

NFAF 35/1

Item 5: Officer's Report (Cath Hart)

This paper covers:

- Martin Down Consultation response
- Asserting and Protecting the Public Rights joint sub-group – update
- PATHH project update
- Member profiles for checking
- Roadworks for new cycleways in new Milton and Hordle

Martin Down Consultation research

Following Rob Lloyd's presentation to the last Forum meeting a public consultation document was produced and sent to consultees including NFAF. Having read this, it is quite generic and did not contain any more specifics than were discussed at the meeting; the deadline for responses was before the March NFAF meeting. Therefore, Alastair and Ruth authorised a response reflecting the views expressed at the last meeting:

Dear Robert Lloyd

I am writing on behalf of New Forest Access Forum, the statutory Local Access Forum for the wider New Forest area, as provided for under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2002).

Thank you for consulting us with regard to the future management of Martin Down. We wish to take this opportunity to reiterate comments made to you at our December meeting, in that members consider the site to be well managed for both people and wildlife and welcome your proactive approach. The necessary grazing has to date been undertaken without unduly disrupting public access on the site and we understand from your presentation that this will not change significantly. The current consultation is not specific with regard to areas which will be fenced and grazed in the future; when identifying these, we would ask you to continue to ensure minimum disruption to public access, particularly the rights of way which are well used by horse riders and walkers.

Thank you again for attending our meeting and offering the opportunity to make comment.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Duncan
Chairman

Asserting and Protecting Public Rights sub-group - update

The County Council requested the advice of NFAF, HCAF and South Downs Access Forum on HCC's work to develop a more strategic approach to dealing with obstructions to public rights of way. Notes from the first meeting of this group, on 10th October, were reported to the last meeting; Ruth, Lynden and Tracey represent NFAF.

HCC were asked to develop some proposals, and so a small group of officers from the Access Team has met twice, with a further meeting scheduled for 25 February. The group is drafting an enhanced enforcement policy, with associated procedures. In doing this, the current prioritisation statement, which has been in place for several years, is also being re-examined with a view to updating it. The objectives are to streamline processes, to try to prevent obstructions more effectively, and to enable the reduction of the backlog of cases.

The group is also planning to look at ways of improving communication with landowners, users and parish councils with the objective of reducing the number of issues that arise and enabling more local resolution of problems.

The intention is that the HCC group will report its findings to the LAFs sub-group in due course. The conclusions and any recommendations can then be presented to the LAFs for consideration.

PATHH project update

The sub-group met in December and looked at the detail of the priority routes. Landowners are being identified and contacted and progress is being made. More research will be needed for some routes and it is proposed that some of the volunteers are approached and invited to carry this out.

Member profiles for checking

Members are asked to check and amend the profiles on themselves as shown on the NFAF webpages; paper copies will be provided at the meeting.

Roadworks for new cycleways in new Milton and Hordle

Members are asked to note the following improvements for non-motorised users:

- Brockhill Lane, New Milton – works have started to provide a speed table for a new on road / shared off road cycle route. [http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/1/f/BROCKHILLS_LANE_PACKA
GE_Proposed_Speed_Table_D.pdf](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/1/f/BROCKHILLS_LANE_PACKAGE_Proposed_Speed_Table_D.pdf)
- Christchurch Road, New Milton – works have started to provide a new on road / shared off road cycle route
http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/g/0/R1021_1_Nm.pdf
http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/h/i/R1021_2_Nm.pdf
http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/h/o/R1021_3_Nm.pdf
- Everton Road in Hordle – works have started to provide enhanced safety at the crossroads, including improving driver visibility, cyclists & pedestrian safety and encouraging walking and cycling. [http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/l/f/HO_Everton_Road_Ho
rdle.pdf](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/media/adobe/l/f/HO_Everton_Road_Hordle.pdf)