

Countryside Access Forum Meeting
Wednesday 16 July 2014 commencing at 1:30pm
Bishop Cannings Village Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last meeting (Wednesday 26 March 2014) and matters arising
4. Deregulation Bill update – Sally Madgwick
5. Volunteer Project – Nick Cowen
6. National Trails, The Ridgeway and Thames Path – Richard Broadhead
7. Joint meeting Wiltshire and Swindon CAF and Gloucester LAF – Eric Clark, Denise Plummer and Hazel Woodbridge
8. CAIP – Michael Crook
9. Wiltshire Council issues – Richard Broadhead
10. Swindon Borough Council issues – Martin Fry (not confirmed)
11. Another other business
 - White roads – Dale Wyatt
12. Date of next meeting

Discussion.

Deregulation Bill.

Concern was expressed about recent discussions in the House of Lords. If implemented it would become easier to divert and close rights of way. A new stakeholder group is being set up to look at vehicular access issues.

Volunteer Project.

Wiltshire Area Boards have placed a high priority on improving rights of way while at the same time enhancing community engagement. Health and wellbeing of the population and the provision of sustainable tourism have been emphasised. Parish Clerks have been asked to seek permissions to replace stiles with gates and volunteers are being used to carry out most of the work. Public health funding is being used to employ a part time Volunteer Coordinator for the Southern Area of Wiltshire. I have met the coordinator she is employed 2 days per week for eighteen months. There is an interest in improving routes into the New Forest.

Ruth Croker