

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Agenda
Meeting Date:	24 January 2013
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

			Paper Number
1.	2.45	CLOSED SESSSION – NOT OPEN TO PUBLIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Access Restrictions • MOD Consultation • NE NNR 	Papers will be handed out at the meeting
2.	3.00	Welcome, apologies and housekeeping	
3.		Minutes of previous meeting	LAF12/35
4.		Declaration of interest	
5.	3.10	Issues Affecting a Walk in the Countryside Sharon Berry, Public Rights of Way Officer, Mid Suffolk District Council	Presentation
6.	3.25	Countryside Access and Health Saraid Cann, Professional Advisor, Adult and Community Services, Suffolk County Council	Presentation
7.	3.50	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)	LAF13/01 – DF
8.	4.00	Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England	LAF13/02 – AW
9.	4.10	LAF Chairs’ and Vice Chairs’ East of England Meeting LAF National Conference 2013	LAF13/03 – DF LAF13/04 – DF
10.	4.20	Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A11 Fiveways to Thetford Improvement Scheme • Independent Panel on Forestry • Sizewell C Public Consultation • Wild Anglia • Gating Order Consultation 	LAF13/05 – AW LAF13/06 – AW LAF13/07 – AW LAF13/08 – DF Verbal – DF
11.	4.50	Any Other Business	
12.	4.55	Public question time	
13.	5.00	Dates & Venues of Future Meetings	

DF stated the paper was for information and concerned a proposed dog control order at Aspal Close Local Nature Reserve, which SCC and SLAF had no objection to.

13. Membership – renewal and recruitment

AW advised that a number of memberships were up for renewal in April, July and October 2013 and SCC was considering another round of recruitment. One or two expressions of interest have been received from the public.

BC stated it would be helpful if anyone no longer wishes to remain a member of SLAF to let DF/AW know.

ACTION: ALL Advise DF/AW if you don't wish to renew membership of SLAF.

DB said he felt attendance at the SLAF forum was very good and it was important that potential new members would support and attend the forum in the same way.

14. Any Other Business

AWr advised that Sustrans were meeting with Network Rail and The Environment Agency (EA) regarding the Ipswich Chord. EA no longer required the sluice, which meant a ramp would no longer be required on the path. EA are keen to have the sluice removed as soon as possible.

BC thanked CK for attending and presenting at SLAF.

15. Public question time

There was one member of the public, Gemma Marriage, present.

16. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

24 th January 2013	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds
18 th April 2013	tba
11 th July 2013	tba
17 th October 2013	Elveden Village Hall

AWr stated access to Bath Street would be advantageous and the proposals were a definite improvement for cyclists but there was still an anomaly at Foundry Street and Bridge Street, which was an accident hotspot.

BC asked if anyone had any issues with the proposals, he felt they made sense.

BC confirmed there were no objections to the proposals.

AW stated signing around the waterfront would need to be addressed once the outcome of the traffic order process was known.

12. Updates/correspondence

Trunk Roads - A11

The second project newsletter from the Highways Agency was handed out. AW stated the main works would commence early next year but the minor access work with the assistance of the Elveden Estate had already started.

The discussions about the diversion of the bridleway north of the memorial had already started with Elveden Estate and AW didn't expect any objections from user groups.

DB suggested a SLAF meeting at Elveden Village Hall next autumn and a site visit to review the works.

Trunk Roads – A14

AW stated the authority had concerns about the A14 crossing at Bramford and would be formally writing to the Highways Agency requesting funding into a feasibility study into providing a bridge.

AWr stated this had already been carried out a couple of times and Atkins had gone into considerable detail, one example was the bridge at Felixstowe.

ACTION: SLAF to write to Highway Agency concerning the A14 crossing at Bramford.

Regional LAF Chair Meeting

BC will attend the meeting on 15th November.

ACTION: DF to send details and agenda to BC.

National LAF Conference

The conference is to be held on 27th February 2013 at 9.30, venue to be confirmed but details should be available by the next SLAF meeting in January.

ACTION: DF to circulate details once issued.

Forest Heath DC Dog Control Order (LAF 12/34)

ACTION: DF to draft response on behalf of SLAF identifying aspirations for higher rights to cater for horse riding and cycling and requesting further information on the process NE intends to follow.

Review of dog restrictions (LAF 12/30)

DF advised that current restrictions concerning keeping dogs on leads until end of August remains in place.

Access Restrictions

Restrictions are usually reviewed annually although this has not happened for a couple of years. There is a teleconference being held at Endeavour House, 1pm on Wednesday 24th October to assess current restrictions. BH and GM agreed to attend.

Mapping Review

DF advised that Natural England have stated their review would be a 'light touch'.

DB commented that Suffolk is the only place in the world that Stone Curlews are increasing and that the county pioneered the conservation success.

9. Independent Panel on Forestry (LAF 12/31)

AW confirmed that two letters were written to MPs but no response had been received. Both AW and BC felt this was disappointing.

There is no news on a formal response; this will probably be next year.

10. Local Nature Partnership – Wild Anglia (LAF 12/32)

The event was attended by AW and MA who felt there was a lot of enthusiasm.

AW provided feedback stating it would be a funded partnership eventually becoming a not-for-profit charity.

BC said it was full of good intentions but was concerned that with so many groups after funding, there wouldn't be much to go around. Whilst it had the support of SLAF, the forum was concerned at the lack of information on how it would be represented in the partnership.

JS questioned whether Norfolk had heard anything, CK believes Norfolk LAF is involved and will investigate.

ACTION: SLAF to write formally to Wild Anglia to request further information on representation.

11. Ipswich Waterfront (LAF 12/33)

AW discussed the proposals and explained that orders would be made on traffic management which would go out to public consultation. A taxi rank and disabled access are being considered at part of this.

JS asked if QR code would be used and was advised this was being investigated.

MA asked how much of the 92 mile route was in Suffolk. CK advised approx 65%.

AW stressed the project would be a joint delivery.

BC thanked CK for both presentations, stating both were excellent and interesting.

6. The Suffolk Coast and Estuaries Community Conference 2012

BC fed back on his attendance at the conference stating his concerns of funding to allow access and the prediction that there was to be a 1953 type flood every 10 years in 100 years time. He felt there were issues that needed to be dealt with as soon as possible, and questioned NE's assertion that only 1% of spending on flood defences was spent on conservation.

7. Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2011-2012 (LAF 12/26, 27 and 28).

BC felt that the report was well received by Cabinet and commented that Suffolk County Council and SLAF have a very constructive relationship. He thanked JS for her support at the Cabinet meeting.

DF confirmed that a summary of the report (LAF 12/28) has been sent to Natural England. He also advised the forum that all papers are now available online via the SLAF website – <http://publicrightsofway.onesuffolk.net/suffolk-local-access-forum>

8. Open Access

Natural England National Nature Reserves (LAF 12/29)

DF explained that Natural England are intending to dedicate their National Nature Reserves (NNR) as Open Access land. In Suffolk sites are Cavenham Heath, Westleton Heath and Suffolk Coast. Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath are already designated as Open Access; the Suffolk Coast NNR lies between Walberswick and Dunwich including Westwood and Dingle Marshes.

NE will consult with SCC and SLAF and other stakeholders before discussing with the Senior Reserve Manager any opportunities for higher rights to allow cycling and equestrian use of the NNR. DF suggested there were opportunities for waymarked circular routes for horse riding and cycling in Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath.

BC suggested a dialogue should be opened and was supported by GM. AWr asked if the car parks could cater for the provision of horseboxes, DF didn't see that as a problem. AW noted the process NE would need to follow wasn't entirely clear.

The response for Westleton Heath is due March 2013, Cavenham Heath by March 2014 and Suffolk Coast by March 2015.

detailing the route to use. This report has now gone to public consultation with hard copies available for view at county council, district council and parish council offices as well as libraries.

CK noted spreading room had been a contentious issue with land managers. Natural England was tending not to pursue this on the landward side, but the seaward side was less contentious.

The final report, which is stage 5 of 10 of Implementation, is due by the summer of 2013, when landowners will be able to raise any objections. The Secretary of State will determine the final outcome.

Stage 8, preparation and commencement of rights will be funded by Natural England. Funding for Stage 9, maintenance, management and monitoring is under review.

The second stretch from Sea Palling to Hopton-on-Sea is due to start in 2012. Currently Natural England has programmed the next stretch from Norfolk into Lincolnshire during 2014-2017.

BC raised the issued of caravan parks and development.

CK reported that development takes priority. Caravan parks and golf courses are not exempted land. Norfolk have 14 caravan parks and CK found some park owners are happy for the coastal path to pass through their parks as they could see expected revenue from passing trade calling in at their shop/café. Although there are issues with some parks which are not operational through the winter months as they are secured.

JS questioned whether anything could be done beforehand where cliffs are at risk of erosion. CK explained the roll back system, which is to the next hard boundary.

JW and GM raised their concerns over the cost of implementation by local authorities, especially as there is 220 miles of Suffolk coastline.

5. Angles Way Project

CK then gave a presentation on The Angles Way Experience.

Norfolk County Council have received funding under the Rural Development Programme England (RDPE) for the Waveney Valley. The main objectives are to promote The Angles Way as the green corridor linking market towns from Great Yarmouth to Thetford; improving access and engaging local businesses. The key areas are to replace stiles with gates, improve waymarking and raising the profile of the route.

BC stated that he rated this interesting route highly and was keen that the paths were kept natural. CK confirmed there would be little change and the key priority was accessibility.

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Minutes of meeting held at Beccles Town Hall, 18th October 2012
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Jackie Gillis
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

1. Welcome, apologies and housekeeping

Present: Bryan Collen (Chair) (BC), David Barker (Vice-Chair) (DB), Melinda Appleby (MA), Barry Hall (BH), Gordon Merfield (GM), Monica Pipe (MP), Norman Southgate (NS), Anthony Wright (AWR), John Wayman (JW), Cllr Jane Storey (JS), Alan Moore (AM).

SCC Officers Present: David Falk (DF), Andrew Woodin (AW), Jackie Gillis (minutes)

Apologies: Mike Taylor, Ann Langley, Cllr Sandy Martin, Margaret Hancock

Guests: Carrie Kerry, Countryside Officer Norfolk County Council

2. Minutes of previous meeting (LAF 12/25)

The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

Item 2: AW confirmed the Suffolk Coast paths undergo two cuts a year.

Item 6 Huddle: AW confirmed there are now 4 licensed users at Suffolk County Council; himself, DF, Jackie Gillis and Jill Christley. AW is finding Huddle useful and is circulating relevant information to members.

Item 7 Suffolk Road-Rail Partnership: AW commented that Network Rail had agreed to take forward the proposal for a new bridleway bridge at Heath Road Great Barton.

3. Declaration of interest

None declared.

4. Coastal Access

BC welcomed Carrie Kerry (CK) to the meeting.

CK introduced herself as Norfolk County Council Countryside Officer and gave a presentation on Coastal Access in Norfolk. Norfolk is a lead county for implementing coastal access.

The first stretch from Weybourne to Sea Palling has been walked and all information such as landowners, land condition and issues has been recorded on a Trimble GPS system. This information is then fed into a computer which produces a report

DF stated the paper was for information and concerned a proposed dog control order at Aspal Close Local Nature Reserve, which SCC and SLAF had no objection to.

13. Membership – renewal and recruitment

AW advised that a number of memberships were up for renewal in April, July and October 2013 and SCC was considering another round of recruitment. One or two expressions of interest have been received from the public.

BC stated it would be helpful if anyone no longer wishes to remain a member of SLAF to let DF/AW know.

ACTION: ALL Advise DF/AW if you don't wish to renew membership of SLAF.

DB said he felt attendance at the SLAF forum was very good and it was important that potential new members would support and attend the forum in the same way.

14. Any Other Business

AWr advised that Sustrans were meeting with Network Rail and The Environment Agency (EA) regarding the Ipswich Chord. EA no longer required the sluice, which meant a ramp would no longer be required on the path. EA are keen to have the sluice removed as soon as possible.

BC thanked CK for attending and presenting at SLAF.

15. Public question time

There was one member of the public, Gemma Marriage, present.

16. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

24 th January 2013	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds
18 th April 2013	tba
11 th July 2013	tba
17 th October 2013	Elveden Village Hall

AWr stated access to Bath Street would be advantageous and the proposals were a definite improvement for cyclists but there was still an anomaly at Foundry Street and Bridge Street, which was an accident hotspot.

BC asked if anyone had any issues with the proposals, he felt they made sense.

BC confirmed there were no objections to the proposals.

AW stated signing around the waterfront would need to be addressed once the outcome of the traffic order process was known.

12. Updates/correspondence

Trunk Roads - A11

The second project newsletter from the Highways Agency was handed out. AW stated the main works would commence early next year but the minor access work with the assistance of the Elveden Estate had already started.

The discussions about the diversion of the bridleway north of the memorial had already started with Elveden Estate and AW didn't expect any objections from user groups.

DB suggested a SLAF meeting at Elveden Village Hall next autumn and a site visit to review the works.

Trunk Roads – A14

AW stated the authority had concerns about the A14 crossing at Bramford and would be formally writing to the Highways Agency requesting funding into a feasibility study into providing a bridge.

AWr stated this had already been carried out a couple of times and Atkins had gone into considerable detail, one example was the bridge at Felixstowe.

ACTION: SLAF to write to Highway Agency concerning the A14 crossing at Bramford.

Regional LAF Chair Meeting

BC will attend the meeting on 15th November.

ACTION: DF to send details and agenda to BC.

National LAF Conference

The conference is to be held on 27th February 2013 at 9.30, venue to be confirmed but details should be available by the next SLAF meeting in January.

ACTION: DF to circulate details once issued.

Forest Heath DC Dog Control Order (LAF 12/34)

ACTION: DF to draft response on behalf of SLAF identifying aspirations for higher rights to cater for horse riding and cycling and requesting further information on the process NE intends to follow.

Review of dog restrictions (LAF 12/30)

DF advised that current restrictions concerning keeping dogs on leads until end of August remains in place.

Access Restrictions

Restrictions are usually reviewed annually although this has not happened for a couple of years. There is a teleconference being held at Endeavour House, 1pm on Wednesday 24th October to assess current restrictions. BH and GM agreed to attend.

Mapping Review

DF advised that Natural England have stated their review would be a 'light touch'.

DB commented that Suffolk is the only place in the world that Stone Curlews are increasing and that the county pioneered the conservation success.

9. Independent Panel on Forestry (LAF 12/31)

AW confirmed that two letters were written to MPs but no response had been received. Both AW and BC felt this was disappointing.

There is no news on a formal response; this will probably be next year.

10. Local Nature Partnership – Wild Anglia (LAF 12/32)

The event was attended by AW and MA who felt there was a lot of enthusiasm.

AW provided feedback stating it would be a funded partnership eventually becoming a not-for-profit charity.

BC said it was full of good intentions but was concerned that with so many groups after funding, there wouldn't be much to go around. Whilst it had the support of SLAF, the forum was concerned at the lack of information on how it would be represented in the partnership.

JS questioned whether Norfolk had heard anything, CK believes Norfolk LAF is involved and will investigate.

ACTION: SLAF to write formally to Wild Anglia to request further information on representation.

11. Ipswich Waterfront (LAF 12/33)

AW discussed the proposals and explained that orders would be made on traffic management which would go out to public consultation. A taxi rank and disabled access are being considered at part of this.

JS asked if QR code would be used and was advised this was being investigated.

MA asked how much of the 92 mile route was in Suffolk. CK advised approx 65%.

AW stressed the project would be a joint delivery.

BC thanked CK for both presentations, stating both were excellent and interesting.

6. The Suffolk Coast and Estuaries Community Conference 2012

BC fed back on his attendance at the conference stating his concerns of funding to allow access and the prediction that there was to be a 1953 type flood every 10 years in 100 years time. He felt there were issues that needed to be dealt with as soon as possible, and questioned NE's assertion that only 1% of spending on flood defences was spent on conservation.

7. Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2011-2012 (LAF 12/26, 27 and 28).

BC felt that the report was well received by Cabinet and commented that Suffolk County Council and SLAF have a very constructive relationship. He thanked JS for her support at the Cabinet meeting.

DF confirmed that a summary of the report (LAF 12/28) has been sent to Natural England. He also advised the forum that all papers are now available online via the SLAF website – <http://publicrightsofway.onesuffolk.net/suffolk-local-access-forum>

8. Open Access

Natural England National Nature Reserves (LAF 12/29)

DF explained that Natural England are intending to dedicate their National Nature Reserves (NNR) as Open Access land. In Suffolk sites are Cavenham Heath, Westleton Heath and Suffolk Coast. Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath are already designated as Open Access; the Suffolk Coast NNR lies between Walberswick and Dunwich including Westwood and Dingle Marshes.

NE will consult with SCC and SLAF and other stakeholders before discussing with the Senior Reserve Manager any opportunities for higher rights to allow cycling and equestrian use of the NNR. DF suggested there were opportunities for waymarked circular routes for horse riding and cycling in Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath.

BC suggested a dialogue should be opened and was supported by GM. AWr asked if the car parks could cater for the provision of horseboxes, DF didn't see that as a problem. AW noted the process NE would need to follow wasn't entirely clear.

The response for Westleton Heath is due March 2013, Cavenham Heath by March 2014 and Suffolk Coast by March 2015.

detailing the route to use. This report has now gone to public consultation with hard copies available for view at county council, district council and parish council offices as well as libraries.

CK noted spreading room had been a contentious issue with land managers. Natural England was tending not to pursue this on the landward side, but the seaward side was less contentious.

The final report, which is stage 5 of 10 of Implementation, is due by the summer of 2013, when landowners will be able to raise any objections. The Secretary of State will determine the final outcome.

Stage 8, preparation and commencement of rights will be funded by Natural England. Funding for Stage 9, maintenance, management and monitoring is under review.

The second stretch from Sea Palling to Hopton-on-Sea is due to start in 2012. Currently Natural England has programmed the next stretch from Norfolk into Lincolnshire during 2014-2017.

BC raised the issued of caravan parks and development.

CK reported that development takes priority. Caravan parks and golf courses are not exempted land. Norfolk have 14 caravan parks and CK found some park owners are happy for the coastal path to pass through their parks as they could see expected revenue from passing trade calling in at their shop/café. Although there are issues with some parks which are not operational through the winter months as they are secured.

JS questioned whether anything could be done beforehand where cliffs are at risk of erosion. CK explained the roll back system, which is to the next hard boundary.

JW and GM raised their concerns over the cost of implementation by local authorities, especially as there is 220 miles of Suffolk coastline.

5. Angles Way Project

CK then gave a presentation on The Angles Way Experience.

Norfolk County Council have received funding under the Rural Development Programme England (RDPE) for the Waveney Valley. The main objectives are to promote The Angles Way as the green corridor linking market towns from Great Yarmouth to Thetford; improving access and engaging local businesses. The key areas are to replace stiles with gates, improve waymarking and raising the profile of the route.

BC stated that he rated this interesting route highly and was keen that the paths were kept natural. CK confirmed there would be little change and the key priority was accessibility.

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Minutes of meeting held at Beccles Town Hall, 18th October 2012
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Jackie Gillis
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

1. Welcome, apologies and housekeeping

Present: Bryan Collen (Chair) (BC), David Barker (Vice-Chair) (DB), Melinda Appleby (MA), Barry Hall (BH), Gordon Merfield (GM), Monica Pipe (MP), Norman Southgate (NS), Anthony Wright (AWR), John Wayman (JW), Cllr Jane Storey (JS), Alan Moore (AM).

SCC Officers Present: David Falk (DF), Andrew Woodin (AW), Jackie Gillis (minutes)

Apologies: Mike Taylor, Ann Langley, Cllr Sandy Martin, Margaret Hancock

Guests: Carrie Kerry, Countryside Officer Norfolk County Council

2. Minutes of previous meeting (LAF 12/25)

The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

Item 2: AW confirmed the Suffolk Coast paths undergo two cuts a year.

Item 6 Huddle: AW confirmed there are now 4 licensed users at Suffolk County Council; himself, DF, Jackie Gillis and Jill Christley. AW is finding Huddle useful and is circulating relevant information to members.

Item 7 Suffolk Road-Rail Partnership: AW commented that Network Rail had agreed to take forward the proposal for a new bridleway bridge at Heath Road Great Barton.

3. Declaration of interest

None declared.

4. Coastal Access

BC welcomed Carrie Kerry (CK) to the meeting.

CK introduced herself as Norfolk County Council Countryside Officer and gave a presentation on Coastal Access in Norfolk. Norfolk is a lead county for implementing coastal access.

The first stretch from Weybourne to Sea Palling has been walked and all information such as landowners, land condition and issues has been recorded on a Trimble GPS system. This information is then fed into a computer which produces a report

DF stated the paper was for information and concerned a proposed dog control order at Aspal Close Local Nature Reserve, which SCC and SLAF had no objection to.

13. Membership – renewal and recruitment

AW advised that a number of memberships were up for renewal in April, July and October 2013 and SCC was considering another round of recruitment. One or two expressions of interest have been received from the public.

BC stated it would be helpful if anyone no longer wishes to remain a member of SLAF to let DF/AW know.

ACTION: ALL Advise DF/AW if you don't wish to renew membership of SLAF.

DB said he felt attendance at the SLAF forum was very good and it was important that potential new members would support and attend the forum in the same way.

14. Any Other Business

AWr advised that Sustrans were meeting with Network Rail and The Environment Agency (EA) regarding the Ipswich Chord. EA no longer required the sluice, which meant a ramp would no longer be required on the path. EA are keen to have the sluice removed as soon as possible.

BC thanked CK for attending and presenting at SLAF.

15. Public question time

There was one member of the public, Gemma Marriage, present.

16. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

24 th January 2013	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds
18 th April 2013	tba
11 th July 2013	tba
17 th October 2013	Elveden Village Hall

AWr stated access to Bath Street would be advantageous and the proposals were a definite improvement for cyclists but there was still an anomaly at Foundry Street and Bridge Street, which was an accident hotspot.

BC asked if anyone had any issues with the proposals, he felt they made sense.

BC confirmed there were no objections to the proposals.

AW stated signing around the waterfront would need to be addressed once the outcome of the traffic order process was known.

12. Updates/correspondence

Trunk Roads - A11

The second project newsletter from the Highways Agency was handed out. AW stated the main works would commence early next year but the minor access work with the assistance of the Elveden Estate had already started.

The discussions about the diversion of the bridleway north of the memorial had already started with Elveden Estate and AW didn't expect any objections from user groups.

DB suggested a SLAF meeting at Elveden Village Hall next autumn and a site visit to review the works.

Trunk Roads – A14

AW stated the authority had concerns about the A14 crossing at Bramford and would be formally writing to the Highways Agency requesting funding into a feasibility study into providing a bridge.

AWr stated this had already been carried out a couple of times and Atkins had gone into considerable detail, one example was the bridge at Felixstowe.

ACTION: SLAF to write to Highway Agency concerning the A14 crossing at Bramford.

Regional LAF Chair Meeting

BC will attend the meeting on 15th November.

ACTION: DF to send details and agenda to BC.

National LAF Conference

The conference is to be held on 27th February 2013 at 9.30, venue to be confirmed but details should be available by the next SLAF meeting in January.

ACTION: DF to circulate details once issued.

Forest Heath DC Dog Control Order (LAF 12/34)

ACTION: DF to draft response on behalf of SLAF identifying aspirations for higher rights to cater for horse riding and cycling and requesting further information on the process NE intends to follow.

Review of dog restrictions (LAF 12/30)

DF advised that current restrictions concerning keeping dogs on leads until end of August remains in place.

Access Restrictions

Restrictions are usually reviewed annually although this has not happened for a couple of years. There is a teleconference being held at Endeavour House, 1pm on Wednesday 24th October to assess current restrictions. BH and GM agreed to attend.

Mapping Review

DF advised that Natural England have stated their review would be a 'light touch'.

DB commented that Suffolk is the only place in the world that Stone Curlews are increasing and that the county pioneered the conservation success.

9. Independent Panel on Forestry (LAF 12/31)

AW confirmed that two letters were written to MPs but no response had been received. Both AW and BC felt this was disappointing.

There is no news on a formal response; this will probably be next year.

10. Local Nature Partnership – Wild Anglia (LAF 12/32)

The event was attended by AW and MA who felt there was a lot of enthusiasm.

AW provided feedback stating it would be a funded partnership eventually becoming a not-for-profit charity.

BC said it was full of good intentions but was concerned that with so many groups after funding, there wouldn't be much to go around. Whilst it had the support of SLAF, the forum was concerned at the lack of information on how it would be represented in the partnership.

JS questioned whether Norfolk had heard anything, CK believes Norfolk LAF is involved and will investigate.

ACTION: SLAF to write formally to Wild Anglia to request further information on representation.

11. Ipswich Waterfront (LAF 12/33)

AW discussed the proposals and explained that orders would be made on traffic management which would go out to public consultation. A taxi rank and disabled access are being considered at part of this.

JS asked if QR code would be used and was advised this was being investigated.

MA asked how much of the 92 mile route was in Suffolk. CK advised approx 65%.

AW stressed the project would be a joint delivery.

BC thanked CK for both presentations, stating both were excellent and interesting.

6. The Suffolk Coast and Estuaries Community Conference 2012

BC fed back on his attendance at the conference stating his concerns of funding to allow access and the prediction that there was to be a 1953 type flood every 10 years in 100 years time. He felt there were issues that needed to be dealt with as soon as possible, and questioned NE's assertion that only 1% of spending on flood defences was spent on conservation.

7. Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2011-2012 (LAF 12/26, 27 and 28).

BC felt that the report was well received by Cabinet and commented that Suffolk County Council and SLAF have a very constructive relationship. He thanked JS for her support at the Cabinet meeting.

DF confirmed that a summary of the report (LAF 12/28) has been sent to Natural England. He also advised the forum that all papers are now available online via the SLAF website – <http://publicrightsofway.onesuffolk.net/suffolk-local-access-forum>

8. Open Access

Natural England National Nature Reserves (LAF 12/29)

DF explained that Natural England are intending to dedicate their National Nature Reserves (NNR) as Open Access land. In Suffolk sites are Cavenham Heath, Westleton Heath and Suffolk Coast. Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath are already designated as Open Access; the Suffolk Coast NNR lies between Walberswick and Dunwich including Westwood and Dingle Marshes.

NE will consult with SCC and SLAF and other stakeholders before discussing with the Senior Reserve Manager any opportunities for higher rights to allow cycling and equestrian use of the NNR. DF suggested there were opportunities for waymarked circular routes for horse riding and cycling in Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath.

BC suggested a dialogue should be opened and was supported by GM. AWr asked if the car parks could cater for the provision of horseboxes, DF didn't see that as a problem. AW noted the process NE would need to follow wasn't entirely clear.

The response for Westleton Heath is due March 2013, Cavenham Heath by March 2014 and Suffolk Coast by March 2015.

detailing the route to use. This report has now gone to public consultation with hard copies available for view at county council, district council and parish council offices as well as libraries.

CK noted spreading room had been a contentious issue with land managers. Natural England was tending not to pursue this on the landward side, but the seaward side was less contentious.

The final report, which is stage 5 of 10 of Implementation, is due by the summer of 2013, when landowners will be able to raise any objections. The Secretary of State will determine the final outcome.

Stage 8, preparation and commencement of rights will be funded by Natural England. Funding for Stage 9, maintenance, management and monitoring is under review.

The second stretch from Sea Palling to Hopton-on-Sea is due to start in 2012. Currently Natural England has programmed the next stretch from Norfolk into Lincolnshire during 2014-2017.

BC raised the issued of caravan parks and development.

CK reported that development takes priority. Caravan parks and golf courses are not exempted land. Norfolk have 14 caravan parks and CK found some park owners are happy for the coastal path to pass through their parks as they could see expected revenue from passing trade calling in at their shop/café. Although there are issues with some parks which are not operational through the winter months as they are secured.

JS questioned whether anything could be done beforehand where cliffs are at risk of erosion. CK explained the roll back system, which is to the next hard boundary.

JW and GM raised their concerns over the cost of implementation by local authorities, especially as there is 220 miles of Suffolk coastline.

5. Angles Way Project

CK then gave a presentation on The Angles Way Experience.

Norfolk County Council have received funding under the Rural Development Programme England (RDPE) for the Waveney Valley. The main objectives are to promote The Angles Way as the green corridor linking market towns from Great Yarmouth to Thetford; improving access and engaging local businesses. The key areas are to replace stiles with gates, improve waymarking and raising the profile of the route.

BC stated that he rated this interesting route highly and was keen that the paths were kept natural. CK confirmed there would be little change and the key priority was accessibility.

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Minutes of meeting held at Beccles Town Hall, 18th October 2012
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Jackie Gillis
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

1. Welcome, apologies and housekeeping

Present: Bryan Collen (Chair) (BC), David Barker (Vice-Chair) (DB), Melinda Appleby (MA), Barry Hall (BH), Gordon Merfield (GM), Monica Pipe (MP), Norman Southgate (NS), Anthony Wright (AWR), John Wayman (JW), Cllr Jane Storey (JS), Alan Moore (AM).

SCC Officers Present: David Falk (DF), Andrew Woodin (AW), Jackie Gillis (minutes)

Apologies: Mike Taylor, Ann Langley, Cllr Sandy Martin, Margaret Hancock

Guests: Carrie Kerry, Countryside Officer Norfolk County Council

2. Minutes of previous meeting (LAF 12/25)

The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

Item 2: AW confirmed the Suffolk Coast paths undergo two cuts a year.

Item 6 Huddle: AW confirmed there are now 4 licensed users at Suffolk County Council; himself, DF, Jackie Gillis and Jill Christley. AW is finding Huddle useful and is circulating relevant information to members.

Item 7 Suffolk Road-Rail Partnership: AW commented that Network Rail had agreed to take forward the proposal for a new bridleway bridge at Heath Road Great Barton.

3. Declaration of interest

None declared.

4. Coastal Access

BC welcomed Carrie Kerry (CK) to the meeting.

CK introduced herself as Norfolk County Council Countryside Officer and gave a presentation on Coastal Access in Norfolk. Norfolk is a lead county for implementing coastal access.

The first stretch from Weybourne to Sea Palling has been walked and all information such as landowners, land condition and issues has been recorded on a Trimble GPS system. This information is then fed into a computer which produces a report

DF stated the paper was for information and concerned a proposed dog control order at Aspal Close Local Nature Reserve, which SCC and SLAF had no objection to.

13. Membership – renewal and recruitment

AW advised that a number of memberships were up for renewal in April, July and October 2013 and SCC was considering another round of recruitment. One or two expressions of interest have been received from the public.

BC stated it would be helpful if anyone no longer wishes to remain a member of SLAF to let DF/AW know.

ACTION: ALL Advise DF/AW if you don't wish to renew membership of SLAF.

DB said he felt attendance at the SLAF forum was very good and it was important that potential new members would support and attend the forum in the same way.

14. Any Other Business

AWr advised that Sustrans were meeting with Network Rail and The Environment Agency (EA) regarding the Ipswich Chord. EA no longer required the sluice, which meant a ramp would no longer be required on the path. EA are keen to have the sluice removed as soon as possible.

BC thanked CK for attending and presenting at SLAF.

15. Public question time

There was one member of the public, Gemma Marriage, present.

16. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

24 th January 2013	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds
18 th April 2013	tba
11 th July 2013	tba
17 th October 2013	Elveden Village Hall

AWr stated access to Bath Street would be advantageous and the proposals were a definite improvement for cyclists but there was still an anomaly at Foundry Street and Bridge Street, which was an accident hotspot.

BC asked if anyone had any issues with the proposals, he felt they made sense.

BC confirmed there were no objections to the proposals.

AW stated signing around the waterfront would need to be addressed once the outcome of the traffic order process was known.

12. Updates/correspondence

Trunk Roads - A11

The second project newsletter from the Highways Agency was handed out. AW stated the main works would commence early next year but the minor access work with the assistance of the Elveden Estate had already started.

The discussions about the diversion of the bridleway north of the memorial had already started with Elveden Estate and AW didn't expect any objections from user groups.

DB suggested a SLAF meeting at Elveden Village Hall next autumn and a site visit to review the works.

Trunk Roads – A14

AW stated the authority had concerns about the A14 crossing at Bramford and would be formally writing to the Highways Agency requesting funding into a feasibility study into providing a bridge.

AWr stated this had already been carried out a couple of times and Atkins had gone into considerable detail, one example was the bridge at Felixstowe.

ACTION: SLAF to write to Highway Agency concerning the A14 crossing at Bramford.

Regional LAF Chair Meeting

BC will attend the meeting on 15th November.

ACTION: DF to send details and agenda to BC.

National LAF Conference

The conference is to be held on 27th February 2013 at 9.30, venue to be confirmed but details should be available by the next SLAF meeting in January.

ACTION: DF to circulate details once issued.

Forest Heath DC Dog Control Order (LAF 12/34)

ACTION: DF to draft response on behalf of SLAF identifying aspirations for higher rights to cater for horse riding and cycling and requesting further information on the process NE intends to follow.

Review of dog restrictions (LAF 12/30)

DF advised that current restrictions concerning keeping dogs on leads until end of August remains in place.

Access Restrictions

Restrictions are usually reviewed annually although this has not happened for a couple of years. There is a teleconference being held at Endeavour House, 1pm on Wednesday 24th October to assess current restrictions. BH and GM agreed to attend.

Mapping Review

DF advised that Natural England have stated their review would be a 'light touch'.

DB commented that Suffolk is the only place in the world that Stone Curlews are increasing and that the county pioneered the conservation success.

9. Independent Panel on Forestry (LAF 12/31)

AW confirmed that two letters were written to MPs but no response had been received. Both AW and BC felt this was disappointing.

There is no news on a formal response; this will probably be next year.

10. Local Nature Partnership – Wild Anglia (LAF 12/32)

The event was attended by AW and MA who felt there was a lot of enthusiasm.

AW provided feedback stating it would be a funded partnership eventually becoming a not-for-profit charity.

BC said it was full of good intentions but was concerned that with so many groups after funding, there wouldn't be much to go around. Whilst it had the support of SLAF, the forum was concerned at the lack of information on how it would be represented in the partnership.

JS questioned whether Norfolk had heard anything, CK believes Norfolk LAF is involved and will investigate.

ACTION: SLAF to write formally to Wild Anglia to request further information on representation.

11. Ipswich Waterfront (LAF 12/33)

AW discussed the proposals and explained that orders would be made on traffic management which would go out to public consultation. A taxi rank and disabled access are being considered at part of this.

JS asked if QR code would be used and was advised this was being investigated.

MA asked how much of the 92 mile route was in Suffolk. CK advised approx 65%.

AW stressed the project would be a joint delivery.

BC thanked CK for both presentations, stating both were excellent and interesting.

6. The Suffolk Coast and Estuaries Community Conference 2012

BC fed back on his attendance at the conference stating his concerns of funding to allow access and the prediction that there was to be a 1953 type flood every 10 years in 100 years time. He felt there were issues that needed to be dealt with as soon as possible, and questioned NE's assertion that only 1% of spending on flood defences was spent on conservation.

7. Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2011-2012 (LAF 12/26, 27 and 28).

BC felt that the report was well received by Cabinet and commented that Suffolk County Council and SLAF have a very constructive relationship. He thanked JS for her support at the Cabinet meeting.

DF confirmed that a summary of the report (LAF 12/28) has been sent to Natural England. He also advised the forum that all papers are now available online via the SLAF website – <http://publicrightsofway.onesuffolk.net/suffolk-local-access-forum>

8. Open Access

Natural England National Nature Reserves (LAF 12/29)

DF explained that Natural England are intending to dedicate their National Nature Reserves (NNR) as Open Access land. In Suffolk sites are Cavenham Heath, Westleton Heath and Suffolk Coast. Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath are already designated as Open Access; the Suffolk Coast NNR lies between Walberswick and Dunwich including Westwood and Dingle Marshes.

NE will consult with SCC and SLAF and other stakeholders before discussing with the Senior Reserve Manager any opportunities for higher rights to allow cycling and equestrian use of the NNR. DF suggested there were opportunities for waymarked circular routes for horse riding and cycling in Cavenham Heath and Westleton Heath.

BC suggested a dialogue should be opened and was supported by GM. AWr asked if the car parks could cater for the provision of horseboxes, DF didn't see that as a problem. AW noted the process NE would need to follow wasn't entirely clear.

The response for Westleton Heath is due March 2013, Cavenham Heath by March 2014 and Suffolk Coast by March 2015.

detailing the route to use. This report has now gone to public consultation with hard copies available for view at county council, district council and parish council offices as well as libraries.

CK noted spreading room had been a contentious issue with land managers. Natural England was tending not to pursue this on the landward side, but the seaward side was less contentious.

The final report, which is stage 5 of 10 of Implementation, is due by the summer of 2013, when landowners will be able to raise any objections. The Secretary of State will determine the final outcome.

Stage 8, preparation and commencement of rights will be funded by Natural England. Funding for Stage 9, maintenance, management and monitoring is under review.

The second stretch from Sea Palling to Hopton-on-Sea is due to start in 2012. Currently Natural England has programmed the next stretch from Norfolk into Lincolnshire during 2014-2017.

BC raised the issued of caravan parks and development.

CK reported that development takes priority. Caravan parks and golf courses are not exempted land. Norfolk have 14 caravan parks and CK found some park owners are happy for the coastal path to pass through their parks as they could see expected revenue from passing trade calling in at their shop/café. Although there are issues with some parks which are not operational through the winter months as they are secured.

JS questioned whether anything could be done beforehand where cliffs are at risk of erosion. CK explained the roll back system, which is to the next hard boundary.

JW and GM raised their concerns over the cost of implementation by local authorities, especially as there is 220 miles of Suffolk coastline.

5. Angles Way Project

CK then gave a presentation on The Angles Way Experience.

Norfolk County Council have received funding under the Rural Development Programme England (RDPE) for the Waveney Valley. The main objectives are to promote The Angles Way as the green corridor linking market towns from Great Yarmouth to Thetford; improving access and engaging local businesses. The key areas are to replace stiles with gates, improve waymarking and raising the profile of the route.

BC stated that he rated this interesting route highly and was keen that the paths were kept natural. CK confirmed there would be little change and the key priority was accessibility.

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Minutes of meeting held at Beccles Town Hall, 18th October 2012
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Jackie Gillis
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

1. Welcome, apologies and housekeeping

Present: Bryan Collen (Chair) (BC), David Barker (Vice-Chair) (DB), Melinda Appleby (MA), Barry Hall (BH), Gordon Merfield (GM), Monica Pipe (MP), Norman Southgate (NS), Anthony Wright (AWR), John Wayman (JW), Cllr Jane Storey (JS), Alan Moore (AM).

SCC Officers Present: David Falk (DF), Andrew Woodin (AW), Jackie Gillis (minutes)

Apologies: Mike Taylor, Ann Langley, Cllr Sandy Martin, Margaret Hancock

Guests: Carrie Kerry, Countryside Officer Norfolk County Council

2. Minutes of previous meeting (LAF 12/25)

The minutes of the meeting were agreed to be an accurate record.

Item 2: AW confirmed the Suffolk Coast paths undergo two cuts a year.

Item 6 Huddle: AW confirmed there are now 4 licensed users at Suffolk County Council; himself, DF, Jackie Gillis and Jill Christley. AW is finding Huddle useful and is circulating relevant information to members.

Item 7 Suffolk Road-Rail Partnership: AW commented that Network Rail had agreed to take forward the proposal for a new bridleway bridge at Heath Road Great Barton.

3. Declaration of interest

None declared.

4. Coastal Access

BC welcomed Carrie Kerry (CK) to the meeting.

CK introduced herself as Norfolk County Council Countryside Officer and gave a presentation on Coastal Access in Norfolk. Norfolk is a lead county for implementing coastal access.

The first stretch from Weybourne to Sea Palling has been walked and all information such as landowners, land condition and issues has been recorded on a Trimble GPS system. This information is then fed into a computer which produces a report

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)
Meeting Date:	24 January 2013
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

Below is an extract from the Comments Report following the consultation by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), who have developed, on behalf of the Department of Health, guidance on walking and cycling.

The guidance is targeted at those involved in promoting physical activity or who work in the environment, parks and leisure or transport planning sectors. This includes the NHS and local authorities plus organisations in the private, voluntary and community sectors.

This guidance aims to set out how people can be encouraged to increase the amount they walk or cycle for travel or recreation purposes. This will help meet public health and other goals, for instance, reducing traffic congestion, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The extract below is the response from NICE to the comments made by SCC.

Suffolk County Council	General		The report focuses on modal shifts from car journeys to walking or cycling. It could also emphasise the importance of developing desirable leisure routes that are not alternatives to driving, but an activity in their own right. This may be linking points of interest or tourism destinations along safe, off-road and well developed and connected networks	Thank you. Recreational walking and cycling, including off road cycling, are included (see recommendations 5 and 6)
Suffolk County Council	General		There is no reference to public rights of way (PRoW). The PRoW network is the most obvious means of enabling safe off-road linkages in rural and peri-urban environments (as well as often in urban environments).	Thank you. These are likely to be important in rural areas, however as the guidance notes most of the evidence was restricted to urban or suburban areas.
Suffolk County Council	General		The legal complexities of developing new or improving existing PRoW is not highlighted in the document, yet this often offers the most practical solution to	Thank you.

			encouraging and enabling people to walk and cycle between destinations on safe, off-road linkages.	
Suffolk County Council	Recommendation 3	10	There is a focus on travel habits in urban environments which ignores rural counties, such as Suffolk	Unfortunately as the guidance notes most of the evidence was restricted to urban or suburban areas.
Suffolk County Council	Draft Recommendations	6	Benefits of Walking – bullet 3 – this seems a rather idealised vision of a benefit of walking on streets and not a reflection of reality.	Thank you. This has been amended to 'increase the number of people of all ages who are out on the streets, making public spaces seem more welcoming and providing opportunities for social interaction.'

Note;

- Recommendation 5 relates to encouraging cycling.
- Recommendation 6 relates to encouraging walking through community wide programmes.
- The final comment related to the original text:
 - 'An increase in the number of people of all ages who are out on the streets, getting to know each other, socialising and 'looking out' for each other, so encouraging a sense of local community.'

The full report is available at

<http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/13975/61629/61629.pdf>

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Andrew Woodin
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

On 12 December 2012 the Environment Secretary, Owen Paterson, announced the start of the Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England. This is part of Government's rolling programme of triennial reviews of public bodies, to consider whether the functions carried out by the body are still required and whether the delivery model is right and offers value for money. Anyone with an interest in the Environment Agency and Natural England is invited to respond to the discussion document by 4 February 2013.

The Government is involving stakeholders throughout the Review and in January expects to publish emerging findings from its analysis of the range of functions carried out by the Environment Agency and Natural England. It then expects to invite views to help inform the Review recommendations.

Preliminary conclusions will be available in spring 2013 and further information can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/review-ea-ne/>.

The county council is formulating its response but emerging themes include:

- Accessing NE resources and advice is increasingly difficult,
- NE's championing of its remit,
- Some streamlining of NE, EA and local authority interests and expertise, e.g. around biodiversity and sustainability issues, might be helpful,
- Ensuring NE's countryside access remit is on an equal footing to its other remits.

SLAF will recall discussions with NE a few years ago in respect of the A11 dualling proposals, and the concern that NE was giving undue prominence to nature conservation over the needs of the public safely to access the countryside. This culminated in a meeting in November 2008 at NE's offices in Bury St Edmunds with their regional area manager Sarah Wilson, at which David Barker and the then SLAF chair John Pearson expressed SLAF's concerns. David challenged NE that it should support better access and restate its access interests more strongly.

This is an opportunity for SLAF to restate the importance of access in any changes to Natural England.

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	LAF Chairs' and Vice Chairs' East of England Meeting
Meeting Date:	24 January 2013
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds.

LAF Chairs' and Vice Chairs' East of England Meeting



Minutes

Date 15th November 2012 **Start time** 11.00 **Finish time** 13.35

Location OneKX, 120 Cromer Street London, WC1H 8BS

Attendees

Mary Sanders, Cambs LAF	Peter Medhurst, Broads LAF	Brian Collen, Suffolk LAF
Roger Buisson, Cambs LAF	Pauline Hay, Central Beds & Luton LAF	
Keith Bacon, Broads LAF	Stephany Howard, Norfolk LAF	Anna Mangini, EoE LAF Co-ordinator
Liddy Lawrence, Herts LAF	Robert Johnstone, Essex LAF	
Bob Wallace, Borough of Bedford LAF	Steve Horner, Peterborough LAF	Fiona Taylor, People Partnership, Natural England
Steve Bumstead, Central Beds & Luton LAF	David Robinson, Peterborough LAF, Charing the Meeting	Lynda Foster, People Partnership, Natural England

Apologies

James Russell, Bedford LAF and from Thurrock LAF

Agenda Item	
2.	Introductions, Housekeeping, Apologies.. AM welcomed all to meeting, thanked David Robinson for agreeing to chair the meeting and went through house keeping. Apologies from James Russell.
3.	Minutes & matters arising: Mary Sanders name repeated twice among Attendees; Point 11. Should be 'Rail' not 'Rain'. Amended made.
4.	Update from the County LAFs Suffolk BC: Another successful year with 16 members, recently reduced to 15 due to resignation due to work overload. Their meetings take place around the county and local PCs are informed beforehand. Successful conclusion of dual carriageway with now safe underpass for walkers and cyclists to cross safely. New concerns with Network Railway and their proposed closing of level crossing, some of which with rights of way before safe alternative if found. BC welcomed the public consultation on Forests and felt there should be more for horses, access, etc. Concerns: cuts in local authorities funds. Huddle has been adopted by the 3 SCC officers and used regularly. They found it useful and report back to LAF members on any relevant information.

4. cont.d	<p>Cambridgeshire LAF has a small number of members, mostly those who joined at the time of original set-up; have been involved in the establishment of the Local Nature Partnership and note that it has no money to deliver anything on the ground; the County Council is being restructured with the original countryside access team being split in two; and LAF members make limited use of Huddle. They have been busy responding to local consultations and were loyally supported by CambsCC. presently the role of the officer is now been discussed as her role in the future of Cambs LAF; rapid change within the council which makes it difficult to know who to contact.</p> <p>Broad's Authority KB: they have 16 long standing members. BroadsLAF national Park works closely ith Norfolk and Suffolk county councils. The Broads Authority used to work closely with volunteers in the care of paths. Recent cut back has made BroadsCC responsible for their care. As a consequence the paths are not maintained as well as before. It was felt that Suffolk was better at looking after the paths than Norfolk. It was felt that the responsible authorities were mainly reacting to problems rather than taking a more proactive role. The Broads has a small part of coastal path, ca. 2 miles, and it was felt it would be easy to deal with the process of inclusion to the Coastal Path. Large problem faced by the Broads is to do with landownership and access to land, with the Stewardship scheme coming to an end and no money to keep paths previously opened by the scheme the farmers will plough the land and access will be lost. Suffolk commented that the end of the Stewardship scheme seems to be due to EU Regulations which had driven down the funding available to the farmers.</p> <p>Borough of Bedford BW the group has 9 members which form the core of the group and meetings. Over the past year they concentrate mainly on improving RoWIP, which was changed around. They opened their meeting to PCs and 45 people attended and contributed positively. They also had a shared meeting with Central Beds & Luton LAF and presentation from FT on P4C. Main issue is the state of finance and help from Beds BoroughCC. With more cuts to their RoW budget, they have very few F/T officers and this 'helps' keeping the program of improvements realistic, especially with an authority not very interested in prioritising RoWs. One of the main issues seems to be able to find out what has been done in RoW and who is accountable to whom, which makes it almost impossible to bring to tasks and report inefficiency if/when occurs. Fairly sad state of affairs. In the new year they will start on LNP.</p> <p>Central Beds & Luton SB: as a farmer working on both sides of the county he is most aware of the state of affairs in BedsBorough. Pretty successful year for their LAF, very interested members – 16 in total - which attend when they can. They still are short of a rep from the young persons which seem more interested in the 'bush tucker' and fishing than the countryside. He will keep pushing as feels the young of today will be our future and the future of the countryside. Another group not represented is the disabled users or ethnic minorities, despite there being a group of asian ladies in Luton who regularly and one that cyle, although use of the bicycle is seen as a peasant vehicle in certain cultures. CV&L LAF is been involved is several consultations and in gating orders which were proposed to stop fights happening between residents of neighboring estates.</p>
-----------	--

4. cont.d	<p>Norfolk SH: their LAF meetings are always full and well attended, with plenty of users and promoters of carriage users. Concern about losing HAS scheme. They have been concentrating on setting criteria for improvements of longer routes (i.e. Peddars Way, ..) and digital mapping and an App for Smart Phones so people can walk out and, if they spot problems on the route, take a photograph and send it directly to NorfolkCC to action.</p> <p>Peterborough SH - no replacement for his old position and so far all has been falling on the shoulders of SH old boss. The supposed agreement with CambsCC has still not been reached and with CambsCC in the middle of a reorganisation, it doesn't seem anything will happen until 2013 and it is feared nothing will happen. Fortunately there is an arrangement with a local farmer/contractor who reports back on anything that needs doing and asks if Pet.rogCC wants it done and he then goes ahead and does it. Once again a reactive service. Problems on level crossing, one in particular is worrying as has a path going through on the Peterborough-Spalding line and where an upgraded of the line is scheduled in the next 3 years and plans to see people walking along the live line. Network Rail has been in contact with the LAF and are negotiating best way forward The battle with Highway Agency has been won and they have managed to secure a crossing for cyclists and pedestrian on a busy deual carriageway. Unfortunately no not for horses. Nevertheless a welcome victory, quite unheard of.</p> <p>Essex RJ the group is well supported by 12 memnbers and has 6 meetings a year, and they work hard to encourage attendance by members of the public. They have also been involverd with Network Rail and their intention on closing several level crossing and have manage to score a victory in keeping open one of them. They visited the Mountain Bike Olympic Site in Hedley and have a representative on the Shoreline Management Plan. In Colchester a scheme was launched with a disabled group to encourage the use of a new vehicle Bommer (??). Some problems with support and funds from ECC that has also jeopardised their admin support. Although not all is bad as this instability might help involve other groups/people. Redundancies and funds also place under threat the P3 scheme. There is a good and active relationship with the County and Districy and LAF has been involved and attending planning authorities meetings on required diversions.</p> <p>Hertfordshire Group has now 12 members, still missing disabled and young. Has excellent relationship with HCC. The grass cuts have been reduced to 2 from the past 3 a year. Grazing is a constant problem and they have a representative present on the forum since the beginning and there has been representation at each LNP meeting. Most members are involved in some committee or other and then report back to the group. There is an application for P4C in St Albans and they are looking at other projects. They are trying to write to each Stewardship scheme and see if anything can be done to keep them open after the expiry date.</p> <p>:</p>
-----------	--

7. cont.d	<p>BC – Suffolk suggested this is also a wildlife conservation issue, as EU new regulations see the practice of walking with a dog along a wildlife area as a conflict of interest and therefore this is the reason the HLS Agreements are coming to an end and farmers will lose their funding.</p> <p>FT-NE commented that there is a conflict of interest, however the two are not exclusive of each other and not all possibilities have yet been explored.</p> <p>RB – Cambs suggested that the landowner has kept the margins of his fields unploughed in order to put them in the HLS scheme and once he is not paid any longer he is not going to leave the margins empty for possible permissive access without the HLS contribution. RB also suggested <u>this topic should be brought and discussed at the National Conference in February in Sheffield.</u></p> <p>PH – Luton & Central Beds also mentioned that the land could be saved if there was a permissive scheme in place prior the HLS Agreement and – if the land was to change hands now – a permissive agreement could be renegotiated at the time of the purchase.</p> <p>BW – Beds went on by saying that as there isn't a definitive list of the permissive paths in each area this constitutes a main issue, as people will not be aware of which paths will cease to be permissive when the agreements come to an end, therefore they would keep on walking on paths that have been opened for the last 10yrs and now no longer open.</p> <p>Once again delegates asked for this topic to be discussed at the National Conference.</p> <p>DR – Peterborough suggested that if info were to be placed on an App more people would be able to have access to them and use them. However RB – Cambs commented that there still need to be an accurate list of records in the 1st place.</p>
8.	<p>Run down from NE on what its priorities are 2012/13</p> <p>LF mentioned the main issues they will be concentrating in the next few months are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Conference on 27th February in Sheffield; - Huddle – which she finds cumbersome to use and feels should be streamlined in its use; - Pro Forma Annual Reports (supplied by the Co-ordinators). <p>In the last quarter of the financial year the NE team will be consulting LAFs on their take on Huddle and update the manual to form the work load for next financial year.</p> <p>BW – Beds asked on the current state of P4C. FT received 50 applications and enquiries and that some of them had to be refined. 6 applications had been looked the day before and, although she could not disclose anything, it transpired they had been disappointing. A new list of tips on how to compile an application will be circulated so that anyone still in the process of applying could be benefitting from the experience and save time for future applicants.</p> <p>Action: FT said the feedback will also be posted on Huddle and there will be a manual and she was not able to specify time when this will be ready</p> <p>FT - NE LL – Herts requested this be also emailed to all chairs and all LAFs. BW – Beds asked also to be published on NE website.</p> <p>FT went as far as suggesting that given the somewhat slow start of the project it is estimated that the majority of the projects and money will be concentrated in the 2nd year of the project (i.e. last letter to go out by December 2013, project to be completed, invoice presented and money paid out by March 2014).</p>

<p>9.</p> <p>Action:</p> <p>LF - NE</p>	<p>Progress of coastal path and any issues surfacing from this work</p> <p>LF mentioned that in January the consultation for xxxxx will end, copies are available in libraries. Soon to be consulted is Norfolk and the Broads (only 2 miles for them) on their coastal paths. Copies for the consultation will be sent to all parish councils affected.</p> <p>Another consultation soon to happen is the stretch between Tilbury and Lea on Sea in Essex. RJ – Essex was not aware of this and LF will send him all relevant information.</p> <p>It seems EU will be also contributing funds onto these schemes.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Update on forest consultation</p> <p>LF from NE did not know anything on this subject. LL – Herts mentioned that the Woodland Trust website has guidance that could be useful.</p>
<p>A few words</p>	<p>Mr David Robertson, Chair for the meeting, summarised the major points of interest that had a common voice throughout the LAF's representatives present on the day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly every group had concerns as to their function within the Rights of Way as local authorities squeeze their belts; • What is the future for LAFs; • Partnership meetings ; • Community involvement - in the wider community - as it always appears to be the same old faces; • Engagement with the public ; • Overgrown pathways ; • Finances; • Huddle; • There was a great amount of Passion for local access; • Involvement in consultations; • Access and its benefits; • Network Rail interactions not always of a positive outcome; • Olympic legacies; • Venues: their diversity and importance.
<p>Lastly:</p>	<p>My (Anna Mangini) heart felt thank you to David Robertson for agreeing to chair the meeting for me. It made my task much easier and it was very comforting to have such a thorough, professional and friendly presence next to me.</p>
<p>Notes after the meeting</p>	<p>The venue in London worked well, although some people found the acoustic in the basement was affected a little by the street's noise.</p> <p>There was a wish to have less time spent on updates from other groups and more time to discuss current issues.</p>

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	LAF National Conference 2013
Meeting Date:	24 January 2013
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds.

LAF National Conference 2013 'Sharing Good Practice: Sharing Solutions'

Friday, 14 December 2012



Dear Colleague

Local Access Forum National Conference, Holiday Inn Sheffield, 27th February 2013

I would like to invite you to the 2013 national Local Access Forum conference which is being held at the Holiday Inn, Sheffield on Wednesday the 27th February 2013. The theme of the conference is 'Sharing Good Practice: Sharing Solutions' and will include talks from Natural England and Defra as well as workshops and talks led by representatives from LAFs from all over England. Steve Scoffin the ex-Chair of Durham LAF has graciously agreed to Chair the conference in an independent capacity. Tea/coffee and lunch will be provided on the day.

If you would like to attend please fill in the booking form (attached) and return it by **1st Feb 2013** at the latest. We can only cater for **one person per LAF** (apart from members running workshops or giving talks) though spaces may become available so do let us know if you would like to be added to the reserve list and we'll contact you nearer the time if attendance looks possible.

We would recommend you travel to the conference by train and as part of the booking process we will have your rail tickets posted to you and if you live over 3 hours away from the venue, we can also book you a hotel room including evening meal with other delegates the night before. All these costs will be covered by Natural England. If you need to travel by other means than rail and wish to claim expenses, please use the form provided which must be sent to us by **8th March 2013** in order to be processed. This must be a printed and signed hard copy - we cannot accept electronic versions.

If you have any questions please contact myself or Rob Leek (rob.leek@naturalengland.org.uk) and if you can attend I look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Yours faithfully

Martin Shaw
Senior Adviser Local Access Forums
Martin.shaw@naturalengland.org.uk

Attached:

- *Conference programme*
- *Workshop sessions*
- *Booking form*
- *Directions to venue*
- *Walking directions from station*
- *Volunteer expenses form*

www.naturalengland.org.uk

LAF National Conference 2013 'Sharing Good Practice: Sharing Solutions'

Local Access Forum National Conference
 Holiday Inn Sheffield, 27th February 2013



Programme

Time	Activity	Presenter
10.00 - 10.15	Arrival – tea/coffee	
10.15 - 10.20	Welcome by conference host	Martin Shaw Natural England
10.25 - 10.30	Introduction to the day	Steve Scoffin (Chair)
10.30 - 10.55	Talk 1 – How LAFs can make use of Natural England's household survey on people engaging with the natural environment (Monitoring of Engagement with the Natural Environment)	Natural England
10.55 - 11.00	Introduction to workshop sessions	Steve Scoffin (Chair)
11.00 - 12.00	Workshop session 1 (coffee/teas available)	
12.00 - 12.25	Talk 2 - Providing Access to Hampshire's Heritage	Sue Coles (Hampshire LAF)
12.25 - 13.25	Lunch	
13.25 - 14.25	Workshop session 2 (coffee/teas available)	
14.25 - 14.50	Talk 3 – A forward look at Rights of Way and the role of Rights of Way Improvement Plans	Defra
14.50 - 15.50	Workshop session 3 (coffee/teas available)	
15.50 - 16.20	Plenary session With an opportunity to ask questions	Panel
16.20 - 16.30	Summary	Steve Scoffin (Chair)
16.20 - 16.30	Conference close	Martin Shaw Natural England

www.naturalengland.org.uk

LAF National Conference 2013 'Sharing Good Practice: Sharing Solutions'

Workshops



1 – Working with volunteers

Facilitated by: Peak, Derby and Derbyshire LAF

2 – Urban LAFs

Facilitated by: Tyne & Wear LAF

3 – Multi-user routes - How to manage and help solve conflicts

Facilitated by: North York Moors LAF

4 – LAF involvement with Local Nature Partnerships

Facilitated by: Wiltshire and Swindon LAF

5 - How can LAF's better engage with health departments?

Facilitated by: Shropshire LAF

6 – Working with your appointing authority on planning issues

Facilitated by: Cambridgeshire LAF

7 - Facilitating disabled access

Facilitated by: Shropshire LAF

8 – Huddle interactive workshop – New and existing Huddle users will be shown different ways to help them get the best out of the system.

Facilitated by: Peak District LAF and Natural England

9 – Setting up 'friends of' groups

Facilitated by: Tees Valley LAF

10 – Open access - The workshop will introduce current issues relating to open access land and will provide an opportunity to ask questions

Facilitated by: Natural England

11 – Impacts of cuts on footpath management

Facilitated by: TBC

12 – Green Infrastructure

Facilitated by: Lancashire LAF

13 – Paths for Communities - The workshop will update participants on the P4C scheme and will provide an opportunity to ask questions

Facilitated by: Natural England

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	A11 Fiveways to Thetford Improvement Scheme – Public Exhibition and Commencement of Works
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Andrew Woodin
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

Between Thursday 22nd and Saturday 24th November 2012, the Highways Agency held an exhibition at Elveden Village Hall about the upgrade works to improve the A11 between Fiveways and Thetford roundabout. Members of the project team were on hand to answer questions.

Andrew Woodin attended the Highways Agency exhibition in the village hall and confirmed the arrangements for the equestrian underpass at the monument, and for FP2, Icklingham, which is a “grass gravel” path both sides of the A11 in the verge, from FP2 on the south east side of the road to the new B1112 underpass and along the other side to the C road through Mildenhall Woods. The final arrangement for the B1106/former A11 junction and cycle route towards Thetford has not been confirmed yet.

Construction works have commenced and are expected to be completed in December 2014.

David Barker, SLAF vice chairman also attended the exhibition and his feedback is included in the email below.

The county council’s rights of way team is in discussions with Elveden Estate concerning the diversion of public bridleway no. 8, Eriswell, to the equestrian underpass and path order consultations with stakeholders are expected to start in February. Once the road scheme is complete and bridleway diversion confirmed, two areas of high value recreational access in Thetford Forest will be safely connected for the first time.

The county council welcomes the local access forum’s view on combining one of next year’s meetings with a visit to view the A11 works, possibly in October.

From: David Barker
Sent: 23 November 2012 21:06
To: Andrew Woodin
Cc: David Falk
Subject: Re: A11 Fiveways to Thetford Improvement - Public Information Exhibition

Dear Andrew,
I attended the Elveden A11 by pass exhibition this afternoon, I spoke at length to Robert Gibson the project manager, he confirmed the underpass will be 3.7 meters high if you remember they wanted to

reduce it to 2.7 meters but this was based upon a false reading of the water table it showed 4.1 meters when the water table is more like 19 meters.

I also told him they were paying for the diversion, they took the view that the present A11, which will become a minor road through the village, can have traffic calming at a later date, he thought people might come and park there while using the footpaths and cycle tracks in the area.

It is important we attended. I had an interesting conversation about mitigation measures for Stone Curlews they are having difficulty to purchase suitable land!

Best wishes

David.

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Independent Panel on Forestry – Government Response
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Andrew Woodin
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

The Independent Panel on Forestry's report was published on 4 July 2012. Ministers welcomed the report, confirmed that the public forest estate would remain in public ownership and committed to publishing a formal response in January 2013.

Following the IPF's final report, Defra has:

- Released two subsequent surveys based around themes in the Panel's report (both copied to SLAF). From the survey in August:
 - Over 94% of the 1,400 people who responded said that they'd like more woodland created in or near to their local community.
 - Over 50% said more accessible woodland close to where they live would encourage them to visit local woodland more.
 - One third of respondents said that they always buy English wood products out of choice.
- The second batch of questions was released in November and has now closed. Defra will be publishing a more detailed analysis of both surveys.
- Worked with external stakeholders in preparing the final response. Over the summer officials met with a wide range of stakeholder groups to listen to their views on the Panel's report and discuss how Government is formulating its response.
- Established the National Forestry Stakeholder Forum, which met on 31 October, involving over 40 organisations, including partners from the forestry industry, the civil society sector and local community groups. Delegates were invited to identify their key priorities based on a "triple bottom line" (i.e. good for people, the environment and the economy), what is best done by Government, by others (including the stakeholder's organisation) and what is best done by both. Defra is analysing the responses to those questions and more detail on the outcomes will be available soon.

Further information can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/panel-response/>. Until the government has issued its formal response later this month there is little more SLAF can contribute. The review of woodland and forestry is not being addressed as part of the triennial review of Natural England.

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Sizewell C Public Consultation
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	Andrew Woodin
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

Consultation on the new Sizewell C power station started on 21 November 2012. This project is certain to have an effect on public rights of way in the area, and the county council is working with EDF to mitigate the impact of the scheme, including making improvements to the local rights of way network. SLAF were circulated with the link and further information can be found here:

<http://sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/>.

The scheme is being progressed as a National Infrastructure Project. Construction period is estimated as 9 to 10 years, and there will be 5,000 construction workers on site at peak construction.

The county council is preparing its response but for the rights of way service, the main concerns are to:

- Ensure existing public access (whether definitive rights of way or other), is maintained during construction, or suitable alternatives put in place,
- Seek permanent improvements in access commensurate with the scale of a new nuclear power station.

The following document outlines the current position with rights of way requirements, it is neither final, definitive, nor is it the county council's formal position, but it does give a flavour of expectations. It should be stressed there is much work to do before EDF get anywhere near construction, and there will be further opportunities to feed into the planning process.

SLAF should consider to what extent it wants to make its own advice clear on the impact of Sizewell C on access to the local countryside and sustainable access between towns and villages both during and after construction.

Associated Development Sites**Temporary Construction Areas****Between Valley Road and Eastlands – Option 1 possible new rail terminal**

Traffic from this site would use Lovers Lane – provide a safe off road bridleway link alongside Lovers Lane from Leiston Common to the start of the bridleway BR19 (nr Fiscal Policy) This will allow for safe off road cycling route to the site for workers as well as a safe recreational route.

Site between Lovers Lane and Leiston Old Abbey.

A new road is proposed to link this site with the main construction area west of Bridleway 19. This is in addition to the proposed main access road and will result in Bridleway 19 being crossed by two busy roads. This is unacceptable. An underpass or bridge could be provided to separate bridleway and road.

Rail Options

- All 3 options for the extended rail line (red, green and blue) cross various public footpaths as they approach Leiston. Safe crossings will need to be provided.
- Green and red route cross Bridleway 19 next to the proposed haul road as mentioned above. It is unacceptable for bridleway users to have to contend with a road and rail crossing – an underpass or bridge should be provided to separate bridleway from road and rail.

Sustainable travel for workers in Leiston and surrounding towns (Aldeburgh, Thorpeness, Knodishall area)

- Provide safe off road link for cycling to work by creation of bridleway from Leiston to Aldeburgh using the alignment of the old railway line. This would involve creation of bridleway status on existing public footpaths and permissive paths, possibly by legal order.
- Provide a safe NMU route from Leiston for use by the campus and home based workers by improving and upgrading the public footpath no 18 from Valley Rd past the sewage works to Lovers Lane and also by providing a route parallel to Lovers Lane.

Park and Ride South sites

	Comment	Impact	MITIGATION
1 Wickham Mkt	No ROW directly across the site and bridleway to the north is not very well used.	Bridleway adjacent to site is accessed alongside the slip road. An access road into the park & ride	Safe crossing point of the access road top enable BR users to access BR and pedestrians to use the footway into Marlesford.

		would make it more difficult for riders to get to the bridleway from the south. Site would be visible from the bridleway	
2 Woodbridge		Hasketon Footpath no 18 crosses the site and would need to be protected or temporarily diverted	Safe crossing facility for workers walking out from Woodbridge to the park and ride Is there an option for land being retained as informal public open space?
3 Potash corner		Bredfield FP 23, 24 and part of 25 would all be within the site and potentially less attractive to users. Increased traffic on the A 12 turning in and out of site –increased risk to public trying to cross A 12 to use the ROW network	These are well used links from Melton and would need to be provided through the site or temporary new route provided, such as along the northern edge to link to BR 33. Existing or diverted ROW be provided within green corridors, not hemmed in by security fencing and lights Full restoration of rights of way following end of works. Improved safe pedestrian crossing of A 12 Create new ROW across the north part of the site to link with the BR on the east side of the A12.

Park and ride sites north

	Comment	Impacts	MITIGATION
1 Yoxford Rd	No ROW across the site	Visible from FP to the south from Rookery Park?	
2 Darsham	No ROW across the site or		

	adjacent		
3 A12/A144	No ROW across the site		

CAMPUS Sites

	Comment	Impacts	MITIGATION
1 Devt site	<p>Bridleway 19 (BR19) runs up the east side of the site but laydown and construction area is immediately to the west, therefore BR19 is hemmed in.</p> <p>BR 19 is a key route in the ROW network, particularly for cyclists and horse riders and walkers enjoying the Sandlings Walk.</p>	<p>BR 19 contained between campus site and works area – if the BR is retained on this alignment its amenity will be severely diminished -it will be significantly less attractive for users due to traffic, fencing, lighting, noise, presence of campus residents etc)</p> <p>Pressure of increased use by campus residents – surface damage</p> <p>New access road will cross the bridleway – traffic impact on walkers, cyclists, horse riders.</p>	<p>If BR 19 retained on its existing alignment then it should be contained within a wide green corridor to ensure some amenity value.</p> <p>Surface of BR 19 should be maintained/improved to accommodate extra use from campus residents</p> <p>Underpass or bridge should be provided to separate bridleway from the road. Second best would be to provide a user controlled pedestrian and bridleway crossing should be provided on the main access road during works and after completion of works.</p>
2 Sizewell Gap	No Rights of way within the campus site	Increased campus traffic heading north to the new access road creating safety issue for NMU on Lovers Lane	<p>Provide a safe off road bridleway link alongside Lovers Lane from Leiston Common to the start of the bridleway BR19 (nr Fiscal Policy) This will allow for safe off road cycling route to the site for workers as well as a safe recreational route.</p> <p>Option for land to be retained as amenity area.</p> <p>Create new BR link from Leiston, King Georges Ave to Sandy Lane bridleway.</p>

3 Leiston East	<p>Busy network of well used public rights of way within and around this site.</p>	<p>The rights of way network will be surrounded by the campus and its amenity value severely diminished – less attractive due to fencing, lights, traffic and campus residents etc.</p> <p>Increased use by campus residents creating surface damage and less attractive access for local people and visitors.</p> <p>Increased traffic on Lovers Lane heading north to the new access road.</p>	<p>Network of ROW to be protected from the development and contained within a wide green corridor to ensure some amenity value.</p> <p>Safe road crossings to be provided within the campus area itself</p> <p>Path surfaces and the overall amenity value of the network within and connecting to this campus site should be improved to cope with the increased use by the increased population. Recreation value of these links between the coast and Leiston should not be diminished –may require surface improvements, providing additional width, hedge planting etc.</p> <p>Provide a safe off road bridleway link alongside Lovers Lane from Leiston Common to the start of the bridleway BR19 (nr Fiscal Policy) This will allow for safe off road cycling route to the site for workers as well as a safe recreational route.</p> <p>Provide a safe NMU route from Leiston for use by the campus and home based workers by improving and upgrading the public footpath no 18 from Valley Rd past the sewage works to Lovers Lane.</p> <p>Legacy use for informal access and recreation (town park) relieving pressure on nearby SSSIs</p>
----------------	--	--	--

END

Suffolk Local Access Forum	
Title:	Wild Anglia
Meeting Date:	24th January 2013
Author/Contact:	David Falk
Venue:	West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds

Below is an update on Wild Anglia, the new Local Nature Partnership for Suffolk and Norfolk

Wild Anglia update

The innovative joint Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Partnership, Wild Anglia, took a significant step forward by holding its first Board Meeting on 16th November at the Orbis Energy Centre, Lowestoft, hosted by Scottish Power Renewables.

Work to develop a 'brand' is underway and a Wild Anglia manifesto explaining the organisation's aims and ways of working will be produced early 2013. Wild Anglia is working closely with New Anglia, the region's Local Enterprise Partnership, in particular with the Green Economy Pathfinder (GEP).

If you would like to receive the Wild Anglia's e-news bulletin then please contact Haidee Bishop at Haidee.bishop@norfolk.gov.uk.

SCC is keen that access is properly represented through the Wild Anglia board. How Wild Anglia will engage SLAF is yet to be confirmed and a request for clarification has been made.

Email correspondence with Wild Anglia has pulled out the following key points:

- Wild Anglia held its second board meeting on 16th January
- Wild Anglia's manifesto is currently being drafted and will be circulated once completed
- Wild Anglia are keen to seek SLAF's views on how the LAF can contribute to Wild Anglia's aims, the key focus of which is to increase investment in the natural environment.

Wild Anglia has been invited to the next SLAF meeting to provide an update on progress, explain how access will be addressed by the new organisation and explain how SLAF will be engaged by Wild Anglia in access related issues.

END