

**1. WSCC Public Rights of Way staffing**

- 1.1 **Senior Rights of Way Officer, Public Path Orders** - Ami Dye has joined the service on a one-year contract to deal with Public Path Orders, including diversions and extinguishments. She has previously been working with West Sussex County Council (WCC) Legal Services dealing with Rights of Way of Way matters. The post had been vacant since Judith Grimwood retired in July.
- 1.2 **England Coast Path Project Officer** - Kevin Dewitt, previously Access Ranger for Area 3 (around Midhurst to Bognor on the coast), started a two-year secondment in October as the England Coast Path (ECP) Project Officer. His role will be to work with Natural England to open up the ECP in West Sussex, including arranging necessary works on the ground. WSCC is currently recruiting to backfill his Access Ranger post.
- 1.3 **Countryside Services Manager** - Charlotte Weller has returned to WSCC from maternity leave. She is currently seconded to another role for six months and Neil Vigar will continue as Countryside Services Manager until she returns from secondment.

**2. WSCC – Report a problem with a Right of Way**

- 2.1 Improvements have been made to the WSCC 'Report a problem with a right of way' reporting form. Now reporters can create an account so they don't have to complete contact details each time they log a report. An automatic email is sent to reporters to confirm the report has been successfully submitted. The maximum size of photos has also increased, as previously large photos could cause the form to time out. The form can be found on the WSCC [Report a problem with a right of way web page](#), along with Council's timescales for investigating reports.
- 2.2 The web form is WSCC's preferred way to receive reports, as it asks for the information needed to process a report. Alternatively reports can be sent directly to [prow@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:prow@westsussex.gov.uk), where as much detail as possible should be included.

**3. Improvement Projects - update**

- 3.1 **Downs Link / A283 crossing at Washington** – WSCC has been in discussion with its designer, WSP, to produce a revised feasibility design. This includes a signal-controlled crossing, however this will only be acceptable to some of the stakeholders if it has minimal visual impact. National design guidance requires street lighting as such crossings, but this is not wanted locally. WSCC Officers are planning to meet the landowners and the South Downs National Park Authority in the coming weeks. Once a design has been agreed funding will be sought.

4. **Burgess Hill, Place and Connectivity programme** – This programme aiming to improve cycle access around Burgess Hill is being led by Mid-Sussex District Council, in partnership with WSCC. It involves widespread bridleway improvements and footpath upgrades, using the standard WSCC bridleway surfacing specification. This work will also benefit other users.

## 5. WSCC Rights of Way – Definitive Map changes

5.1 Since the last formal WSLAF meeting the following changes have been made to the Definitive Map which have increased access on all or part of the following paths:

- **Billingshurst Footpath (FP) 780\_1** – Diversion due to development
- **Billingshurst P42** – 243m of new Permissive Footpath to avoid walking along a section of the B2133
- **Graffham/Lodsworth FP2881, Bridleway 1004, FP 3783** – – A combination of diversion, creation and extinguishment orders resulted in 75m of new footpath.
- **Hassocks FP 9C** – Diversion due to development
- **Hassocks FP10C** – Diversion
- **Lurgashall FP 2030** – Diversion due to development
- **North Horsham FP 3781** – 29 m of new Public Footpath added as a result of a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order)
- **Slinfold FP 3782** - 313m of new Public Footpath added as a result of a DMMO (Definitive Map Modification Order)
- **West Thorney FP 202** - – Diversion due to coastal erosion

5.2 Information about the Planning and Rights of Way Committee, including meeting dates and papers can be found on the [Planning and Rights of Way Committee web pages](#).

## 6. WSLAF Future Meetings

6.1 All formal meetings will generally start at 10.30am. Planned dates and venues may change to due to COVID guidance.

Date	Type	Venue	Topics / Speakers
January 2022 (TBC)	Informal	TBC	TBC
27/4/2022	Formal	Chichester	AGM / TBC

## 7. Neighbouring Local Access Forums (LAFs)

7.1 [South Downs Local Access Forum](#) (SDLAF)

The next meetings of SDLAF is scheduled for:

- December 2021 (date to be confirmed) – hybrid of meeting and online

7.2 [Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum](#)

The next meetings of Brighton and Hove LAF is schedule for:

- 9 December 2021

7.3 [East Sussex Local Access Forum](#) (ESLAF)

7.4 [Hampshire Countryside Access Forum](#) (HCAF)

The previous meeting of HCAF scheduled for 7 September was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for:

- 7 December 2021

7.5 [Surrey Countryside Access Forum](#) (SLAF)

The previous meeting of SLAF was 18 October 2021.

Jane Noble, Forum Officer