

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED FARMING AND PLOUGHING LEAFLET

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consult the forum on a proposal to create a farming and ploughing leaflet

2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

2.1 The Council strives to develop good working relationships with local farmers and landowners, and we are reviewing the most appropriate ways to deal with ploughing and cropping problems that occur when public rights of way cross arable fields.

2.2 Kent County Council and Hampshire County Council each produce a specific leaflet for farmers about ploughing and growing crops on fields that are crossed by public rights of way. A copy of these leaflets is included in Appendices A and B to this report.

2.3 The Council is proposing to produce a similar leaflet to send to farmers and to accompany letters when initial contact is made about ploughing or cropping problems.

2.4 The views of the Local Access Forum are requested on the following:

- Do you consider that the proposed leaflet will be effective? Particularly the aims of the leaflet will be to develop good working relationships with farmers and encourage good farming practices that prevent enforcement action being taken?
- Do the leaflets strike the right tone? Are there any improvements that could be made for a RBWM version?
- Is there any information that should be included in, or should be omitted from, the leaflet?
- Does the forum have any suggestions to make regarding the photographs and format of the leaflet?
