

- 4.2 Ian spoke about his visit to Footpath 103 Farnham, an issue that was raised by guests at the previous meeting. His conclusion was that the footpath was carried along an access road used for the properties, and thus was a private matter.

5. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

- 5.1 Elliot Cairnes was re-elected as Chairman, nominated by Gail Brownrigg. Corinna Osborne Patterson was re-elected as Vice-Chairman, Forwarded by

6. Ongoing Matters

- 6.1 Next MoD liaison meeting scheduled for 25th October.

Action: Kathleen to present an item at the next meeting on safety and other issues on MoD land.

- 6.2 Noted that next joint LAF chairs meeting is in December.

- 6.3 Elliot raised the issue of wildfires. Due to wetter weather over the summer, there were fewer incidents. Emphasised the importance of liaison between path wardens and Fire services, and that more promotional efforts are required to educate the public about wildfire prevention.

- 6.4 Wey and Arun Canal Trust – Meetings have occurred between the WACT subgroup and Tony Ford. Gail said she had had no further updates since the last meeting and

Potential form more traffic as a link between Wisley and Byfleet. Issues with defacement of signage can be more easily protected against by more use of the Bridleway.

8. AONB Update

- 8.1 Rob begins with Ranmore Common and issues with illegal use of off road vehicles, leaving the BOAT and driving around the woods. Arrangements for local community to assist in providing dead wood to help block off access points. Wood can be brought from Sheepleas, and AONB looking to liaise with Councillors, landowners and 4x4 user groups to help address issue. Gareth Highlights issue of lack of Cameras and data protection requirements. John questions if trespass or road traffic offence. There is a specific offence under S.34 of Road Traffic act for driving on land that is not a road, and the police are receptive to the issue.
- 8.2 Promoted route working group discussed – implementation of cycle network and 4 more promoted routes. More funding is available from DEFRA . AONB team are looking to promote sustainable access to the area, with car free travel and equestrian routes. There is also funding for access audits to evaluate availability of the countryside.
- 8.3 Mountain biking – position statement on mountain biking to be announced – looks to enshrine responsible culture, sharing, and address questions of liability.
- 8.4 Rob highlighted some issues whereby cyclists are creating their own ‘unofficial’ routes. Pamela had concerns about impact on landowners. Rob said that there were limited options to prevent this on open access land, best to work with user groups and landowners to work to a constructive solution. John pointed out that trespass is civil rather than criminal so is a matter for landowners. Hurtwood raised as an example of constructive engagement as they encourage cyclists on their land.
- 8.5 Rob updated the forum on proposals for extension of the AONB, for which consultation is underway – objections may proceed to public inquiry. Noted that proposals for national park status have been advocated. Rob also raised that levelling up bill may have impact, with regard given to conserving and protecting the AONB

9 Disabled Users Update

- 9.1 Yasmin visited Frensham great pond in advance of the availability of Access for All funding. She reported that areas of the boardwalk are in a state of disrepair which is an example affecting disabled access. National Lottery funding can help to work together with Surrey to increase accessibility.
- 9.2 Yasmin raised the problem with availability and affordability of transport to countryside areas. Disabled people are often reliant on taxis and there would be a preference for community transport options which would be more affordable and preserve the social aspect of countryside outings. Idea could be to utilise voluntary car share schemes which are already used for things such as hospital visits, could this be extended?
- 9.3 Yasmin and the Surrey Coalition will be attending the Surrey Hills conference and will be running a stand.

- 9.4 Rob extends his thanks to the Surrey coalition on behalf of the AONB. He says they are generous in thinking about the needs of carers, the elderly and other disabled groups, and appreciates the challenges that they face in accessing and enjoying the countryside. He mentions Growing Together initiative and that the AONB are applying for funding to enhance outcomes for access for all.
- 9.5 Ian wants to make clear the distinction of those who have mild disability or mobility difficulties, especially those who are elderly but want to remain active, and that resources should be made available to these people in the areas in which they live. Rob agrees on this and Yasmin points out that initiatives to assist wheelchair users/those with significant mobility issues will be helpful to all. She says the goal is for people to be independent.
- 9.6 John notes that Countryside Access need to be informed about works that will take place on RoWs.

11. Rights of Way Improvement Plan

- 11.1 Jonathan and John give an explanation of the ROWIP to the group. It is a strategic document, intended to last 10 years, which will assist Countryside Access in decision making. A survey open to general public will be sent out with individual workshops with statutory consultees to follow.
- 11.2 **Action:** SCAF to form subgroup to discuss the ROWIP.

12. Forward plan

- 12.1 Forward plan discussed.

13. Outstanding consultations

- 13.1 Outstanding consultations were noted.

14 Any other business/ urgent questions

- 14.1 Peter referred to the increased use of mobility scooters and sought assistance on a

The date for the subsequent meeting is as follows:

Monday 22 January 2024 1:30pm

Woodhatch Place, Larch Room