

**Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting – 6 June 2016**  
**Calshot Activities Centre**

**Present**

Members: Ruth Croker (Chairman)  
Alastair Duncan (Deputy Chairman)  
Sally Arnold  
Lynden Bowen  
Tracey Churcher  
Joan Cundill  
Sam Dovey  
Gordon Garrett  
Heather Gould  
Alison Russell  
Peter Scott  
Ann Sevier

Officers: Petronella Natrass (Hampshire County Council)  
Sam Jones (Hampshire County Council)  
Mark Holroyd (New Forest National Park Authority)  
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance: John Taylor (Natural England)  
Chloe Walker-Panse (Natural England)  
Tamsin Pearce (Fawley Waterside Communications Manager)  
Mark Luis Earp (IoW LAF Chair)

**1 Apologies, introductions and minutes of last meeting**

1.1 Apologies were received from Rachel Pearson, Hallam Mills, Gary North and Mark Cowling.

**2 Matters arising**

2.1 As per report.

**3 Chairman's Report**

3.1 The Chairman updated the Forum on the last Coastal Access consultation event in New Milton, 35 members of the public attended and a positive response was received.

Gordon Garrett also attended some of the consultations; he found the Fawley event was poorly attended; however the event at Beaulieu had been incredibly busy with a number of concerns being raised by the public.

**4 Forum Officer's Report**

4.1 As per report.

## **5 Forest Design Plan Consultation**

- 5.1 The Chairman had recently attended an event which was hosted by the Forestry Commission, extremely detailed plans and information were presented with regards to the Forest Design Plan however the Chairman felt that as a forum there wasn't enough knowledge to formulate an appropriate response. A letter had been drafted and the forum was asked for any further comments.
- 5.2 Tracey Churcher stated that the Forestry Commission needed to communicate more effectively to all user groups when routes are closed and felt that this could be done by an improved use of technology.

The forum agreed to add this to the response letter

Action: Petronella Natrass to add a comment into the letter regarding more effective communication
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## **6 Reports from other LAF's**

- 6.1 a) Hampshire  
As per report
- b) Wiltshire  
It was reported that the previous Deputy Chairman had now taken over as Chairman. The Deputy Chairman is a retired major who has a keen interest in the rights of way network on Salisbury Plain.
- c) Dorset  
As per report
- d) Isle of Wight  
Mark Luis Earp advised that the IoW forum were particularly interested to know how Coastal Access was proceeding in the New Forest and the rest of the Hampshire coast and commented that they would like to keep in touch with the forum on this. There were concerns regarding future financing of the IoW Council.  
The definitive map for the IoW was currently being digitised and would be available on-line in due course.

## **7 Regular Updates**

- 7.1 a) *New Forest National Park Authority*  
Mark Holroyd advised that a response regarding the Department for Transport Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy had been submitted through National Parks England, the umbrella body for National Parks.  
A recent meeting had taken place with HCC to discuss the future of the Holmsley A35 Bridge which is in need of replacement, plans had not yet been developed however input from the Access Forum would be required.  
The South Downs National Park had invited the NFAF to attend a future Access Forum meeting.

Action: Mark Holroyd to email Forum Members to ask who would like to visit SDNPA and make the necessary arrangements.

Mark informed the forum that the Cycle Working Group had recently met and would be meeting again later this month; Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman) would be attending this meeting and would also be looking at recreation management. An update would be brought to the September meeting.

Joan Cundill commented that the disabled toilet at Blackwater had now been completed; she said they looked very nice however they were not comfortable due to the stainless steel toilet seat.

*b) HCC Countryside Access*

Sam Jones highlighted some key issues since the last Access Forum meeting.

Overall the Countryside Access team were very supportive of the Coastal Access scheme however there needs to be clarity over responsibilities for implementation and ongoing maintenance. A memorandum of understanding had been drafted; given the dynamic nature of the coastline a process of roll back would need to be agreed. Sam explained that he had recently attended a very good meeting with Natural England regarding the instability of Barton clifftops which were temporarily closed; this was recognised as a high value route and the NFDC coastal engineering team were also involved.

Sam advised that there were some legal cases currently being worked on, these included a landowner at Puddleslosh and Network Rail who currently have a national programme to close as many crossings as possible.

John Cartwright had now left and a job advertisement for his replacement was currently underway, this position would be for 16 months.

Key work was being carried out in partnership with NFDC and the NPA looking at the mitigation and impact of new homes proposed in the district. Sam advised that they were currently looking at improving SANGS, local greenspace and access improvements. Esther Smeardon would be the project officer for this.

The seasonal vegetation programme had now started and information of such could be found on the HCC website.

£370k had been secured to replace urgent priority bridges; there are around 18 major structures across the county. 'Jim's bridge' in the Avon Valley had received £46k for restoration which includes the boardwalk. Sam Jones had recently picked up the lead on bridges for the County; he was looking to undertake some audits and would be keen to get the forum on board with evaluating bridges and reporting back.

Natalie Hands would be producing a quarterly newsletter aimed at parishes and local forums to give a flavour of what is happening within the district.

*c) Forestry Commission*

As per paper

d) *Small Grants Scheme*

Joan Cundill drew the Forum's attention to the money which was available to the SGS for the 2016-17 financial year of £47,550. Joan advised that at the last meeting a discussion was held on expanding the scope to include applications from other groups and improvement of the application form.

e) *Coastal Access*

John Taylor introduced Chloe Walker-Panse as the new Coastal Path Advisor. All drop-in sessions were now completed with John Truswell and Chloe in the process of meeting with landowners. On 20 June John would be meeting with the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership to discuss any opportunities and concerns along the HCS stretch.

It was agreed that the next Coastal Access Sub-group would be held in July.

## **8 Local Plan Review – David Illsley, Policy Manager NFNPA**

8.1 David Illsley gave a presentation updating the Forum on the Authority's review of local planning policies for the National Park. He highlighted that National Parks continue to have the highest protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty and any major development would only be supported in exceptional circumstances.

8.2 The National Park's Local Plan will cover the scale and location of new housing development and will set out a framework for mitigating the impacts of new developments on protected habitats and include the provision for alternative recreational areas.

8.3 Mr Illsley advised the Forum of the timescale on which the Local Plan would be adopted, with the first draft being discussed with Members at the Full Authority meeting in September. During October and November 2016 further public consultation would take place and in Summer 2017 publication of a proposed 'Submission Draft' document would be ready for consultation and then submitted to the Government by Winter 2017/18. The document would then be adopted following examination by the Secretary of State.

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.*

8.4 It was suggested that a sub group be formed to enable the Forum to give an informed response to the consultation.

Action: Petronella Natrass to email the Forum with suitable dates to form a sub group – the following members were interested in attending Ruth Croker, Ann Sevier and Heather Gould

## **9 LAF Annual Review Form 2015-16**

9.1 The Forum discussed the review form and some changes were made, it was agreed that Mark Holroyd and Petronella Natrass would make any necessary amendments and submit as required.

Action: Mark Holroyd and Petronella Natrass to complete Annual Review and submit

## **10 Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

- 10.1 Alastair Duncan advised the Forum that he would be standing down as deputy chairman, following discussion it was proposed that Ruth Croker would remain as chairman for a further year and that a deputy chairman would be elected at the September meeting. All Members were in agreement.

## **11 Coastal Access's Representation on Ordnance Survey Maps**

- 11.1 John Taylor gave a presentation advising that Ordnance Survey would be illustrating the coastal margin on their digital and paper products with a magenta wash and a clear caveat in their key.

Full details can be found on the PowerPoint presentation on the website and further discussion would take place at the next coastal access sub-group meeting.

## **12 Presentation and tour of Calshot Activities Centre**

- 12.1 Calshot Activities Centre was owned and run by Hampshire County Council to provide indoor and outdoor educational activities. A brief history of the site was given; in 1539 Henry VIII built Calshot Castle and from then on it had proved to be a very important historical site. In May 1964 it was taken over by HCC as an educational site with a major refurbishment carried out during 1994/98.

## **13 Any Other Business**

- 13.1 Joan Cundill notified the Forum that New Forest Access For All had now folded.

### **Date of next meeting:**

5 September 9.30 – 1.00, Venue: Lymington Community Centre