

## **NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM**

**Meeting:** *Monday 10 June 2019*

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

**a) Forum Officer's Report** – *report from Adam Vasey, National Park Access Ranger*

#### **The New Forest Access Forum**

- A new sub group has been formed to focus on improving the accessibility of the National Park. The group "New Forest Accessibility" seeks to continue the great work done by Joan Cundill to ensure that those with additional needs can access and enjoy this wonderful landscape.
- The New Forest Access Forum annual report has been completed by NFNPA designer Lucy Page. This document is both an engagement tool and also will act as the official document that is sent to D.E.F.R.A.

#### **England Coast Path**

- The Highcliffe to Calshot section has been proposed and is awaiting the secretary of state to deal with the representations before the route can be determined.
- The Calshot to Gosport section is still in the process of being proposed.

#### **The Lepe Loop**

- The CBC bid has not been successful so we are looking to the BMC to see if they can bring our funding total up to £20,000, which was the internal goal, they set for the project.
- I am working with HCC to find suitable contractors to give quotes for the surface works.

#### **Rural Communities Fund (NFNPA inputs)**

- Works have been completed on public footpath Brock501 adding a new gate, fencing and surfacing to muddy sections. The works have been done to an extremely high standard.

#### **Other Access & Rights of Way Projects**

- Fifteen waymarkers have been carved for the Holbury Manor wildplay trail. They will be installed and finished off in mid June.
- The Historic Routes project currently has about 20 draft trails, with the aim of whittling these down to the 10 finalists over the next few months and then select the five to progress once enhancements have been costed. The final five will then have the works progressed over the rest of this year.

#### **Walking Festival**

- I have started preparations for the 2019 Walking Festival. This year, to celebrate the Year Of Green Action and 70 years of national parks we are adding an extra week to focus on walks that encourage young people into our wild places.