00pm

Attendees:

Jeremy Boxall	J Box	Chair
Anne Rillie	AR	User representative – Equestrian
Robert Peel	RP	User representative – Walkers
Theresa Trussell	TR	User representative – Multiuser
Sarah Barker	SB	Kent Association of Local Councils
Steve Neville	SN	User group – Cycling
Chris Jelly	CJ	Other Interest Representative – Dog Walking

Advisor

Graham Rusling	GR	KCC - PROW
Kate Beswick	KB	KCC – PROW (Rights of Improvement Plan Officer)

Minutes

Alison Clifton	ACI	KCC
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Apologies:

Charles Tassell	CT	Land Management Representative – CLA
David Brazier	DB	KCC – Member
Hazel Walters	HW	KCC – Highways
Amanda Corp	AC	Land Management Representative - NFU
Richard Dickenson	RD	User representative – Motorised vehicles
Anne Beecham	AB	Other Interest Representative – Tourism
Jenny Bowen	JBo	Natural England

Actions

1. SB to advertise / promote KCAF Volunteers on the KALC website.
2. SB to enquire about the levels of and capacity of Parish Councils to undertake maintenance work on PROW.
3. GR to discuss dead-end routes carrying higher rights with AB.
4. JBox to circulate RD's 'Development update' and Thames Crossing video, to all.
5. All to forward comments on KD Consultation to JBox by 7/1/22.
6. All to send recommendations for future Feasibility Schemes to GR

Minutes of the last meeting

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

Matters arising not on agenda

GR to discuss dead-end routes carrying higher rights, with AB (and provide location maps).

Membership

Explore Kent updated the social media advert. There has been no response.

PROW has received several enquiries from Volunteers wishing to maintain the PROW network, but none for the Forum. KCAF Members are welcome to approach individuals directly, if they express an interest to join the Forum.

Development sites

Lower Thames Crossing

JBox to circulate RD's 'Development update' and Thames Crossing video to all.

London Resort

No news. The Application was submitted last year. Further updates are awaited.

Development

TT raised concern a lot of development is being built on Grade 1 Agricultural land.

KCAF's role is to improve public access into the countryside. Developers need to take into account, the existing rights of way network and look for ways to improve and enhance it.

Kent Design Guide Consultation

Discussion about the current consultation on the Kent Design Guide.

Link to Kent Design Guide consultation:

[Kent Design Guide](#) (movement / connectivity / active travel section)

Consultation closing date: January 2022

Concern raised the Design Guide lacked detail and covered 'higher level statements.'

It was agreed the Forum should respond collectively.

A discussion highlighted the following:

1. Public Open Spaces – KD needs to add improve movement and connectivity in Open Spaces (SN)
2. Public Rights of Way - request linkages to existing PROW network, Streets and paths (JBox)
3. Maintenance - provide Council's with enforcement powers, to ensure Management Companies comply with their maintenance obligations. (SN)
4. Parish Councils – ensure PCs have an input (SB)
5. Public Rights of Way – ensure they are protected / enhanced (SB)
6. Village Greens and Common Land – are mentioned

KCAF highlighted the need for a dedicated person, to chase/follow up 'windfall developments.'

All to forward comments on KD Consultation direct to: JBox by 7/1/22.

KB confirmed she had been asked to comment on several Local and Neighbourhood Plans.

Feasibility of Schemes

GR confirmed some funding has been secured for assessing scheme feasibility.

KCC would need to contact landowners at an earlier point than had previously been the case.

A 'desk top - feasibility exercise' will identify constraints and challenges to delivery, eg:

- Ecology, ie, Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Heritage ie, Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Risks and opportunities
- Asset management
- could the route be moved, if there are any built obstructions?
- could the route be externally funded, for example by the Active Travel Improvement?

Each scheme will need a business case.

Will the scheme require Planning Consent or a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)?

NB: If landowners are issued with a CPO, they may claim Compensation and have the land revalued after 6 months.

KCC are looking to assess some schemes working with the Project Centre.

Funding – concern, some funding is only available for a 12 month window (some schemes can take up to 18 months / 2 years minimum to complete).

KCAF identified a number of potential schemes for assessment.

All to send recommendations for future Feasibility Schemes, to GR

Woodland Access Implementation Plan (WAIP)

Government has launched a 25 year initiative - promoting woodland access, to improve health. GR confirmed Compulsory Access will not be tied into Landowner Grant Schemes.

It is essential, that ‘no trees’ are within falling distance from the public highway. GR discussed Policies and Guidance for the Public and Landowners at a WAIP Stakeholder meeting on 29.11.21.

TT raised concern that Blean Wood had been fenced off to the public, for grazing animals. JBox asked if woodland can be protected from development? If access was increased, could this generate a need for car parking? RP asked if woodland access could be linked to the existing public right of way network?

AR raised concern that woodland walks may attract additional fly tipping.

England Coastal Path

A “ghost” National Trail Partnership for the London to Brighton stretch of the ECP is being established.

The (Ghost) National Trail Partnership are looking to appoint an England Coast Path - National Trail Officer as stretches open and the grant aid is available.

ECP PINS Inspector site visits had taken place for the North Kent Iwade to Grain stretch in November 2021.

Natural England, KB and GR attended. The Inspector’s Decision is anticipated in Spring 2022.

The section between London and the Isle of Grain will be opened on Wednesday 12th January 22.

Kingsgate Golf Course and the section under the bridge (on the Isle of Sheppey) has yet to be resolved.

Any Other business

JBox wished everyone a lovely Christmas.

Future meeting dates, times, and venues

Date:	Monday 7th March 2022
Time:	2pm -4pm
Venue:	Virtual
Topic:	PRoW Policy document

Date:	Monday 6th June 2022
Time:	1pm (to be confirmed)

Site visit: Topic:	Bethersden, Ashford Vehicles in the Countryside
Date: Time: Venue: Topic:	Monday 5th September 2022 2pm tbc / virtual? Electrically assisted cycles and motor powered vehicles
Date: Time: Venue: Topic:	Monday 5th December 2022 2pm tbc / virtual?
Meeting close – 15.52	