

## The Surrey Countryside Access Forum

### Minutes of the meeting of the Surrey Countryside Access Forum Surrey Hills AONB Office, Warren Farm Barns, Mickleham Monday, 17 October 2022

#### Present:

##### Members (and their primary interests):

Elliot Cairnes, Chairman (Walking)  
John Barber (Motorcycles)  
Ian Wilks (Walking)  
Penny Carey (Equestrian)  
Vicky Keller (Countryside Management)  
Paul Marshall (Mountain Biking)  
Gail Brownrigg (Carriage driving)  
Pamela Lyman (Landowner)  
Neil Baker (Commons)  
Gareth Jex (Motor Vehicles)

##### Officers:

Joanne Porter, Countryside Access Assistant  
Daniel Williams, Senior Countryside Access Officer Legal Definition  
Jonathan Wall, Countryside Access Assistant  
Rob Fairbanks, Director - Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)  
Oliver Wild, Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

##### Observers:

Peter Hattersley

## 1. Membership of Forum 2022/23

### 1.1 Joanne summarised the membership situation

Pamela Lyman and Paul Marshall have both been reappointed

Pat Lewis has been appointed as a new member her interests are Walking, Conservation and she has been involved in a lot of community groups

Susy Jones was not reappointed.

### 1.2 There are currently 21 members of the Surrey Countryside Access Forum out of a maximum 22.

## 2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

### 2.1 Elliot Cairnes nominated by Pamela Lyman and seconded by Paul Marshall was 1 0 0 1 816d.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### 4. Apologies

4.1 Sophie Gordon (Cycling), Avril Sleeman (Equestrian), Corinna Osborne-Patterson (Landowner), Pat Lewis (Walking), Carolyn McKenzie (Surrey County Council), Yasmin Broome (Surrey Coalition for Disabled People)

### 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

5.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2022 were confirmed with minor amendments.

### 6. Matters arising / Action points

6.1 Joanne read an email from Avril regarding North Park Farm Quarry, and her disappointment that the temporary routes will not become permanent routes across the site despite positive feedback regarding this in the past.

**Action** - Joanne will pass the email on to Dan Williams for him to look at and he will contact Avril to discuss her concerns.

6.2 Users are still experiencing problems when using the web reporting page to report rights of way issues. Ian is concerned that issues are still showing in the system when he knows they have been dealt with. Dan said that it may be worth someone from one of the user groups to talk directly to a maintenance officer so they can see what the problem is and whether it is a problem with the system, or that the issues them still showing up.

**Action** - Joanne to liaise with a maintenance officer.

6.3 Pamela asked if volunteers carry out works on rights of way. Gail said that there is a path warden scheme and asked if it was back up and running. There is information about the path warden scheme on the Surrey County Council website.

6.4 Elliot said that there had been no progress regarding anything to do with the MoD.

6.5 Elliot reported that there had been a Local Access forum (LAF) liaison forum meeting with Chairs and Secretaries of nearby LAFs, although most of them were for unitary and more urban authorities so the issues they dealt with and how they worked was different from the SCAF.

**Action** – resend the presentations from the July meeting.

6.6 Dan said that the organisation chart relating to the Countryside Access Team is still not correct. He said that there will be something more detailed put together as well that details not only the roles, but also a bit about what each role does. The team is nearly up to full strength and a couple of new positions have also been created which will take the pressure off the team and enable it to hopefully be more proactive.

**Action** – Joanne to circulate an Organisation chart when updated

## **7. Matters dealt with since the previous meeting**

7.1 There were no matters dealt with since the last meeting.

## **8. Wey and Arun Canal**

8.1 Elliot reported that the sub-group held a meeting just before the main SCAF meeting and that Ian had taken members on site visits to look at certain places along the canal to look at issues with the Canal restoration / recreation plan.

8.2 Ian, Gail and Elliot have put together an objection letter regarding the latest planning application from the Wey and Arun Canal Trust. The sub-group discussed this and made a few amendments. Elliot outlined the main points of the response and amendments.

**Action** – Joanne to circulate the updated response to agree and then submit to Waverley Borough Council

**Action** – Write a letter to the WACT saying SCAF would like to liaise further and invite them to a further sub-group of full meeting

## **9. M25/A3 junction 10 consultation for non-motorised users**

9.1 National Highways are carrying out a consultation for non-motorised users. The event is in early November and in in Guildford / virtual.

**Action** – Elliot will circulate details to those members that are interested. The details of the proposals are available online

9.2 Gail said that any new rights of way should have the status of restricted byway so there is a possibility that carriage drivers can use the right of way.

## **10. Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Access Funding and other projects of interest**

10.1 Rob reported that there is a new access fund of £7.6 million, of which the Surrey Hills AONB have received a large sum.

10.2 There is a new countryside code campaign which uses QR codes that are available

available on the website.

10.6

that the forms are based on ones that were originally from Natural England. SCAF any feedback about how responses have effected any outcome of a consultation. This could be something that is looked at in the future.

### **13. Forward Plan**

13.1 The forward plan was discussed, amendments made and new suggestion added.

**Action** – amend Forward Plan as discussed

13.2 Elliot is concerned about the lack of representation from someone with an interest in disability access

### **14. Outstanding consultations**

14.1 Outstanding consultations were noted.

### **15. Any other Business / urgent questions**

15.1 Penny said that Network Rail are doing consultations for two potential level crossing closure. Ian said that for the Lilac Cottages consultation there are several options that are being consulted on, and there are no formal applications to divert or extinguish rights of way yet.

**Action** – Ian to send a copy of the consultation to Joanne.

15.2 Peter said that Helyn Clack opened the Discovery Centre at Newlands Corner and any information online. nd

**Action** – Joanne to find out this information

15.3 Pamela objects to people using flour /chalk to lay trails for other people to follow through her land as it attracts rats. It was suggested that Pamela should contact the police if she suspects criminal damage to her property.

15.4 Pamela is also concerned about Surrey County Council promoting foraging courses that then encourage people to forage on private land and removing plants that belong to the landowner. Neil said that at Thursley Common they are trying to educate people not to do this.

15.5 Joanne said that she will be stepping down from doing SCAF Secretarial duties and that Jonathan Wall who has just joined the team will be taking over. There will be a handover period and she will be attending the next meeting to help Jonathan out. Elliot thanked Joanne for her work with the SCAF over the last 10 years.

### **16. Dates of next meeting**

16.1 It was provisionally agreed that meetings will take place next year on the following dates:

Monday 16 January 2023 1.30pm  
Woodhatch Place, Reigate

