

SOMERSET LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MINUTES FOR THE MEETING 22nd OCTOBER 2014 AT STOKE ST GREGORY VILLAGE HALL

SLAF Members attending:

Greg Jones – Chair; Patricia Coombes; Penny Richards; Ann Finn; Wendy Welland; Paul Heal;

SCC Officers attending:

Pete Hobley - Rights of Way Service Manager, Lisa Portman and Emma Parsons – Joint Secretary to SLAF

1. Welcome, Apologies and Notes of absence:

Apologies accepted from Julia Gadd; Cllr Harvey Siggs; Roger Conway

2. a) Minutes from the meeting of 14th May 2014 were agreed and signed off as a true record.

b) Matters arising – Item 13.2.7a, investigating whether Bridleways Association (BA) are able to assist with modification orders. Pete Hobley needs to discuss in this in greater detail. Action to carry forward to next meeting.

Item 14.1.3b. Pete Hobley has discussd this with Glenn Martin. Permissive access for the path still exists.

Item 14.1.3b The article has been written and will hopefully be included in the January 15 edition of 'Your Somerset'.

Item 14.1.4 Pete Hobley received no feedback from members

Item 14.1.5 A formal letter was sent to Cllr Siggs. No response as yet so Greg will chase up.

Item 14.1.7a Working party to respond to ROWIP2 consultation discussed as an agenda item

14.1.8a Pete Hobley had a site meeting with the Forestry Commission and the contractor. The wires containing the tyre bales have corroded – the quality of the galvanisation may not have been up to standard. There's uncertainty as to whether there is any recourse with the contractor – this is in the hands of the Forestry Commission to deal with as they are the lead partner. The land itself is owned by the Crown. Due to the number of partners involved, it's difficult to say what the outcome will be and who's responsible for the ongoing maintenance costs. All partners are awaiting confirmation of options and costs. Greg asked if there was anything SLAF could do to help and it was agreed that they will write to the Forestry Commission to express their concern that that section of the path has been closed for 10 months.

14.1.8b Action to carry forward. Lisa to send information to SLAF members.

14.1.8c Information about neospora was emailed to all parish councils. Lisa said that she received a positive response from them.

14.1.10 No suggestions for training events were received by Greg.

ACTIONS: a) Item 13.2.7a Keep as action for Pete Hobley to investigate and feed back.

b) Item 14.1.3b SLAF recruitment article to be submitted for inclusion in January edition of 'Your Somerset'.

c) Item 14.1.5 Greg to chase response from Cllr Siggs

d) Greg to compile response to Robert Harris at Forestry Commission re the closure of the section of the Neroche path

e) Item 14.1.8b Lisa to send information about the Brean sluice project to members

3. ROWIP2 plan update

Pete Hobley distributed draft copies of the plan. The consultation will open at the beginning of December 14 for 3 months, with the aim that the plan will be adopted in March 15. Consultation will be via a number of channels including an online questionnaire.

Pete explained that the plan is based on the first ROWIP, and is a refresh rather than a major overhaul. There are 2-3 key changes e.g. maintenance and enforcement policy and that diversions will be considered in order to reduce installation and maintenance costs.

Pete gave an update on the restoration and enhancement plan which has developed as a result of Hinkley Point funding. Sarah Littler is heading this up. It's been a good opportunity to look at the existing network and to see if any positive changes can be made.

ACTION: Forum members to meet in January to construct a response. Greg to organise this.

4. SLAF recruitment process

An article will be submitted in the January 15 edition of 'Your Somerset'. It would be useful to include a case study from an existing member. User groups and statutory bodies have been emailed with details about the recruitment process and have been asked to advertise this as widely as

possible. Lisa to circulate a list of who has already been emailed as Forum members may have further suggestions.

Details about the recruitment process, along with application forms, are available on the SCC website. It was agreed that Lisa/Emma would also email application forms to members.

Pete Hobley proposed that the next SLAF meeting be held in June instead of May, to take account of local council elections. The Forum agreed to this.

ACTIONS: Forum members who would like to provide details for a case study – send info to Lisa/Emma asap.

Lisa to circulate user group list to members and ask for suggestions of who else to contact.

5. Reforming Access and Engagement Guidance summary

Greg distributed copies of this. There were no comments from members.

6. 2014 July 16 Item 8 – SCC Report of the Constitution Committee Appendix C

This was circulated for info – it's a document about the role of Regulation Committee and powers of delegation under the Constitution. There will be consequences as a result of the Deregulation bill but these are as yet unknown. It's presently in the House of Lords and will be at final Committee stage soon with the aim of becoming an Act in Spring 15. There will be implications for RoW, most notably the right to apply for diversions, which could result in a glut of applications.

7. LAF Engagement Plan

Copies were distributed and the contents noted by the Forum

8. Feedback reports from Members

- a) Clifford Puddy unable to feed back re LAF conference as not at the meeting.
- b) SW Chair's regional meeting will be held week of 27th Oct. Penny Richards attending and will feed back via email.

9. List of consultations received since May 14

These were noted.

Penny queried about the Coast path consultation and if there was any update. Pete responded that SCC is waiting on the signoff of the agreement with Natural England. 2 significant structures will be needed to enable full coastal

access. One is a bridge (a planning application has been submitted) and the other is a staircase, which will also need planning permission.

The establishment of the path and associated costs will be the responsibility of Natural England. Ongoing costs will be borne by an agreement between Natural England and SCC.

10. Date of next meeting 6pm on 10th or 17th June 2015.

TBC by Emma/Lisa

Questions from the public

Alison Kent from the British Horse Society asked about the maintenance of the Neroche herepath and whether there was a written agreement in place.

Pete Hopley responded that the original set up of the Neroche partnership and establishment of the herepath was overseen by previous SCC officers. In addition, one of the Project Officers left mid way through the project. There are also a number of partners involved and for these reasons combined, the maintenance agreement isn't clearcut. The spec for the original work is held by the Forestry Commission and was drawn up by the contractor. SCC aren't the lead partner so it's difficult to progress things without the input of the other partners.

Alison asked if it would help if the BHS wrote to the Forestry Commission and Pete agreed it would.

Pete gave an update about the creation of a new 5km bridleway circuit at Steart. SCC have secured a 50 year maintenance agreement with the Environment Agency for them to maintain paths throughout the Steart development.

Summary of Actions Arising

Item Number	Details	Update/Outcome
13.2.7a	Pete Hopley to investigate whether Bridleways Association are able to assist with modification orders and investigate increased use of volunteers within the Modification team.	Carry forward
14.1.3b	Lisa and Emma to write article about becoming a SLAF member for inclusion in Autumn edition of 'Your Somerset'	Carry forward to be submitted in January edition
14.1.5	Greg to compile a formal response on behalf of SLAF regarding their concern about the lack of resource to deal with the backlog in	Awaiting response so Greg to chase up. Carry forward.

	modification orders, and send to Cllr Harvey Siggs. Deadline start of July for response to be discussed at next SLAF meeting in October.	
14.1.7a	Greg Jones to set up working party to respond to the ROWIP2 consultation	Carry forward. Greg to set up working party to meet in January 15.
14.1.8b	Lisa and Emma to send details of the Brean Cross sluice project to SLAF members	Carry forward.
14.2.1	Greg to compile response to Robert Harris at Forestry Commission re the closure of the section of the Neroche path	
14.2.4a	Forum members who would like to provide details for a case study for inclusion in 'Your Somerset'– send info to Lisa/Emma asap	
14.2.4b	Lisa to circulate user group list to members and ask for suggestions of who else to contact.	Details have been circulated and suggestions have now been received