

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 05 September 2016*

Agenda item 12: *Regular updates*

a) National Park Authority – report from Mark Holroyd

- Mark Holroyd has been supporting Natural England with plans for the coast path, we're walking potential sections of route with them currently. An agreement is in place for this work.
- We've been asked to assist Marchwood and Hythe Parish Councils with the long term aspiration to provide an off-road cycle link between the two settlements.
- We've been engaging with the National Trust and the New Forest Equestrian Association around problems with equine access by local residents to Plaitford Common in the north of the National Park.
- We're shortly going to have a big push of the Countryside Access Small Grants Scheme to Parishes within the National Park, we've noticed a reduction in parishes coming forward to this fund recently.
- The new Cyclexperience Hire Centre in Brockenhurst station is now open, the official opening will take place on 9th September.
- Our seasonal products and services have (at time of writing) benefitted from relatively good weather; in particular, campsite ranger services, our Travel Concierge service at Brockenhurst station, the New Forest Tour and Beach Bus.
- The New Forest Tour operates until the 11th September, so there is still plenty of time to enjoy this! Book online to get a 10% discount at www.thenewforesttour.info

b) Forestry Commission – verbal report from Gary North

c) Small Grants Scheme – report from meeting of 16 August 2016 prepared by Joan Cundill

There were 10 applications for approx. £15,462. This was the second meeting of the financial year. All were approved with one or two conditions.

There was one application from the New Forest area.

Milford on Sea requested £3,402.16, to resurface and put edging boards on paths in the Pleasure Grounds, in 20 different locations of varying lengths. Twenty five percent of the funding will be from voluntary work by the Milford Conservation Volunteers.

The HCC Area Team was asked to work with Milford Parish Council to ensure we have records on the locations where improvements are delivered.

Joan Cundill

17th August 2016.