

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: Monday 11 June 2018

Agenda item 9: Reports from other Forums

a) Hampshire Countryside Access Forum (HCAF) 20 March 2018 (*Petronella Nattrass*)

Draft minutes are available on the Forum's website at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/countryside/hcaf>. The following is a summary of the main items covered:

- **3-5 year Forward Plan:** there have been some significant changes (e.g. the Brexit referendum) since the Forum last updated its Forward Plan. It was agreed that the Chair and Vice-chair should review and update the plan and bring it to the June meeting for approval.
- **Draft Equestrian Guidance:** HCAF agreed in principle to adopt this as a Forum document, although the draft needed further work if there is to be full consensus. It was also agreed that the Forum would only develop and support such guidance where there is an identified 'gap' in provision.
- **'Health & Harmony' Defra consultation:** the Forum agreed a process for developing a response to this consultation and the response was subsequently submitted on 3 May.
- **Engagement with Hampshire Highways:** there has been no further development since the Workshop in November and it was agreed that PN should obtain an update for the next meeting.
- **Rural Communities Fund:** HCAF agreed to review the improvements that this scheme has delivered in March 2019.
- **Byways Management:** HCC assessment forms are being updated in response to the Forum's comments and will be discussed further in June.
- **List of Streets subgroup:** HCAF asked for an update on actions coming out of the subgroup's meeting with HCC officers in February.
- **MoD Liaison Group:** subject to a couple of amendments, the Forum approved Alan Taylor's draft letter in response to the MoD's review of its bye-laws. It was agreed that (subject to confirmation) this should be issued as joint advice from the Hampshire, Surrey, South Downs and (possibly) Kent LAFs.
- **PATHH:** there is some £255 remaining from the original HLF funding and it was proposed that this should be spent on work towards recording routes on the Definitive Map. This does however need to conform with the original terms of the HLF award; the sub-group agreed to look into this and bring a recommendation to the Forum for decision on 19 June.
- **Sub-groups:** there are currently a large number of sub-groups working on different projects. Roles and membership were discussed and clarified at a workshop after lunch.

Petronella Nattrass
May 2018

b) Wiltshire Countryside Access Forum 14 March 2018 (*Ruth Croker*)

A303 Consultation

In the consultation document Highways England have referred to all rights of way as byways. Confusing as many are footpaths or bridleways.

Wiltshire Countryside Service aims to keep all the rights of way and get extra where possible. Possibilities for retaining the routes and adding others was discussed.

It is very likely there will be an enquiry re the proposals. There has been an objection from the Authority granting World Heritage Status to Stonehenge and the surrounding area.

Hare Coursing and Fly Tipping

Nick Cowan explained the problems he is having to deal with on restricted byways. Alternatives were discussed. There is not an easy solution.

One possibility is restricting the width of the highway. (In some instances the by way is at the side of a wider track).The gap left would allow legal users however killing and butchering if deer and hare often takes place at the side of the track.

Often the area to the side is private.

A Public Space Protection Order requires 3yrs of evidence and would be difficult to obtain.

The army is concerned about the possibility of explosive devices being taken along the route and the use of the Land Powers Act was considered.

Carriage drivers would find bollards mid track difficult to negotiate especially if they had a rear step.

Ruth Croker

May 2018