

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 3 September 2018*

Agenda item 10: *Regular updates*

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

Access Forum membership

- Five applications received in response to request for people who can represent landowners, equestrians and people with disabilities.

Recreation Management Strategy (see agenda item)

- Over 1,000 responses received to public consultation on draft proposed actions
- Broad support for all actions
- We are analysing the free-text comments which include useful information

England Coast Path

- Awaiting a decision from the Secretary of State to confirm the route

Access Ranger

- Adam Vasey from Exmoor National Park, started 6th August and will attend the Access Forum meeting. His role focusses on:
 - New Forest Access Forum
 - England Coast Path
 - Other access improvements
 - Assisting with recreation management work

New Forest National Park Authority – Submission Draft Local Plan 2016-2036

- The independent examination will take place in November

Rangers, Seasonal Rangers and apprentices

- The team has been out promoting responsible recreation in a wide range of situations, including campsites, key visitor locations, on guided walks and at events
- The two Apprentices are spending their final weeks with the NPA – and we're interviewing for two new apprentices on 6 September.

Commercial dog walkers

- With other local organisations (including NFDOG and Forestry Commission) we have developed a draft Charter for professional dog walking businesses, incorporating the Dog Walking Code (adapted to apply to people walking multiple dogs) and some best practice commitments about caring for the dogs, holding appropriate insurance etc.
- This will be finalised following a meeting with businesses later this year

New Forest Tour and travel ambassadors

- The three New Forest Tour routes and associated travel ambassadors stationed in Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst enjoyed a good summer season, helped by the fine weather – the service ends on 13 September.

Access improvements

- At the request of the Parish Council, the NPA contributed £500 towards a project in Boldre (Shallows Lane) to restrict damage by turning vehicles and thereby improve conditions for walkers. HCC carried out the work.
- Fundraising and communications are progressing for the Mend our Mountains campaign for improvements to the Lepe Loop

- We hope to progress discussions with HCC to trial enhanced waymarking that could include, where appropriate, destination and distance and locally distinctive branding (e.g. managed by HCC; within the National Park; on the Beaulieu Estate; part of the England Coast Path)

Nigel Matthews

August 2018

b) Forestry Commission – *verbal report from Gary North*

c) England Coast Path update

John Truswell is unable to attend this meeting, but advises that there is little to report on Highcliffe to Calshot (HCS) because Natural England is still corresponding with the Planning Inspectorate in relation to objections and representations on this particular section. This will potentially take several months. Work is going on behind the scenes, however until the Inspector has reviewed all the objections and representations and decided on site visits there will be nothing to report.

For the section from Calshot to Gosport (CCG) there is overlap between NFAF and HCAF and John is arranging to meet with the Coastal Access sub-groups of both Forums in mid-September to discuss Natural England's initial proposals for route alignment. These have been developed in consultation with members of the Ramblers, who have walked most of the route with the NE team.

Petronella Natrass

August 2018