

DRAFT KCAF Meeting – Monday 7th June 2021
Meeting venue: Microsoft Teams
Meeting started at 2:00pm

Attendees:		
Jeremy Boxall	J Box	Chair
Anne Rillie	AR	User representative – Equestrian
Amanda Corp	AC	Land Management Representative - NFU
Charles Tassell	CT	Land Management Representative – CLA
Robert Peel	RP	User representative – Walkers
Steve Neville	SN	User group – Cycling
Anne Beecham	AB	Other Interest Representative – Tourism
Theresa Trussell	TR	User representative – Multiuser
Hazel Walters	HW	KCC – Highways
Chris Walker	CW	KCC – Explore Kent
Pippa Silver	PS	KCC – Explore Kent
Advisor		
Graham Rusling	GR	KCC - PROW
Minutes		
Isabel Willson	IW	KCC
Apologies:		
Chris Jelly	CJ	Other Interest Representative – Dog Walking
Richard Dickenson	RD	User representative – Motorised vehicles
David Brazier	DB	KCC – Member
Sarah Barker	SB	Kent Association of Local Councils
Actions		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RP to send an invite to the forum for the Ramblers seminar meeting taking place on the 15th June (PM). 2. AB/JBox to speak to RD and organise a meeting to discuss 'Vehicles in the countryside' 3. IW to send out a poll for whether the next meeting should be virtual or in person. 		
Minutes of the last meeting		
The minutes of the meeting of the 19 April 2021 were approved subject to some changes. See attached revised minutes.		
Matters arising from the last minutes		
<p>AB – Requested more information on dead end routes (prow stopping at or changing status at a boundary). AB asked if there is a comprehensive list. GR explained that there is a list as a result of the Definitive Map and Statement digitisation and consolidation 2013 although it may not be in a helpful format. The information had been provided to SN in digital map form. GR stated that many of the higher rights dead end routes resulted from the reclassification process for Roads Used as Public Paths and the later reclassification of those RUPPS that remained as Restricted Byways. When investigated research into RUPPs had often pointed to footpath status but as the default position in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 sec 54 had been bridleway status it tended to result in higher rights terminating at an onward route of footpath status.</p> <p>RP highlighted the seminars being run by the Ramblers for their members including one on the 2026 cut-off date and invited KCAF Members to attend. RP to send an invite to the forum for the Ramblers seminar meeting taking place on the 15th June (PM).</p>		

Membership

Advertising of roles

GR had drafted an advert for vacant KCAF roles. PS (Explore Kent) has put it on Facebook and Twitter. People have shown a lot of interest on Twitter (11 retweets). Explore Kent will reshare these adverts every 10 days.

Explore Kent

CW and PS gave a presentation on the work of Explore Kent (EK). EK is a sister service to the PROW and Access Service within KCC. It is largely a web platform and social media campaign to encourage the public to use the outdoors. 2020-21 has been a phenomenal year for walking and cycling seeing a huge increase in the use of the Kent countryside in the last year. EK promote hiking and cycling trails and have 150 walking/ cycling routes on the website.

They currently have 20K twitter followers, 7K Facebook audience and a growing audience on Instagram. They work in partnership with many Kent organisations. They are in the process of starting a major campaign to encourage people to be active – cycling, walking, hiking.

There has been a huge increase in the use of the countryside, but this also means an increase in misuse. They are working with PROW on a proposal to promote responsible use and to get the most out of visits to the countryside. Their current project - 'Enjoying and respecting the PROW network' is to educate and make people aware on how to use the network in the correct way. EK are looking to target audiences with paid advertisement on social media to get these messages across and to target the public who are not already following their page. Younger ages (19-25) and over 65s may not use the network or may be new to using it, they potentially have a lack of information on the network so the idea is to provide information so they can use the network appropriately. In more urban areas across Kent, they are looking to promote ways of using PROW to travel to work etc. They will help people with disabilities by showing them the routes which are easily accessible for them, ones which do not include stiles and gates etc.

They currently have 2 landing pages on the KCC website that are live. These pages were updated last month, and they have links to a variety of different projects, as well as a link to the PROW network map.

EK are looking at partnering with a PR consultant, either a press release or article on Kent online to promote the network.

AC indicated that the NFU They have produced their own content to promote the Countryside Code.

AC to put PS into contact with one of her colleagues who has all the information regarding this.

EK have a Content plan which is split into different months which are themed. One of their intentions is to approach people with 'Did you know...' questions. They would like to create a video showing how dogs can harm livestock.

EK already have some ready-made film clips produced by AONB, each clip is 30 seconds long, so they are eye catching. They are mainly focussing on accessibility for those with disabilities.

EK are looking to make the adverts eye catching by using photos of cute dogs, this should entice people in to read the article. CW suggests including a lot more dog friendly content, for example information about when dogs are allowed on beaches and the different activities that dogs can be included in. As well as a list of the different B&Bs and pubs which allow dogs.

There is a lack of information on horse riding on footpaths. EK to promote the equestrian friendly routes. They will also include information on how to handle dogs around horses.

Pippa to send AC her email address so the NFU can get in contact regarding the campaign.

This topic has been deferred until the next meeting.

AB suggests holding a meeting before the next KCAF meeting takes place to discuss this issue. AB to speak to RD.

AB states that the signage may be confusing, misleading or act as a deterrent. There are examples of signs that mislead as to the true status of paths eg stating footpath where the route in question is a bridleway thus potentially creating an expectation as to the anticipated use that will be met, and signs suggesting that livestock is present or a bull in the field when this use here is not, many of these signs are out of date.

GR states that signs can be taken down if incorrect and situated in the highway or attached to highway furniture (Highways Act 1980 sec 132) .

AC states that signs are pulled down by people when they should not be, so we should not encourage people to take down signs that they think are incorrect. In the past people have taken down livestock warning signs as they cannot see any livestock but just because there is not livestock in a field one day, it does not mean they will not be in there the next day.

AB suggests that incorrect signs give out the wrong message and that it will encourage people to discard all signs if they realise that some are not true.

AC indicated that NFU team have produced advice regarding signage.

Update – GR stated that the ECP establishment works are well advanced for most of the Kent stretches. The work that can be completed will be done by the end of August/ September. There are some short stretches on the Isle of Sheppey and in Swale for which a Planning Inspector is still to consider representations and to then make recommendations to the Secretary of State.

Lower Thames Crossing

The LTC have engaged further in respect of the mitigation of impacts on PROW and wider benefit that the scheme may have the potential to deliver. GR to talk to AR to discuss wider benefits before he responds.

Inland Border Facilities at Sevington and Dover.

GR explained that the development at Sevington had run ahead of the public path order making process. It is hoped that this will be avoided at Dover where the Orders fall to the Secretary of State to make.

CT highlighted reports of a lot of light pollution in Sevington as a result of the new facility.

TT states that there has been a positive feedback regarding the 2026 deadline.

Future meetings:

GR states that it is acceptable for KCAF to carry on meeting virtually.

The forum is happy to have a mixture of both virtual and in person meetings.

RP suggests that we get better attendance with online meetings.

September meeting – the forum decided that it would be good to have this meeting in person.
IW to send out a poll for whether the next meeting should be virtual or in person.

Date: Monday 6th September 2021

Time: 2:00- 4:00pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams

Future Dates:

December Monday 6th