

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 7th December 2020*

Agenda item 3: *Chairman's Report*

1. Recreation Management Strategy.

A meeting of the positive and negative effects of recreation. The Advisory Group held in October concentrated on this.

A Wildlife Roundtable has developed mapping styles.

The Access Forum may be asked to look at the maps from a recreation point of view. It has been suggested that areas of enclosed landscape and the coast could accommodate more people for recreation.

The Steering Group have agreed that there needs to be an improvement in the link between it and the Advisory Group.

2. Parking outside of the National Park boundary.

Since our last meeting 2 issues have been brought to my attention.

Both issues are likely to add to the pressures on Forest car parks and increase recreational use of the Forest.

Similar issues may be occurring on the Forest edge.

The 2 that I am aware of are:

- Breamore, a beautiful chalkland area from which it used to be possible to explore the villages of not only Breamore hut also Whitsbury and Rockbourne and farther afield. The parking adjacent to the Church was used for many years without problems and without objection from the Church. However the land belongs to the Breamore Estate and they have stopped all parking by gating the area and putting up numerous no parking signs. There is no alternative parking.

- Blashford. Here there is a recreation car park constructed in perpetuity as a section 106 mitigation for the building of an Industrial Estate. Some but not all users of the industrial estate have applied to erect a barrier to close off the car park. Others have contacted me to help fight it. This effectively closes the car park.

I am including this in my report because in my view this is likely to cause an increase of recreation in the Forest, more pressure on a fragile landscape.

Ruth Croker