

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: Monday 05 September 2016

Agenda item 10: Reports from other LAFs

a) Hampshire Countryside Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting of 21 June 2016 can be found on the website: www.hants.gov.uk/hcaf

Key items:

- **Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership** – Stuart Roberts and Karima Englefield gave a presentation on the work of the SRMP to reduce and mitigate impact of new development on the designated wildlife sites along the coast. The Partnership covers the south coast from Hurst Castle to West Wittering, together with the northern coast of the Isle of Wight, and aims to influence behaviour of visitors to the coast rather than to discourage visits. SRMP is implementing an interim strategy while a longer-term strategy is under development. It is closely involved in the England Coast Path consultations.
- **Rural Forum Steering Group** – this has been revived after a number of years in abeyance. It comprises a network of 4-50 organisations, with a steering group chaired by Mike Ridout (Chairman of Wessex Rural Farming Network - WRFN). The Forum aim is that rural matters in Hampshire should be considered equally alongside urban. The steering group is developing a series of themes for the Forum. Once these have been agreed, the Forum will broaden out to include other organisations including HCAF, Hampshire Association of Local Councils and WRFN.
- **PATHH** – Hampshire Records Office has a copy of the research database. Amanda Hull is working as a volunteer to set up a new website. Formal investigation has started on the first 3 claims that have been submitted, there is no intention to submit further claims before Deregulation (possibly December 2016).
- **Small Grants Scheme** – the SGS Panel has proposed a number of changes to widen the scope of the Scheme and these were supported by the Forum.
- **Planning** – the Forum agreed to convene a sub-group to consider developing guidance on rights of way and other access for Local Planning Authorities.
- **Volunteering initiatives** – the Forum is considering how it can support and encourage volunteering on Hampshire's rights of way.

Future meeting dates: 13 September, 13 December

Petronella Natrass

b) Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum

Meeting 13 July 2016.

1. National Trail Standards on the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and Avebury (25sq.km.) were discussed at length.
2.7 miles of the Ridgeway National Trail pass through the site. The surface is badly damaged, mainly by motorised vehicles, and Heritage Site staff wish to act to stop further damage, repair the damage already done and protect the area from further damage. The use of an all year round TRO was suggested by the site officers.
The CAF did not give it's wholehearted support for this action. There is no simple solution to this contentious problem.
WCC will consult on the matter.
2. National Trails Funding. Richard Broadhead announced that a 1yr deal for funding had been reached.

3. Use of restrictions in AONB's and National Parks. WCC officers are concerned that TRO restrictions in these areas would displace the problems to other areas. It was pointed out that TRO's are only effective if they can be policed.
A stakeholder group is likely to be set up to discuss the issue.
Discussions are taking place with Defra.

Ruth Croker.

c) Other

- **South Downs LAF** next meeting is on 21 October in Midhurst
- **Dorset LAF** last met on 1 July. Next meeting is on 25 November.
- **IOW LAF** meeting dates for 2016:
 - 2 June
 - 1 September
 - 1 December