

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 4 September 2017*

Agenda item 4: **Forum Officer's Report**

1. HCC Countryside Service update

- **Key challenges for the current year**
 - **England Coast Path** – the Access Team has been awaiting the final map of the route in order to prepare specifications for the work to establish and maintain the path.
 - **Coastal Erosion**
 - **Byway Management** – the team is working with the HCAF to develop a new approach that applies a process of assessment, voluntary restrictions and Traffic Regulation Orders.
 - **Order processing** – there has been a significant increase in the number of requests for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs), from a total of 8 during the year 2016-17 to 10 between January and June and the team are aware of a substantial number more in the pipeline. The resource implications of this are currently being considered.
- **Planning and development** – the team is considering the benefits of providing a service to local planning authorities to implement diversions under the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA). The Service is also looking to develop schemes such as the New Forest Mitigation Strategy with other local planning authorities as part of its strategic approach to applying developer contributions to access improvements.

2. HCAF

- **England Coast Path** – the report to the Secretary of State for the Portsmouth to South Hayling section was published on 19 July. The Coastal Access sub-group has drafted the Forum's Representations to NE for approval at the next Forum meeting on 12 September.
- **Portsmouth ROWIP** – the Forum is preparing a response to Portsmouth City Council on the first stage of a review of its Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

3. National LAF news

- **LAF National Conference** – the papers and presentation slides from the Conference in June are now available on Huddle via this link:
[Huddle - LAF National Conference 2017](#). These include the following:

<u>Title</u>	<u>File size</u>
LAF Conference 2017 (audio)	80mb
LAF: LAFs in Changing Times	1mb
NE: ROWIP 2017	12mb
LAF: Multi User Routes (The BHS)	233mb
LAF: Multi User Routes (Cycling UK)	7mb
LAF: Railway Crossings - issues & solutions	18mb
LAF: Making the case for access	29mb
Defra: Rights of Way Reforms Project	3mb
NE: Statutory access updates	1mb
NE: Health and the Natural Environment	1mb

Members who have not signed up to Huddle may wish to consider doing so if they would like to view these files, since unfortunately most of them are too large to send by email.

4. Consultations

- **Revision of British Standard BS 5709, Gaps, Gates & Stiles** – the revision of British Standard BS 5709, Gaps, Gates & Stiles, has now been issued for public comment and will be open for comments until **Tuesday 19 September**. The draft can be found on the [online standards development portal here](#). It is necessary to log in to post comments so, if not already registered on the site, respondents will first need to register [here](#).

The Forum may wish to decide on 4 September whether or not to respond.

- **NERC Act consultation** – a House of Lords Select Committee was appointed on 29 June to consider and report on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Views are being sought on the following issues:
 - **Rural advocacy and the Commission for Rural Communities**
 - **Natural England**
 - **Sustainability and biodiversity**
 - **The changing context since 2006**

This consultation was forwarded to NFAF on 14 August and will be discussed further under Item 10. The deadline for written responses is 4pm on **Monday 11 September**.

Petronella Natrass
August 2017