

## NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

**Meeting:** *Monday 3 September 2018*

**Agenda item 4:** *Forum Officer's Report*

### 1. HCC Countryside Service update

- **Community Engagement Rangers** – at different stages this year all 3 Community Engagement Rangers moved on to new posts following 2 very successful years in these new roles. Their successors have now been appointed and the new CER for the South/West area – Ria Loveridge – will be attending the Forum meeting on 3 September.

### 2. NFAF news

- **Planning Guidance** – the Forum's 'Guidance on Access for Planners and Developers' is currently with the New Forest National Park Authority design team for formatting.
- **England Coast Path** – the Coastal Access sub-group will meet with John Truswell on 18 September to look at his proposals for the route between Calshot and Gosport (see report under Item 10 'Regular updates')

### 3. Consultations

- **New Forest District Council Local Plan Review 2016-2036** – at the beginning of the summer NFDC consulted on the soundness of the pre-submission draft of the Local Plan Part 1: Planning Strategy. The attached response was sent on behalf of the Forum, together with a copy of the Forum's 'Guidance on Access for Planners and Developers'.
- **New Forest Inclosures Deforestation Proposals** – the following email was sent to the Forestry Commission in response to this consultation:

Dear Sirs,

The New Forest Access Forum (the Local Access Forum for the whole of the New Forest National Park and New Forest District and a statutory advisory body under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) would like to thank the Forestry Commission for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Enterprise application for consent to deforest approximately 464 hectares of woodland in the New Forest and return it to open heathland under the Environmental Assessment (Forestry) Regulations 1999.

The Forum does not consider it has the expertise to comment in any detail on this application, but supports the proposal in principle as part of a long-term Forest Design Plan to move from softwood production to hardwood and open heath. In that context, we suggest that any future consultation some other term should be used than 'deforestation', which has negative connotations that do not reflect the benefits of this work to both landscape and habitats within the New Forest.

Yours faithfully

**Ruth Croker**

Chair, New Forest Access Forum

*Petronella Natrass*  
*August 2018*



Policy and Plans Team  
New Forest District Council  
Appletree Court  
Beaulieu Road  
Lyndhurst  
Hampshire S043 7PA

Hampshire County Council  
Countryside Service  
Castle Avenue  
Winchester  
SO23 8UL

*Replies via* Petronella Natrass  
*Telephone* 01962 845326  
*Date* 9 August 2018

*E-mail* [Petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk)  
*Reference* NFAF/NFDC LP Review Aug 2018

Dear Sirs,

**Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1: Planning Strategy - Regulation 19 Publication for pre-submission public consultation**

The New Forest Access Forum (NFAF) thanks New Forest District Council for the opportunity to comment on this latest stage of reviewing the Local Plan 2016-36. The Forum considers the provision for pedestrian and cycle routes and open space within new developments to be of paramount importance and is pleased to note that this and the mitigation of impacts of development on the International Conservation Sites are both referenced within the Plan.

NFAF has no comments to make about the soundness of the submission document, but asks that it be kept informed about any further progress towards adoption of the Plan.

New Forest District Council Planning Department may be interested to see the attached copy of new Guidance to planners, developers and town/parish councils, which the NFAF will shortly publish via its website (<http://www.newforestaccessforum.org.uk/>) and circulate to all planning authorities and local councils within the National Park and surrounding area. This document sets out what the Forum considers to be key actions to minimise and mitigate the effects of development on recreational access in the New Forest and to help preserve the special qualities of the Forest. We hope that this will be of interest both to the District Council's Planning team and to elected Members on the Planning Committee.

Yours faithfully,

*Ruth Croker*

**Ruth Croker**  
**Chair, New Forest Access Forum**