

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 6 June 2016*

Agenda item 7(a): *National Park Authority update – Mark Holroyd, Transport and Tourism Manager*

- LSTF - Unfortunately we were unsuccessful in our latest application to the Department for Transport Sustainable Travel Transition Fund for revenue funding to support visitor bus service development, walking for health and other initiatives to encourage sustainable visits to and around the National Park. This was always a risk, with a quarter of the funding previously available from government and an increased focus on reducing unemployment rates which is more challenging for us to address. The good news is that thanks to the commercial success of the New Forest Tour, the Beach Bus and the Travel Concierge service at Brockenhurst, these services will remain this summer.
- DfT Walking and Cycling investment strategy – rather than submit an NFNPA response, the umbrella body for all National Park Authorities in England submitted a response on behalf of us all. The response will shortly be published on:
<http://www.nationalparksengland.org.uk/home/policy/sustainable-transport>
- England Coast Path – we are working with Natural England on a Memorandum of Understanding between the Authority and Natural England, this will agree roles and responsibilities in the development and maintenance of the path.
- Holmsley Bridge – Myself and Steve Avery, our Executive Director for Strategy and Planning met with HCCs structures team regarding the future of the Holmsley A35 bridge which is in need of replacement in the coming years. There are opportunities in this replacement to improve the situation for walkers and cyclists using the C10 to travel between Burley and Brockenhurst. Plans have not yet been developed, but the process of scoping and design will commence shortly.
- Seasonal rangers – As in previous years, we've recently recruited two seasonal rangers in partnership with Camping in the Forest and the Forestry Commission to engage directly with campers on the Crown Land sites.
- Apprentice rangers – As part of the HLF Landscape Partnership programme, we have recently started advertising for two apprentice rangers. They will gain practical experience and develop skills in all aspects of environmental conservation and recreation management undertaking placements with 5 ranger teams within the New Forest National Park; New Forest National Park Authority, Forestry Commission, National Trust, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Hampshire County Council. If you know anyone who might be interested send them to: <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/jobs>
- Family Cycling Centre, Brockenhurst – on track for opening in July. Formal opening event in September.
- Walkers and Cyclists accommodation welcome scheme launched on 25th May, in partnership with New Forest Tourism Association and New Forest District Council. To accompany this, our new routes website is currently going through testing at <http://routes.newforestnpa.gov.uk/> and will be launched once routes have been checked and double checked shortly.

M. Holroyd, Transport & Tourism Manager
24/05/16