

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: Monday 13 March 2017

Agenda item 14: Reports from other LAFs

f) Hampshire Countryside Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting of 13 December June 2016 can be found on the website:

www.hants.gov.uk/hcaf

Key items:

- **Countryside Service update** – Jo Heath gave an update on the work being done to find savings, increase efficiency and generate income as part of the Countryside Service's transformation programme.
- **Access Team review and priorities for the coming year** – Jonathan Woods outlined how the Access Team would be aiming to achieve the efficiencies and income streams required by the transformation programme for access.
- **Byway management – update** – HCC has completed an informal consultation on proposals to manage byways by introducing Traffic Regulation Orders and is now starting a separate consultation on a more dynamic approach to managing routes that are at risk of damage but not critically bad, involving seasonal or emergency closures.
- **England Coast Path** – John Taylor (Natural England) updated the Forum on progress with the ECP in the Forum's area. The HCAF agreed to write to Natural England about their concerns in relation to a) the OS mapping of spreading room, which is not currently proposed to show excepted areas and b) the inclusion of the Hamble Ferry, which is closed on some days of the year.
- **Planning Policy and Development Control** – Owen Devine (Countryside Planning Officer, HCC) gave a presentation about Planning and Rights of Way, which was followed by a workshop in which the Forum considered the impacts of development on rights of way and other countryside access.
- **AGM** – Rachel Bryan (Volunteering) was elected as the new Chair, with Alan Taylor (Land management practices) as Vice-Chair

Future meeting dates: 28 March, 20 June, 12 September, 12 December 2017

g) Wiltshire and Swindon Countryside Access Forum

Meeting 25 January 2017 attended by Ruth Croker.

1. Highways Research Sub Group.

This group is developing criteria by which the backlog of Definitive Map Modification Orders can be prioritised.

Currently routes with user evidence take priority over those with historic evidence. The sub group members are working in pairs rather than as a whole group. They are looking at applications and are finding issues and anomalies that need to be dealt with. For instance should path length, connectivity and usefulness have different weightings?

A scoring matrix has being developed. This seems to be working better than expected. The matrix is likely to be modified with the aim of achieving even better differentiation.

2. BHS Access Initiative.

Volunteers are working together to improve routes for horse riders. WCC can only afford to carry out "danger work". It is possible that parish councils will raise their precept to pay for some work.

3. WCC Countryside Service Update.

Further restructuring is likely because of budget pressures.

It has become difficult to provide materials for volunteer groups and for contractors

Some development money is being used to achieve some CAP aspirations.

The National Deregulation Bill's implementation had been delayed. Apparently there is a problem developing a cost recovery mechanism to implement the Right to Apply.

h) Other LAFs

- **South Downs LAF** met on 16 February – minutes will be available in due course at <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/national-park-authority/committees-meetings/local-access-forum/>
- **Dorset LAF** last met on 25 November.
- **IOW LAF** meeting dates for 2017: 2 Feb, 6 April, 6 July, 7 September, 7 December
- **West Berkshire LAF** has recently produced a paper setting out proposals for public access in future farm subsidies, post-Brexit. This was circulated to all NFAF members on 28 February for information.