

# Brighton & Hove Local Access Forum Meeting – Minutes 25/07/2025

## Attendees:

Luke Burstow (LB) *Chair*

Dave Brookshaw (DB)

Pete Hodd (PH)

Chantelle Hoppé (CH) – BHCC Rights of Way Officer (*minutes*)

Sin Yi Lau – BHCC Transport Team

## Apologies:

Andrew Coleman (AC) – due to last minute change in location

Liz Symes (LS)

David Taylor (DT)

Ali Polawski (AP)

John Funnell (JF)

## 1. Presentation and Discussion – Local Transport Plan 2035 Consultation (Sin Yi Lau)

Introductions were made.

Sin Yi Lau attended the LAF to consult on the next iteration of the Local Transport Plan. See attached Presentation Slides. The link to the consultation portal is within the presentation.

### Part 1: Feedback on key transport challenges

- Challenge 1: Enabling more people to live safer, healthier & more active lives
- Challenge 2: Improving the flow of traffic on our roads
- Challenge 3: Supporting the transition to low and zero emission vehicles
- Challenge 4: Creating a transport network that is more inclusive
- Challenge 5: Maintaining our roads and managing them as efficiently as possible

All 4 LAF members voted for challenge 1 as the most important challenge the city faces.

### Comments:

- Member believed tackling challenge 1 could help address several of the other challenges too.
- Challenge 2: Walking should be considered part of the overall traffic flow, not just motor vehicles. Street clutter including pavement parking, signage, recycling bins, and EV chargepoints was highlighted as a major barrier for pedestrians, especially those with buggies or wheelchairs. EV infrastructure and signage, which primarily serve vehicles, should not take up pedestrian space.
- Challenge 3: It was noted that electric vehicles (EVs) still produce emissions from tyre and brake wear. Attendees also raised concerns about the growing number of large SUVs, which take up more space and

create more emissions. A suggestion was made to consider parking charges based on vehicle weight to discourage excessive car use.

## **Part 2: Feedback on objectives**

- Objective 1: Increase public transport use
- Objective 2: Enable the uptake and use of low and zero emission vehicles
- Objective 3: Deliver a safe, inclusive and integrated transport system
- Objective 4: Create well-maintained streets and pavements
- Objective 5: Provide Active travel choices for all and excellent public spaces
- Objective 6: Promote and use technology to reduce and manage travel

Three LAF members voted for Objective 5.

### **Comments:**

#### **Safe cycle parking**

- The cycle hanger scheme is popular, but waiting times are long, indicating strong demand.
- More safe, well-located, and well-lit bike parking is needed, ideally with CCTV, especially important for women and others concerned about safety.

#### **Safe pavements**

- Calls for less street clutter and an end to pavement parking.
- Enforcement was identified as key to ensuring safe and accessible pedestrian spaces.

#### **Better public transport services**

- Bus frequency and affordability were highlighted as priorities.
- When bus fares were £2, more drivers were willing to switch to public transport. The recent rise to £3 and lower parking fees in the city discourage that shift.

#### **Funding concerns**

- While all six objectives were supported, attendees recognised that delivery depends heavily on funding. They hoped that more of the plan could be implemented beyond statutory duties.

## **Part 3: Feedback from David (*Full comments attached*)**

### **1.1. Clarity and authorship**

- The plan should clearly state the author and date
- In the Forward section, "Travel..." should be changed to "Travel and Transport...".

### **1.2 Tone and emphasis**

- Suggested adding quote by figure like Greta Thunberg to strengthen the message.
- Felt the plan was still too focused on vehicles.

### **1.3 Challenge 1 coverage**

- Believed it deserves more detailed coverage within the plan.

### **1.4 Active travel**

- Referenced Gear Change: a bold vision for cycling and walking, the national strategy for walking and cycling. Urged the council to adopt a similarly bold approach.
- Proposed improving existing public rights of way and bridleways especially linking to the South Downs National Park. Clear signage and regular maintenance would make these routes safer and more attractive, supporting both health and a shift away from car use.

### **1.5 Funding for active travel**

- Criticised the low proportion (0.6%) of capital allocated for active travel seen as insufficient.

### **1.6 A259 (East Brighton)**

- Noted the eastern section of the A259 was missing from the plan.
- Described traffic here as “horrendous” and called for improvements.

Chair (LB) thanked Sin Yi Lau for attending the meeting and giving the LAF the chance to feedback on the LTP consultation.

## **2. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Minutes from the last meeting were agreed and agreed to discuss actions within the content of the meeting.

## **3. Discussion Items (Standing items)**

### **City Downland Estate Plan (CDEP) (DB):**

- James Woodward is back – a very welcome return
- Knight Frank have been appointed as new land agents for the downland estate
- DB has asked for more funding for signage across the estate

### **Transport Partnership:**

(DB) covered the Transport Partnership meeting for PH. Not a lot of content for the LAF. DB talked about safe crossings.

Key point – most of the land north of A27 is now open access land and there is overlap with the DAP (Waterhall, Patcham, Stanmer, Balsdean, Ovingdean) – which means you can walk almost anywhere across the estate.

(PH) the discussions are often about the Valley Gardens project as it is the major thing going on. Difficult to bring in active travel / Rights of Way. Often over 30 people there – bias towards vehicle journeys, buses, taxis.

(LB) A shame there isn't a standing item for Active Travel / Rights of Way

(PH) There is a strong cycling contingent – very cycling specific agenda. The agenda is very rigid – a lot of project information to get through

(LB) Part and parcel of the Cabinet system seems to be more prescriptive – information delivery

## **4. Reports**

### **Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)**

- Stanmer to Ditchling Beacon link project – SDNPA CIL (£181k) to improve road crossings over Ditchling Road and bus set down points. This is with the same aim of the original project – improving links to the Downs and South Downs Way. The group agreed with the aims of the project. LB and PH commented on the haphazard parking in laybys that obscures sight lines on this very busy round.  
(AC) concerned about the future of the Breeze up to the Downs bus service. (CH) will look into this

- Stanmer Missing Links project – SDNPA funding to surface parts of the circular bridleway around Stanmer that are currently unmade. Also to surface some of the feeder paths to the park – Coldean Lane and Patcham.

(LB) Section 1 – this is in direct sight of the house and very visible – what will this be surfaced in? CH – probably in grasscrete / reinforced grass – so that it will be a hard surface but not intrusive on the landscape.

(PH) the paths from Coldean into Stanmer are well used by the Ramblers – very steep and narrow. Steps might be a good idea, as too steep for a mobility vehicle. (LB) this would also help with erosion. (CH) this can certainly be considered

(LB) drainage is also a real barrier at the stanmer end of the footbridges. (CH) this will be looked at as part of the project

(LB) These routes through Coldean are not very well known about – signage would be good. (CH) can look into funding from SDNPA as these are routes to the National Park from the City.

(PH) could the Coldean path routes by bridleways to allow cycle access? (CH and LB) the parapets aren't high enough to allow for cyclists. It would be very expensive to have them upgraded.

- Bus Walks – urban fringe walks promoted with bus company. (PH) there is an omission at Bevendean Down (served by No 48 / 49 bus) and close to Moulsecomb and Racehill / Sheepcote (served by No 1 bus) and close to Whitehawk. These would be good in terms of encouraging people from harder to reach communities. (CH) will work on some routes in these locations
- Replacing stiles with gates – SDNPA funding. (LB) note that the stiles in Ovingdean are being replaced with kissing gates – still not the best for accessibility. (CH) only managed to get one farmer on board so far and he has stipulated kissing gates. Have agreed to the medium sized metal kissing gate that is a bit better for mobility.

**Actions:**

**CH create bus walks routes at Bevendean and Sheepcote and liaise with PH**

**Maintenance & Management**

Gate Repairs	6
Gate Replacements	4
Stile Replacement / Repair	5
Waymark installation	3
Vegetation Clearance (from public requests)	3
Surface Improvements	1
Obstruction	0

(LB and PH) Surfacing project in Stanmer very welcome – to repair the damage done to path during the ash die back tree works.

**Proposed Works (LTP Funding):**

- Foredown Restricted Byway – accessibility improvements at the gate – agreed
- Hollingdean Woods – repairs to the easy access trail after tree works – agreed
- Woodingdean – repairs to large potholes on approach to mast – agreed
- Sweethill – repairs to potholes created by tractor use. This was repaired not long ago and has been damaged again by frequent winter tractor travel. (LB) perhaps should look into putting in a adjacent path on this sections that tractor doesn't use for long term solution. (CH) will pursue this idea with Frank Knight
- Still awaiting quote for the section of bridleway approaching Pickershill

**Actions:**

- **CH speak to Knight Frank re Sweet Hill verge path**

**Legal Rights of Way Work**

- Longridge Avenue (CH) – the parcel of information has gone to the Planning Inspectorate, and we await to hear from them. Will keep chasing
- Blocked path in Hangleton – legal notice will be sent to the householder to ask them to desist from parking on the footpath and blocking it

**Actions:**

- CH Keep group updated on Longridge Avenue DMMO

**5. Missing Links / Lost Ways / Unrecorded Paths (CH)**

Longridge Avenue – as above

**6. Any Other Business**

N/A

**Date of Meeting 2025: (Thursdays 6-8pm)**

23<sup>rd</sup> October