

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 07 December 2015*

Agenda item 9: *Regular updates*

a) National Park Authority –report from Mark Holroyd

At our next meeting, NFNPA interpretation officer, Jim Mitchell, will give an overview of work on the following projects:

- The Our Past, Our Future Heritage Lottery Fund programme
- Historic Routes
- Self-guided experiences
- New Forest Walking Festival

Sustainable Travel Transition funding

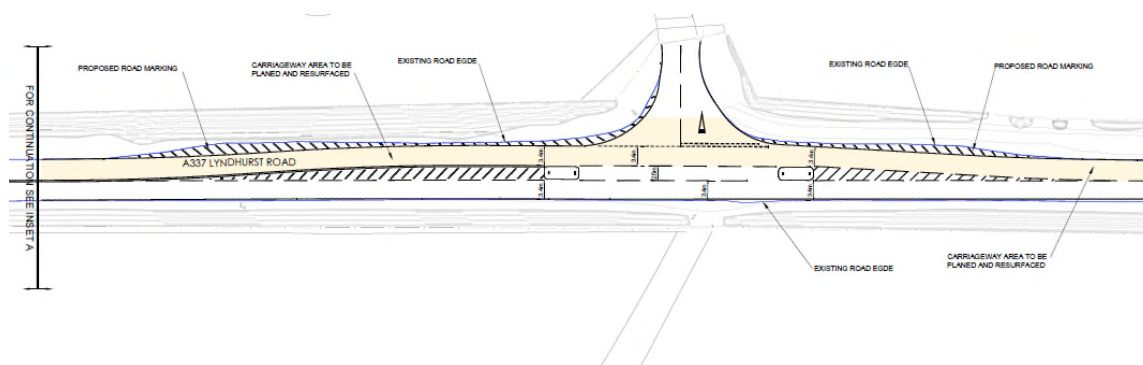
The government has just announced £20 million of revenue funding for sustainable transport programmes in 2016/17. The Authority, HCC and the South Downs National Park Authority are currently deciding whether to apply for this funding (applications due at the end of March) to continue the work of the Two National Parks programme which has been delivered since 2012. The current programme is focussed on reducing the impact of visitor traffic on both National Parks. As the funding has just been announced, I hope to provide a more comprehensive update on our intentions at the meeting.

Tame your wild side campaign

The campaign will be launched later in March.

New Forest Family Cycling Experiences Programme

Work has commenced on constructing the new Family Cycling Centre in Brockenhurst station. Hampshire Highways will shortly commence works to construct a right-turn pocket outside Hollands Wood campsite, near Brockenhurst. The removal of the filter lane and a tighter junction will reduce traffic speeds and improve safety at a location where there have been a number of cycling injuries over the past decade.



Mark Holroyd. Transport & Tourism Manager. 19/02/16

b) Forestry Commission – verbal report from Gary North

c) Small Grants Scheme – report from meeting of 9 February prepared by Joan Cundill

There were 12 applications for approx. £19,400. This was the fourth meeting of the financial year.

There were 2 applications from the NFAF area.

1. **Boldre Parish Council** requested £262 to repair a gate across a wooden bridge and new rails to improve security, both of which have fallen into disrepair. This was an incomplete application. The Landowner is not known, and the reason for gate unclear. Does the bridge itself need refurbishing? To be decided by e-mail.

2. **Autism and Nature**, (a company limited by guarantee) requested £2046 to produce 1,000 booklets "Exploring the New Forest by bus: a guide for families with children with autism" advising parents and carers of autistic children on suitable places to visit in the National Park. This has already received a grant of £5,000 from the NPA (Sustainable Development Fund?) which was to include production costs, so the application was refused.

There is an under-spend for this financial year of approx. £5,000 (total depends on some further information from some of the applicants). It is hoped that the level of funding will be maintained for the 2016-2017 financial year.

Three new CEOs, community engagement officers, were due to start work with the various countryside access teams on 14.02.2016. Part of their job will be to work with parish councils and landowners to encourage access improvements and hopefully to encourage some new projects which the SGS will be able to support.

Joan Cundill

11th February 2016