

New Forest Access Forum

Officer's report (Marilyn Meeks)

This paper covers:

- HCC, Cycle Strategy
- Paths for Communities
- Natural England
- Deregulation Bill

Hampshire County Council, Cycle Strategy

A report will be presented at the Chairman's briefing on 1st December 2014 this will have taken in to account comments made by the 3 LAFs in Hampshire, and Stakeholders Consultation responses. There is to be a Steering Group meeting on the 3rd December. A report on the draft cycling strategy will be presented to Cabinet on 15th December. Subject to approval a 4 week public consultation will start in Mid January 2015.

Paths for Communities

The Paths for Communities (P4C) End of Scheme Report was published on the 13th November 2014 on GOV.UK along with a map summarising the projects delivered and a final P4C Newsletter. All can be found by following this [link](#).

LAFs played a very important part in galvanising and nurturing many of the successful P4C projects. Whilst there are no specific funds available to continue the P4C Scheme, Natural England believe that this report contains a wealth of information and best practice, which shows that it is possible for local communities to work with land owners to deliver new access opportunities in their area. Natural England hopes it will provide inspiration to local groups and an encouragement to potential funders to develop similar projects in the future. Natural England hopes that LAFs will be able to make full use of the report and its findings in their ongoing work to promote local access opportunities.

The report can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/paths-for-communities-p4c-scheme-final-report>

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/map?category=5457688204935168>

Natural England

Natural England have finalised their new area structures and in a consequence there is a new officer in Natural England who will take the lead for Local Access Forums.

Heather Whetter covers Access & Engagement for Dorset, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Area and also some SSSI's.

Heather works 9.15 to 3.45 Tues/Weds/Thursday, and has stated that she hopes to attend some meetings or if there is a significant issue where Natural England can contribute to the debate.

Deregulation Bill

The Deregulation Bill is currently with the House of Lords. The 6th sitting was held on 11 November 2014. There are two further committee stages within the House of Lords on the 18th and 20th November 2014. The bill will then receive a third reading in the Lords before entering 'ping pong' when any amendments are considered.

The target for royal assent is January 2015