

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 5 December 2016*

Agenda item 4: *Forum Officer's Report*

1. HCC update

- **Parish Lengthsman Scheme** – this scheme will continue to include rights of way for a second year during 2017-18. There were some teething problems during 2016-17 with the reporting of rights of way work done by the lengthsman across the whole of the county, but it is clear from reports that have come in that the participating parishes value highly the ability to prioritise and progress minor maintenance works on both roads and the rights of way network.
Thirty parishes in the New Forest district are currently signed-up to the scheme for the current financial year.
- **Ease of Use Rights of Way survey** – data for the November 2016 survey have now been analysed and combined with the May 2016 results: over the course of the year volunteers from the Ramblers and Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society surveyed 476km of paths (10.64% of the rights of way network). 74% of paths were passed as 'easy to use', an improvement of 2 percentage points on 2015. The most common reasons for failure were signposts, waymarks and gates/stiles.

2. HCAF

- **New members** – the following new members have been appointed to the HCAF:
 - Jim Morey, representing people with disabilities
 - Andy Whincup, representing off-road cyclists
- **Recruitment of full Forum** – the majority of HCAF members were appointed for a 3-year term in 2014. The next full recruitment of the Forum (excluding recently-appointed members) is scheduled to take place over the summer.

3. National LAF news

- The National LAF Conference will take place on Wednesday 21 June in Birmingham and we are hoping that the programme for the day will be circulated shortly. Ruth Croker will attend on behalf of NFAF.

Petronella Natrass
May 2017