

## **Forestry Commission Access Forum Update 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

### **Bridges Longslade and Culverley**

We were hoping to get the bridges at Longslade replaced this year. We engaged a consultant to manage this for us as a project, to obtain planning consent, design the bridge structures, manage the site decommission of the old and install of the new etc. However, the cost of this far exceeded the budget available.

We have been without an internal civil engineer for a long period of time now and recruiting a new one has proved difficult. We have recently been successful with this. Our intention is to now hand this project over to them with the view of looking at a similar bridge structure as there is currently as technologies have moved on since we had those fabricated.

With regard to the bridge at Culverley Green, Brockenhurst. A temporary repair has been undertaken and the bridge is now open. The longer term, permanent solution will now be implemented next spring when the ground conditions allow access without causing significant ground damage...providing we don't have a Spring like this year's,

**Blackwater car park** was closed for a week whilst we felled some of the large Douglas fir from around the car park and its periphery. These were trees suffering from crown die back and had got to a point where they needed to be felled. The new **Sensory Trail** was officially opened this weekend. If you haven't been to Blackwater recently, please take the time to visit and look at the new sculptures, interpretation and trail around the Arboretum all aimed at engaging people to nature through their senses.

**Pedall**, New Forest Inclusive Cycling has moved to a new base in an old building leased by the Forestry Commission in Burley. Pedall provides cycling for people who face a barrier to accessing cycling on the New Forest off road cycle network. The new base has access directly onto the network and we are pleased to support this partnership.

**Boltons Bench** will be closed this week, from 4<sup>th</sup> December, to undertake resurfacing of the tarmac road that provides access to all 3 car parks in this vicinity. The repairs and improvements to the road surface will make these car parks more accessible into the future.