

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting
21 June 2021

Present

Members: Ruth Croker (Chair)
Ann Sevier (Vice Chair)
Gary North
Richard Taylor
Paul Ames
Trudi Lloyd-Williams
Sarah Hammett
Peter Armstrong
Paul French

Officers: Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)
Kathryn Nimmo (Hampshire County Council)

In attendance: Julie Sims (Bird Aware Solent)
Gemma Stride (Freshwater Habitats Trust)
Judy Haynes (Wiltshire Countryside Access Forum)

1 Apologies & Welcome

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Henry Mellor, Katie Porter, Bob Dampner, Julian Sheppard, Richard Shirley and Vicki Gibbon.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed new members to the forum. Each member introduced themselves and gave a short explanation of their skills and background.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

3 Chairman's Report

- 3.1 Ruth Croker briefly outlined the items on her report and informed members about the upcoming Local Walking and Cycling Infra-structure Plan (LCWIP) consultation.
 - **Action.** AV to setup consultation with forum members to have input into the LCWIP process.
- 3.2 Ruth went through her notes and then asked Richard Taylor to update on the Recreation Management Strategy (RMS).
- 3.3 Richard Taylor mentioned that there was a short-term RMS plan to deal with the increasing number of visits and that the long terms plans were also proceeding. Richard also noted that the Partnership Plan was up for consultation soon and that this would be a good opportunity for forum members to have an input in the priorities of the National Park Authority, and other organisations.
- 3.4 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

4 Forum Officer's Report

- 4.1 Adam Vasey briefly outlined his report and answered some questions on the timescales around the England Coast Path.

5 Additional Reports

- 5.1 Gary North, briefly outlined the report which was taken as read.
- 5.2 Judy Hayes gave a short report on the Wiltshire Countryside Access Forum and hoped for lasting contact between the two access forums.

6 Public Representations

- 6.1 There were no public representations.

7 Training for New Members – Adam Vasey (NFNPA)

- 7.1 Adam Vasey gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the role of Local Access Forums, and what resources are available to the New Forest Access Forum in order for them to help to make the New Forest more accessible for everyone.

8 The New Forest Water Code – Gemma Stride

- 8.1 Gemma Stride introduced herself to the Forum as the Project Officer from the Freshwater Habitats Trust. She gave a PowerPoint presentation showing the incredible value of New Forest freshwater habitats and what threats they are under. She showed the Water Code which hope to reduce Nitrate and Phosphate pollution caused by human activities.
- 8.2 Gemma took several questions about the work of the Freshwater Habitats Trust. Members of the forum noted several avenues through which she could disseminate her information and suggested areas of concern which her project could focus on.

9 Members Debate - Access To Water

- 9.1 Gary North gave an update on works to Hatchett Pond car park which will improve water quality and limit the environmental degradation.
- 9.2 Paul Ames said that educating people was very important especially to combat the erosion of bankside due to around dog disturbance of freshwater habitats.
- 9.3 Adam Vasey told the forum that he would be working with Julie Sims (Bird Aware Solent), Gemma Stride and Trudi Loyd-Williams to produce a New Forest Guide for Access To Water. This will be online content to start with.
- 9.4 Richard Taylor suggested that a consultation document be sent round so that members could add their thoughts about promoting responsible Access To Water.
- **Action.** AV to send round consultation document regarding Access To Water.

10 Any other business

10.1 Ruth Croker suggested that more training be given for members to use the new SharePoint site.

- **Action.** AV to schedule another training session for the next meeting and so send an email detailing where the expenses claim forms are stored.

Date of next meeting:

13th September 2021, 9.30am – 1.00pm, Venue: TBC

The meeting closed at 12:45pm