

## **NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM**

**Meeting:** *Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 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**

- With the departure of Hallam Mills and Rachael Pearce we will need to recruit for those missing positions.

#### **England Coast Path**

- The Highcliffe to Calshot section is in phase four "Determine" and is waiting for secretary of state approval.
- The Calshot to Gosport section is being proposed and the consultation period ends on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September. The NFAF has already put its comment in to Natural England and I'd like to thank the Coast Path Subgroup for providing their comments.

#### **The Lepe Loop**

- Some good news, the BMC have raised our funding total up to £20,000. We'll add this to the £2000 from the Tesco appeal and the £200 raised in the raffle.
- I've received several quotes and am in the process of contacting landowners and organising the ground works. The additional signage will be added later after the 'Special By Design' report has been concluded.

#### **Landscape Enhancement Initiative – Project proposal.**

- I'm working up ideas for a new LEI project to improve the rights of way around Marchwood and Dibden. The piece of work is based on a piece of work done by Sarah Manchester and seeks to mitigate the visual impact of high voltage pylons through tree/hedge planting and path improvements.

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

- All fifteen waymarkers have been installed on the Holbury Manor wildplay trail which is the end of the access segment of this LEI funded project.
- The Historic Routes project has selected 10 finalists and its volunteers are busy researching the history of these routes and others within the National Park. Five of these will be selected as the final routes.

#### **Walking Festival**

- The 2019 Walking Festival is looking good with over fifty walks being offered by a wide range of organisations over three weeks.
- Simon Hemsley from Woodlander, supported by Sue Palmer (NFNPA Senior Education Officer) is organising free guided walks for schools during the first two weeks of the walking festival. It is hoped that the Year Of Green Action fund can partly subsidise the travel costs of these schools travelling in.