

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 3 December 2018*

Agenda item 4: *Forum Officer's Report*

1. HCC Countryside Service update

- **Staff update** – the HCC Access Team has recently been recruiting for 3 vacancies: 2 additional Map Review officers and (following the appointment of Ben Marsh to one of the map review posts) a Planning Support officer. This expansion of the Winchester-based Map Review team is a response to the anticipate increase in the number of applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) as the 2026 cut-off date for applications approaches.

2. NFAF news

- **Planning Guidance** – final amendments are being made to the New Forest Access Forum's 'Guidance on Access for Planners and Developers, including some minor re-drafting to reflect recent changes in the National Planning Policy Framework. The finished document is expected to be ready in time for the meeting on 3 December. There will be a link to the document on the NFAF website. It is proposed that pdf copies will be sent to all local authorities in and around the New Forest area (together with the web link) and the pdf will also be uploaded onto Huddle for the benefit/information of other LAFs. Forum members are be asked to circulate the web link as widely as possible among their contacts, once the website has been updated.

3. LAF News

- **Meeting dates** – at the last meeting I was tasked with finding out when neighbouring LAFs would be meeting. Forum members may wish to note the following dates:

Wiltshire: 6 December

Isle of Wight: 6 December

Hampshire: 11 December. Provisional dates for 2019 (to be confirmed): 19 March, 18 June, 10 September, 10 December.

4. Consultations

- **Health and Harmony** – in September 2018 Defra published a [Summary of responses](#) to the consultation earlier on in the year on 'Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment'. This will be covered in more detail under Item 8 on the agenda.
- **Fawley Power Station** – Members will recall that a notice was circulated recently inviting the public to the latest exhibition on the proposals for the site. This takes place on Thursday 6 December at St George's Church, Calshot from 4 to 8pm; Gordon Garrett will attend this event and report back to the Forum.

HCC Countryside Service has been consulted by Fawley Waterside regarding access in and around the site boundary and has offered the following 4 main suggestions:

1. Multi-user route west into the New Forest
 2. Multi-user route south to Lepe Country Park
 3. Multi-user route north to Hythe / Solent Way
 4. Pedstrian route to Calshot Activity centre.
- **Cranborne Chase AONB Partnership** has written to ask for letters of support for a £2.5million landscape initiative that aims to transform the management of nature and heritage across North Dorset, South Wiltshire and West Hampshire. Details were circulated on 21 November and Forum members are asked to consider whether NFAF should support this initiative, given the proximity of the AONB and its potential to take some of the pressure of visitors off the New Forest National Park.