

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 3 December 2018*

Agenda item 11: *Reports from other Forums*

a) Hampshire Countryside Access Forum (HCAF) 11 September 2018

Draft minutes will be 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:

- At the end of July representatives of HCAF had had a productive meeting with Cllr Edward Heron in his capacity as Executive Member for Countryside and Rural Affairs. Discussions included concerns about routes recorded on the List of Streets and the Forum's continuing efforts to engage with Hampshire Highways. It was agreed that Forum representatives should meet with the Executive Member annually.
- **HCC DMMO prioritisation policy** – this is being revised and updated in anticipation of continuing increases in the number applications for DMMOs as the 2026 deadline approaches.
- **HCC draft Enforcement policy** – this is also being updated and Jonathan Woods will consult both HCAF and NFAF on the new draft policy (see Item 9 on the agenda for 3 December).
- **Equestrians in Hampshire: a reference guide for Transport, Planners, Developers and other decision makers** – the wording of this document has been agreed and there was discussion about details of design and the inclusion of an HCC logo on the document. The document has since gone to the designer and is nearing publication as HCAF Guidance, with the Countryside Service and BHS logos included on the back cover of the document.
- **Rural Communities Fund** – I presented a report on the first year, as given to NFAF on 3 September
- **Project/Sub-group updates:**
 - a) **Byways Management** – the draft process and assessment form had been circulated to NFAF and South Downs LAF and were due to be signed of by Cllr Heron in October
 - b) **Coastal Access** – the sub-group had met with John Truswell to look at the proposed route between Calshot and Gosport.
 - c) **List of Streets** – some actions are still outstanding from the meeting with Access and Highways officers in February.
 - d) **MoD Liaison Group** – the group proposed that HCAF should recommend MoD for an access award in recognition of the work done to create 6 new multi-user routes around MoD land
 - e) **Planning** – HCAF had been asked to meet with the developers for the MDA at Welborne to discuss provisions for access within the development and proposals for work to Junction 10 on the M27. It was agreed that the sub-group should meet with the developers and advise on behalf of the full Forum.

*Petronella Natrass
November 2018*

b) Wiltshire Countryside Access Forum 5 September 2018

1. The Ridgeway National Trail

An update was given about concerns re damage to the surface of this 87-mile trail which passes through the Stonehenge World Heritage Site. There is archaeology lying below the trail surface. Damage is not only due to recreational use. Farm vehicles and those used by shoots are also causing damage.

There will be further evidence gathering.

A Traffic Regulation Order is not being extended.

2. A303 Consultation – Stonehenge

Rights of way are to be preserved and linked.

There may be some new byways and restricted byways.

The Secretary of State may decide to prohibit driving on 1 by way.

3. Future of the CAF

There is to be a trial of a new method of working/a way forward. It is hoped this will revitalise the forum. Including the following.

- Members to take responsibility for the secretariat. Statutory responsibility remains with the County.
- Quarterly meetings to be resumed.
- Alternative meeting venues to be sought to make it easier for the public to attend. It is hoped different areas of the County can play host to the CAF.
- There is a desire to re engage with the wider LAF community.
- Annual work plans are to be reinstated.
- A refocus on issues needing proactive intervention.

Ruth Croker
November 2018