

**Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting**  
**Lepe Country Park– 11 June 2018**

**Present**

Members: Ruth Croker (Chairman)  
Fran Carpenter  
Alastair Duncan  
Gordon Garrett  
Gary North  
Hallam Mills  
Ross Mitchell  
Leo Randall  
Peter Scott

Officers: Nigel Matthews (New Forest National Park Authority)  
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance:  
Helen Barber (Hampshire County Council)  
David Illsley (New Forest National Park Authority)

**1 Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Paul Brockman, Mark Cowling, Heather Gould, Ann Sevier and Petronella Natrass.

**2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

2.2 All matters arising were completed as per report.

2.3 Discussion took place regarding 'pop up' campsites which had been appearing across the forest and the impact they were having. A query was raised regarding the permitted development rights which allowed landowners to use their land for up to 28 days for camping without the need for permission it was asked if this permitted development right was per landowner, or could be used in multiple places within a single landholding.

*Following the meeting David Illsley provided the following information.*

*The '28 day rights' apply to each individual planning unit. There may be several separate planning units within a single Estate. For example, on a large New Forest Estate there may be separate and distinct areas of land within the Estate occupied for substantially different and unrelated purposes. In this case, these areas are separate planning units and each is to be considered by itself (and each would have its own PD rights).*

### **3 Chairman's Report**

- 3.1 The Chairman ran through her report highlighting the recent site visit she had attended to look at wetland restoration. There were no particularly contentious issues and it would be considered by the Verderers Court.
- 3.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

### **4 Forum Officer's Report**

- 4.1 It was brought to the Forum's attention that the NFDC Local Plan had now been agreed by cabinet and a six week consultation would now take place. A response would be formulated and forwarded to NFDC.
- 4.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

### **5 New Research into Visits to the New Forest – David Illsley, NFNPA**

- 5.1 David Illsley gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Forum on planned housing developments and how this could impact the National Park. He explained that the research to be undertaken by local planning authorities in and around the New Forest was driven by the scale of planned housing developments around the Forest and the wealth of internationally protected habitats within the park.
- 5.2 Mr Illsley went on to explain that there was currently a range of approaches taken by planning authorities in and around the New Forest to habitat mitigation measures, with variations in both levels of financial contributions and the distance from the New Forest at which these are sought.
- 5.3 In January 2018 a bid was submitted jointly with 6 planning authorities and Natural England to the Government's 'Joint Working Fund' to develop a co-ordinated, cross boundary approach to ensure the impacts of development were appropriately mitigated. The bid was successful and Mr Illsley advised that by spring / summer 2019 the research would be completed and this will feed into the development of a strategic approach to habitat mitigation measures in the New Forest.

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

### **6 RMS Consultation – Nigel Matthews**

- 6.1 Nigel Matthews advised the Forum that the next round of RMS consultation would shortly be taking place to look at the draft actions which had been proposed and how these would be delivered. It was agreed that a sub-group would meet to discuss and formulate a response to the consultation.

### **7 Regular Updates**

- 13.1 a) New Forest National Park Authority  
Nigel Matthews advised that Adam Vasey, the new Access Ranger would be joining the NPA in August. He joins the NPA from Exmoor National Park.  
The NPA and FC plan to work with commercial dog walkers to agree a charter that will describe the standards expected of them in the New Forest.

- b) HCC Team  
As per report
- c) Forestry Commission – Gary North  
As per report
- d) Historic Routes  
As per report
- e) England Coast Path  
As per report

## **8 Reports from other LAF's**

- 8.1 a) *Hampshire*  
As per report
- b) Wiltshire  
As per report
- c) Dorset  
Nothing to report

## **9 Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

- 9.1 A proposal was put forward for Ruth Croker to continue as Chairman for another year which was duly seconded and agreed unanimously by the Forum.  
A proposal was then put forward for Ann Sevier to continue as Deputy Chairman for another year, which was again duly seconded and unanimously agreed by the Forum.

## **10 Transformation at Lepe Country Park**

- 10.1 Stephanie Rogers gave the Forum a brief overview of the Country Parks Transformation Programme before taking them on a guided tour of the new visitor Facilities at Lepe Country Park.

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

3 September 2018, 9.30 – 1.00, Venue: Council Chamber, Lyminster Town Hall