

## NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Monday 11 June 2018*

**Agenda item 8:** *Regular updates*

a) **New Forest National Park Authority** – *report from Nigel Matthews*

b) **HCC Countryside Access (South Area team)** – *written report from Alison Perry*

### 1. England Coast Path:

HCC Access Team is continuing to work with Natural England (NE), finalising costings for some of the larger infrastructure elements outside of the NP.

Discussions concerning the Trail Partnership are on-going and yet to be finalised.

### 2. New Forest Mitigation Partnership:

Works on the Lymington and Pennington circular walk have been completed and the contractors were able to do some additional works with funding from the South Area Team revenue budget. Once the new fingerposts have been installed (mid June) Esther will be arranging a 'soft' opening of the route.

The next projects are due to be in Milford on Sea and Butts Ash (Totton) with a review of the governance of the project due to speed up and simplify the current process.

The project Officer Esther Smeardon has been confirmed to continue in post until Sept 2019.

### 3. Network management:

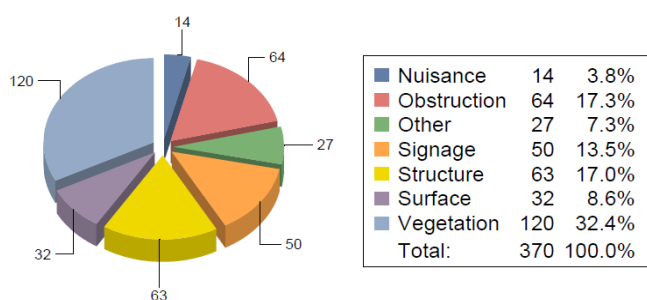
The Area Team are currently in the process of recruiting to the 2 vacant posts – the Access Ranger and Community Engagement Ranger – interviews to take place in early June with the new team in post by the end of July 2018.

The seasonal vegetation program has now started with our contractors having completed approximately ½ of the scheduled May cuts, so are on target. Insert link.....Paths have been selected based on the teams local knowledge and input from Parish Councils.

Results from The Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) are below.

	<b>Received</b>	<b>Resolved</b>	<b>%</b>
Total number of Issues in the NFNPA parishes Since 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2018	98	128	131%
Total number of Issues in the NFNPA parishes Since May 2017	319	370	116%
Total Number of Issues across Hampshire since 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2018	1009	1295	128%
Total Number of Issues across Hampshire since May 2017	2872	3444	120%

## Types of Issues Resolved in the NFNPA parishes since May 2017



The above figures continue to show the positive received: resolved trend despite the ranger team being under staffed. It also shows that vegetation issues continue to be our most reported issue.

*Alison Perry*  
May 2018

### c) **Forestry Commission** – verbal report from Gary North

### d) **Historic Routes** (Ann Sevier)

The Historic Routes Project is to find walking routes off the Open Forest with historical interest and to date most parishes have been assessed by volunteers using on line sources and some volunteers have been out on the ground. The next stage is to sift through the data and this will remove any paths that do not have connectivity for example paths that can not be part of a circular route.

At the NPA quadrant meetings parishes have raised the need for parking to be considered and to avoid any verge parking. Also that accessibility be taken into account and that paths can be subject to seasonal conditions.

*Ann Sevier*  
May 2018

### e) **England Coast Path update** (Petronella Natrass)

Natural England (NE) has come to the end of the 8 week representations and objections period (9<sup>th</sup> May) for Highcliffe to Calshot. The NE team is now processing all the objections and representations into their database and will be sending the objections to PINs for the Inspector to decide on admissibility. Once that is done the Inspector will notify NE, who will then process all the objections and representations and send them back to the Inspector. We have been advised that this can take a little time.

Thereafter the Inspector will examine them all which can take some months before a decision is taken.

There is consequently little to report at this stage and John Truswell will therefore not be attending the meeting on 11 June. If however there are any questions he has asked me to forward them to him.

*Petronella Natrass*  
May 2018