

## NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Monday 5 December 2016*

**Agenda item 5:** *Forum Officer's Report*

### 1. NFAF meeting dates for 2017

Confirmed dates for full Forum meetings in 2017 are as follows:

13 March  
12 June  
4 September  
4 December

### 2. HCC update

- **Parish Lengthsman Scheme** – for a number of years HCC Highways has run a scheme that provides participating parishes with an annual grant to employ a Lengthsman to undertake highway maintenance tasks such as clearing drains, cutting hedges, cleaning signs and litter picking. During 2016-17 additional funding has been provided to include rights of way maintenance in this scheme. The scheme is valued highly by the 138 participating parishes, and the Countryside Service is currently evaluating the benefit to the rights of way before confirming funding for the coming year.
- **Ease of Use** – survey data has been returned for 9 out of the 16 parishes surveyed in November and results will be published once all the data has been received and analysed.
- **Countywide Survey** – a number of the Ease of Use surveyors are gathering more detailed information towards the full network survey that the Ramblers are undertaking. The Countryside Service is investing in new software and tablets to facilitate the process and it is expected that these will be brought into use in May/June.

### 3. HCAF

- **List of Streets sub-group** – in January the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum wrote to the Chairs of the New Forest and South Downs Access Forums, inviting them to participate in a sub-group which is being formed to consider a number of matters on which the Forum could offer advice to Hampshire County Council, including:
  - Ensuring that all 'Other Routes with Public Access' (ORPAs) are shown on OS maps.
  - The process for the creation and deletion of Classes T and W (ORPAs)
  - Road maintenance and enforcement of public rights on ORPAs
  - The implications of the Deregulation Act and the 2026 cut-off

The sub-group will meet at on 23 March at the HCC Countryside Service offices in Winchester.

- **Recruitment of new members** – applications have been received for the two vacancies on the HCAF for members to represent off-road cycling and people with disabilities. These are currently being reviewed and it is hoped to appoint new members in time for the next meeting of HCAF on 28 March.

### 4. National LAF news

- The National LAF Conference that Natural England proposed to hold in Birmingham on 21 March 2017 has been postponed until June.