

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 6 June 2016*

Agenda item 7: *Regular updates*

- a) National Park Authority** – *Mark Holroyd, Transport and Tourism Manager*
- b) HCC Countryside Access** – *verbal report from Sam Jones, Area Manager, South & West Hants*
- c) Forestry Commission** – *report prepared by Gary North, New Forest Recreation Manager*

I thought I'd share some of the recent works my team have undertaken.

Burbush Cycle Route.

The start of this important section of off road cycle network that provides an important link between Burley and Brockenhurst has been in a worsening condition for a few years, with poor drainage, suffering from water erosion, mud and standing water. Here are some photos showing how we have built a 100m causeway, allowing water to pass through the track now to solve these issues longer term.

Before photo



We laid large rejects with culvert pipes through it to allow water to travel through the track.



Finished raised track with softened edges.



Abbotts Well

We had a couple of days tidying up this feature, cleaning out the drainage ditches, cutting back overgrowing vegetation and replacing the woodwork around the well and the well cover itself.



Waymarked Trails

We have just undertaken 2 weeks work resurfacing some of our waymarked trails. We use the finer (more expensive) path gravel but this gives a great smooth, flat finish. We have done this at Knightwood Oak, Bolderwood and Ober Water.

Toilet Blocks

We have just finished 'doing up' the interiors of Blackwater and Wilverley toilet blocks. Lining the entire insides with easy clean and fresh looking, white shiny wet board. We have redecorated the insides and revamped the toilet ware.

d) *Small Grants Scheme* – report from meeting of 10 May 2016 prepared by Joan Cundill

There were only 3 applications for approx. £4,493. This was the first meeting of the financial year.

There were no applications from the NFAF area.

The money available for the SGS for the 2016-2017 financial year is £47,550.

The three new Community Engagement Officers attended the meeting, which was chaired by Jim Adkins.

Jonathan Woods, Access Team Leader, HCC countryside service, was also present at the start of the meeting. A discussion was held on the future direction of the SGS and whether its scope should be widened to include applications from other groups as well as parish councils and landowners, e.g. charities, volunteer/community groups. We also discussed the application form, which is very bureaucratic.

Jim Adkins, ACAM North, also asked for the committee's views on what extra items might be funded, such as tools, insurance and training for volunteers. He also suggested updates to the guidance notes for the SGS panel.

Joan Cundill

17th May 2016

e) *Coastal Access* – report from John Taylor, Natural England

We have a new Coastal Path Advisor Chloe Walker-Panse, who joins us from our Marine team.

Since the conclusion of the very well attended drop-ins, John Truswell and Chloe have been visiting various landowners and businesses across the stretch. These meetings have gone very well so far, although there are many still to be held.

As per prior NFLAF meetings we have had difficulty in obtaining land ownership details for certain land parcels along the Stretch, which were not registered on the Land Registry database. We now have some of this information, thanks greatly to local people. John Taylor to bring along remaining gaps to meeting.

Beaulieu, Cadland, Exbury estates have provided an assessment and proposed preferred route along the Thorns Beach to Calshot area. This assessment and proposed route are still being examined by NE.

We are progressing with the Access and Sensitive Features Appraisal along sections of the stretch. When these are complete we would be happy to share with the Forum if desired.

Upcoming Key Meetings:

Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership: After an initial meet with Stuart Roberts and Karima Englefield of the SRMP we will be having a detailed discussion of any opportunities and concerns along the HCS stretch.

Lymington Shores Meeting: Lymington Shores is a new development behind Lymington Train Station. We are hopeful that the Coast Path can be routed along the proposed sea walk and new bridge across the train tracks here.

Starting to plan update meetings with Cadland, Beaulieu and Exbury estates.