



Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Board

6 March 2024

Working Groups

Purpose of the report:

To agree the arrangements for Working Groups

Recommendations:

1. Agree the refreshed Terms of Reference and appointment of Chairs

1. Background

- 1.1 The Surrey Hills Constitution (clause 40) identifies the need to establish Working Groups to progress issues identified in the Surrey Hills Management Plan through collaboration. The refreshed Terms of Reference for the Working Groups is set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 On 6th December 2002, the Board agreed to establish Working Groups for:
Promoted Routes
Mountain Biking
Byways
- 1.3 With the pressure on staff time with the delivery of the new Management Plan, the capital programmes and existing projects, this paper proposes to rethink the Working Groups in 2024.

2. Proposals

- 2.1 The Promoted Routes Working Group has met in person three times. It is Chaired by Gordon Jackson. The Group has advised on routes to be promoted and the waymarking. The current priority is the delivery of the signage with the Access for All funding. The Group will need to consider the ongoing promotion and maintenance, with future improvements aligned with the new Surrey Hills Management Plan and the emerging Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

- 2.2 The Mountain Bike Working is Chaired by Tim Metson on behalf for the Board and Surrey CLA. It developed the Position Statement that was agreed by the Surrey Hills Board at its meeting in June 2023. It is proposed to put this Working Group on hold with the appropriate promotion of Mountain Biking being included by the Promoted Routes Working Group. The Surrey Hills National Landscapes Team will also support the major landowners with mountain bike trails by funding in 2024 a programme of practical conservation activities out of the Access Fund. The liaison post will also engage the mountain bike community, including consideration of a new Forum.
- 2.3 The Byways Working Group has not met since October. It was Chaired by Kristina Kenworth. The purpose of the Group is to promote the responsible use of byways by all users and to advise on the management of BOATS to reduce user conflict and environmental damage. The priority is to work with the off-road community to undertake some conservation work on areas adjacent to BOATS. This will be coordinated with the respective landowners, Surrey CC and the Surrey Hills Society's Conservation Volunteers.

4. Next steps:

To continue with the Promoted Routes Working Group and to include Mountain Bike and Off-road motorised representation, as appropriate. The future of the Working Groups will be considered as part of the Management Plan review.

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Sources/background papers:

- The Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan (2020 – 2025)
<https://www.surreyhills.org/board/our-management-plan/>

Appendix 1

Surrey Hills Board Working Groups - Terms of Reference

1. **Purpose**

- 1.1 To share and develop best practice on the priorities identified in the Surrey Hills AONB Management Plan 2020 - 2025.

2. **Membership**

- 2.1 The Chair will be appointed by the Surrey Hills Board. Membership of each Working Group will be at the discretion of the Chair in consultation with the Surrey Hills Board Chair and Director
- 2.2 The members will contribute to the Group based on their knowledge, skills and experience. Members will represent their organization and will only need to attend if they can contribute to that meeting.

2 **Responsibilities**

- 2.1 The Working Group will be expected to identify issues to discuss and to share best practice. The Group will examine any issues relating to management, development, administration and publicity relating in pursuance of the purpose of the Group.
- 2.2 The Chair will represent and advise the Surrey Hills Board on these matters.
- 2.3 The Surrey Hills Team will support the delivery by directing its own resources and coordinating the activities of partners, as appropriate,

3. **Coordination**

- 3.1 The Surrey Hills Team will allocate a Support Officer to provide administrative and secretariat services relating to the work and meetings of the Group.
- 3.2 The Support Officer will distribute the agenda and papers for Working Group meetings.