

New Forest Access Forum: Update September 2014

A few items of interest to members for which there was insufficient time to report on at our last meeting:

1. Many thanks to those of you who assisted in drafting a response to the HCC Consultation on their draft Cycling Strategy. Interestingly HCC have adopted a two stage approach to their consultation, issuing the draft to only a few selected organisations at the first stage, of which we were one. The response has been submitted.
2. We were made aware of a review by Defra of their advice and guidance to dog walkers. Heather kindly took on a review of these and we have responded to Defra largely based on her and NFDog's comments.
3. We have responded with a "No Objection" to the consultation by Natural England on the continuing restriction to access at Shaws Farm.
4. We received from Mark Holroyd of the NPA an update on the list of schemes scheduled for delivery by **Hampshire County Council** and funded through the New Forest Family Cycling Experiences programme or the Two National Parks LSTF programme as follows. These works are currently being designed for implementation shortly, they are subject to change. Further schemes may emerge.
 - a. Upgrade of surface of cycle route adjacent to A35 between Lyndhurst & Ashurst. Installation of a tarmac surface scheduled for this autumn.
 - b. Scheme to improve the cycle route adjacent to the A35 at Totton
 - c. Cycle Route improvements between Totton and Ashurst & Colbury (signage audit and implementation, lines and junction improvements)
 - d. Access improvements for pedestrians and cyclists from Brockenhurst station onto Avenue road and Brookley road.
 - e. Hollands Wood Campsite right turn pocket to assist cycle access off A337
 - f. Lymington road A337 Setley crossing near Filly Inn junction improvements to assist cyclists crossing here
 - g. Lymington road A337 junction with Tilebarn Lane to improve as a cycle crossing point.
 - h. Crow Hill Lane, Ringwood. Signage and road markings will be implemented to raise awareness of equestrians and cyclists.
 - i. Junction improvements at Long Lane / Staplewood Lane / Tavel Lane where 6 PIA have been recorded since March 2010 which involve cyclists
 - j. Minstead Bridleway 10 (near Brook) – Surface improvements by HCC Countryside Services

k. Fawley Bridleway 27/31 near Holbury Manor – Surface improvements by HCC Countryside Services

l. Minstead / Lyndhurst Bridleway 1 link in Emery Down – Surface improvements by HCC Countryside Services

m. An extensive programme of improvements to edges of carriageways with the aim of improving safety and experience for cyclists, pedestrians and equestrians across the National Park (e.g. edge of carriageway markings, road haunching). Exact details are currently being confirmed.

n. Further schemes are currently being identified.

5. A list of infrastructure schemes being delivered by the **Forestry Commission** currently:

a. Burbush to Brockenhurst (Surface improvements, drainage, vegetation management, removal of disused railway infrastructure)

b. Castle Hill, Burley (Surface improvements, wooden barriers)

c. Fletchers Thorns (nr Blackwater). Installation of new cycle bridge.

d. More surface improvement schemes and cycle counter locations are currently being developed.

The NFFCE programme also contributed towards the development of the Marsh Lane cycle route in Lymington delivered in the last financial year by New Forest District Council with HCC.

5. Martin Down: Following our favourable response to the proposals for grazing Martin Down Natural England have made an application to Defra under Section 38 of the 2006 Commons Act to proceed as outlined.