

**Item – 13 – Hampshire Countryside Access Forum**

**Statutory Responsibilities and Countryside Access Review.**

This was the main item on the agenda.

A comprehensive report on Statutory Duties was sent out with the meeting papers and was e-mailed to NFLAF members. Emma Noyce discussed the statistics and mentioned how the findings could help in prioritising the work of the Countryside Service. She stated that the work of the Hampshire Countryside Service was driven by public need and public benefit.

The CAP review was a closed session for forum members however I was invited to participate. CAP's were written/produced 5 years ago and since then there have been many changes (political, economic and climatic etc) which have influenced the work of the Countryside Service. It was therefore thought appropriate to look at how the CAP's were being progressed. To consider where their focus should be, if the bottom up approach was appropriate, if the division into CAP areas by landscape type was appropriate and how the plans were being implemented. After an introduction the participants were split into 3 groups and asked to give their views on specific questions. Post it notes and flip charts produced will be summarised by Emma and a report written.

**List of Streets.**

This item was a matter arising but was discussed at length. There has been an ongoing discussion and correspondence with Hampshire Highways. This is because of the risk of losing these routes following the 2026 cut off date for putting rights of way onto the Definitive Map. These routes have a status higher than a BOAT and are publicly maintainable. There will be ongoing discussion on this topic.

**PATHH.**

The project is now complete. A final report has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the final payment received. HCAF discussed if the bank account should be kept open for further projects. It was felt that the education part of the project went particularly well and that a further project involving education was a possibility.

The results of the volunteer research is now on a data base. A valuable resource. This research has been reviewed by the ACAMs and by an external reviewer. No decision has been made as to which claims will be carried forward and who will make the claim. It was thought that the volunteer who did the research or a User Group were most likely to be the claimant.

Ruth Croker.