

## **NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM**

**Meeting:** *Monday 5 September 2016*

**Agenda Item 3:** *Chair's Report*

### **1. Community Liasion Group.**

I have been invited to attend the first meeting of this group. It is concerned with the Visual Impact Provision (VIP) at Hale Purlieu following the removal of pylons and burying replacement transmission cables underground. From the presentation at our last meeting you will be aware that this is a major engineering project with technical challenges.

### **2. New Forest National Park Walking Festival - 15<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October**

This is the 4th year of the Walking Festival. It was funded through HLS within the Our Past Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme. The planned walks enable those participating to learn more about the wildlife, history and culture of the New Forest.

Car free travel to the start is encouraged but was not essential this year. It is extremely difficult to achieve especially on the western side of the Forest.

There was a 70% increase in walkers this year.

I led a number of walks. Some participants travelled long distances to attend. On one of the walks I led a family had travelled from London for the day.

Ruth Croker  
Chairman  
November 2016