

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM

Meeting: *Monday 7th September 2020*

Agenda item 5: *Forum Officer's Report*

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

The England Coast Path

- The current timescales for the determination of the CCG (Calshot to Gosport) section is early 2021.
- The timescale for the HCS (Highcliffe to Calshot) section is roughly July/August 2021.
- Once these routes have been decided by Natural England the National Park will be responsible for establishing the route by installing various access infrastructure including signs, gates and boardwalks etc.

New Signage for the National Park

- Our signage designs have been agreed internally and by HCC and are the same as shown at the previous NFAF meeting.
- Gareth Owen is now ordering several signs to be placed, by HCC staff/volunteers, along the various Historic Routes.
- I am in the process of receiving quotes to construct the signs along the Lepe Loop

LEI New Forest Access & Landscape Enhancements Project (National Grid).

- We have been invited to submit a full bid. This is excellent news and means it is very likely that the project will be accepted.
- If we are successful, then the project will start in 2021/2022 and run for three years.

Walking & Cycling Festival

- The Walking & Cycling Festival will go ahead with various COVID Secure guidelines to keep everyone safe.
- We are monitoring the government advice daily to follow all the relevant guidance. We are in the process of contacting walk providers.

RDP Tourism bid

- We are submitting an RDP England tourism bid for £25,000. This project seeks to sign two of our promoted walking routes and to sign cycling routes across the New Forest (sticking to quiet roads and approved permissive cycle tracks).
- We hope that these measures will reduce the pressure on the open forest and encourage responsible cycling in the New Forest.