

KCAF - Minutes of the Meeting
Monday 8th June 2015
Natural England Offices, International House, Ashford

In attendance:

John Bridle	<i>JB</i>	Chair
Richard Dickenson	<i>RD</i>	Motorised Vehicle User Representative (Vice Chair)
Anne Beecham	<i>AB</i>	Tourism Representative (Vice Chair)
Anne Rillie	<i>AR</i>	Equestrian User Representative
Chris Jelly	<i>CJ</i>	Other Interest Representative – Dog Walking
Ron Butcher	<i>RB</i>	Other Interest Representative – Parish Councils
Mick Laidlaw	<i>ML</i>	Other Interest Representative – Kent Police
Linda Griffin	<i>LG</i>	Other Interest Representative – Cultural and landscape Heritage
Harry Teacher	<i>HT</i>	Landowner / Manager Representative – CLA
Marcelle Lingham	<i>MLi</i>	Other Interested Representative – Sports and Rural Activities
Sue Saunders	<i>SS</i>	Medway - Local Access Forum
Alison Clifton	<i>AC</i>	Minutes (KCC)

Advisors:

Colin Finch	<i>CF</i>	Countryside Access Improvement Plan Officer (KCC)
Kevin Haugh	<i>KH</i>	Natural England
Graham Rusling	<i>GR</i>	Head of PROW & Access – Kent County Council
Tim Briar	<i>TB</i>	British Horse Society Chair of the West Kent Area
Theresa Trussell	<i>TT</i>	Equestrian User

Apologies:

Alison Hargreaves	<i>AH</i>	Walking Representative
Toby Howe	<i>TH</i>	Kent Highways Manager

Members of Public: None

ACTIONS (from meeting held on 8.9.14)

16.	CF to seek a KCAF letter of support, for the CCAIP project.	CF
27.	KCAF to write a letter of support regarding the Kent Downs Rural Streets and Lanes Design Guide.	AB

ACTIONS (from meeting held on 8.12.14)

4.	All to send suggestions, for future topics to AB. Update: JB (new Chairman).	ALL
5.	KH to write a 'landowner Interest' newspaper article.	KH
6.	AB to write to Martins Farms to invite representative to a future KCAF meeting.	AB

ACTIONS (from meeting held on 9.3.15)

1.	CJ to send a draft of the Elham Valley Dog Guide to KH.	CJ
2.	AB/JB to invite a KCC Member to join the Forum and request dedicated Secretarial and Officer support.	AB/JB
3.	AB to list all KCAF activities and save in Dropbox (ALL to update.)	ALL
4.	AB to send the KCAF list of activities to MLi.	AB
6.	ALL to contact CF, if any scheme should be treated as a high priority.	ALL
7.	CF to send a list to the 'CAIP projects' to ALL.	CF
8.	AR to write a letter of support for the CAIP - Loose project to CF.	AR
9.	CJ to send a draft of the Elham Valley Dog Guide to KH.	CJ
10.	GR to discuss byways and the Byways Working Group with RD.	GR

ACTIONS (from meeting held on 8.6.15)		
1.	JB to invite Clive Pearman (KCC Member) to join the Forum.	JB
2.	CF to send details of 'large scale' Planning Applications to JB.	CF
3.	JB to circulate Planning Applications details to ALL.	JB
4.	AB to send Highland Court, Planning Application details to CF & EK PROW, to investigate.	AB
5.	AB to discuss funding and access between Etchinghill & Peene with CF.	AB
6.	AB to invite The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership to the Forum.	AB
7.	JB to invite Charles Tassell (National Farmers Union) to the Forum.	JB
8.	GR to raise KCAF Membership at the Dartford NFU meeting.	GR
9.	SS to send the Medway LAF minutes to AB.	SS
10.	CF to forward comments on the Elham Guided Walk leaflet to CJ.	CF
11.	AB to feedback from the KD- AONB/KWT Tourism & landscape event.	AB
12.	GR to contact AR when the Darnley Trail is complete.	GR
13.	RD to provide an update, on the List of Streets at the next meeting.	RD
14.	AR to send BHS access training details to MLI.	AR
15.	CF / GR to update the Forum on Creation Agreements and compensation provisions.	CF/GR
16.	GR to send ZF5 details to KH (for Coastal Access Project).	GR

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed Sue Saunders and Theresa Trussell.
Apologies were received from: AH and TH

Actions and updates from previous meeting and interim matters arising

KCAF Membership: It was agreed that a KCC Member should be invited to join the Forum.

Action 1: JB to invite Clive Pearman (KCC Member) to join the Forum.

Tourism Representative: with AB's connection with tourism / holiday cottages and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. AB will now take on the new role as Tourism Representative.

Cycling Representative: this position is currently vacant.

1. BHS Presentation

The British Horse Society would like to present a Special Award to the following KCC staff:

Kirstie Williams (Highways Project Team Leader)

Kirstie has been invaluable to the BHS. Particularly in arranging the new BHS signs, along the West Malling Bypass.

Michele Snoding (Public Rights of Way Officer) The BHS wish to thank Michele for being so helpful.

BHS – Long Distance Route across Kent

Long distance routes, currently exist in Devon and in Surrey; and helps to boost the local economy.

TT would like to promote a similar long distance route, across Kent. The 'proposed' route would follow parts of the North Downs Way, quiet lanes and link to the Elham Valley, Alkham Valley and Freedown Rides.

TT asked if community / European funding would be available to support this project.

GR highlighted the following:

- The route would need to be maintenance free.
- The landowner compensation costs would need to be taken into consideration.
- Could this route be promoted for cyclists?

Could the route be promoted under the TROT Scheme or as a permissive route?

2. SE LAF Conference

JB raised concern that attendance was low.

The Conference covered Coastal Access and a new cycle route in the Chilterns.

For further details, contact JB.

3. KCAF Work Programme and set up

It was suggested the following subgroup should be set up to address the following:

Planning and development:

Action 2: CF to send details of 'large scale' planning applications to JB.

Action 3: JB to circulate planning applications details to ALL.

- Ebbsfleet: x2 applications affect the site Paramount Park (www.londonparamount.info/) and a Waste to Energy application.
- Howe Barracks site: Details are available on: www.canterbury.gov.uk
- Highland Ct. (Agrochemical plant): AB raised concern, this application affects a Bridleway.
Action 4: AB to send Highland Ct, planning application details to CF & EK PROW, to investigate.

Health and Wellbeing Boards:

JB attended the Ashford BC - Health and Wellbeing Board.

KCAF Sub group Members: JB, AH

Dog Walking:

Will be led by CJ and will work closely with The Ramblers, Explore Kent and KCC Country Parks.

KCAF Sub group Members: CJ

Byways and Highways:

- Etchinghill – Peene: Are there any funding opportunities to create links to the Heritage Museum?

Action 5: AB to discuss funding and access between Etchinghill & Peene with CF.

- The Byways Working Group: was set up a while ago, to advise the County Member. GR would like to reintroduce the Byways Working Group within the Forum.
KCAF Sub group Members: ML, RD, AR and RB.

Landowner liaison:

- Kent Wildlife Trust: AB confirmed the Kent Wildlife Trust is keen to interact with the Forum.
- National Trust, Ministry of Defence and English Heritage – JB has written and invited a representative to the Forum and is awaiting a response.

Action 6: AB to invite The White Cliffs Countryside Partnership and Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership to the Forum.

Action 7: JB to invite Charles Tassell / National Farmers Union to the Forum.

Action 8: GR to raise KCAF Membership at the Dartford National Farmers Union meeting.

4. Medway Access Forum

Medway LAF is much smaller than KCAF, and is led by Medway Members. They have a good working relationship with planners and landowners.

Current major projects include:

1. Lodge Hill at Chattenden, Hoo
2. St Peter's Pit, Burham (lies on the Medway border).

Action 9: SS to send the Medway LAF minutes to AB.

5. KCAF Supported Projects updates

Dogs in the countryside:

The Elham guided walk leaflet is near completion.

Action 10: CF to forward comments on the Elham guided walk leaflet to CJ.

Tourism initiatives:

On 22nd June 15, the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (KD-AONB) and the Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT) are hosting an event to promote tourism and landscape.

Action 11: AB to feedback from the KD- AONB/KWT Tourism & landscape event.

6. Highways Liaison

Darnley Trail: has been approved through a permissive agreement. The trail is complete, subject to fencing. **Action 12: GR to contact AR when the Darnley Trail is complete.**

List of Streets: RD met Highways in December 14.

Concern was raised that a Highway does not need to be maintained, once it had been issued with a Traffic Regulation Order.

Action 13: RD to provide an update, on the List of Streets at the next meeting.

7. AOB

Training: MLI asked if training will be available for Forum members.

GR confirmed, Public Rights of Way Officers will be trained in 2015 on the following topics:

- Changes to Legislation
- The Deregulation Bill/Act
- Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT's).

Where possible, the courses are arranged, 'in-house,' however in some cases an external trainer may be required. GR confirmed these courses will be available to KCAF Members.

The British Horse Society (BHS) also provide basic access training, for non-members. This includes Ordnance Survey map reading.

Action 14: AR to send BHS Access Training details to MLI.

Creation Agreements:

Action 15: CF / GR to update the Forum on Creation Agreements and Public Rights of Way Compensations Orders.

Birling Diversion:

CF asked the Forum for their support, to divert a Public Bridleway in Birling. Agreed

Coastal Path: (Kevin Haugh)

Natural England has acquired additional resources to complete the Coastal Access project by: 2020.

Folkestone – Ramsgate: It is hoped this section of the route, will be open in 2015.

Camber – Folkestone: An Inspector's Report is awaited.

Whitstable – Iwade: work will starts in July 15. Landowners will be consulted.

The route will link Whitstable Harbour and Kings Ferry Bridge.

Action 16: GR to send ZF5 details to KH (for Coastal Access Project).

8. Date of next meeting

Date:	Monday 14th September 2015
Time:	1.45pm
Venue:	Natural England Offices, International House, Dover Place, Ashford, Kent TN23 1HU
Date:	Monday 14th December 2015
Time:	1.45pm (tbc)
Venue:	tbc

DRAFT