

Chairmans Report.

1. LCWIP 19th March.

The Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan. A workshop exploring the possibilities of providing more and better routes. It is not known how much funding will be available.

2. Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group. 25th May.

Items of particular interest to our LAF:

- a small section of the English Coast Path, north of Calshot should be established in early 2022.
- Verge parking. Consultants are exploring the possibility of using Traffic Regulation Orders to assist in dealing with this problem.
- Update on the Action Plan with particular reference to the expected increase in visitor numbers due to the popularity of staycations.
- The strategic action achievements since 2019.
- The Partnership Plan which is being updated around the following 5 themes:
 1. Nature Recovery.
 2. Net zero with nature.
 3. Thriving Forest.
 4. An Inclusive National Park.
 5. Team New Forest.
- The NFDC Green Way Habitat mitigation. This is designed to provide additional green space and recreational opportunities adjacent to new housing developments.

3. The Green Halo Virtual Conference, Towards 2030. Held 9th June.

A Habitat Mitigation scheme which has reached its 5th anniversary.

A virtual, half day, open meeting with interesting speakers. I attended as did at least 1 other member of the LAF.

A recording of this is available online. The link

Green Halo virtual Conference 2021 - Towards 2030 - Green Halo

Among other things there was discussion on how to:

Protect natural capital in perpetuity.

How to deliver on nature recovery and tackle the climate crisis.

The need to provide access to nature.

The importance of access to the countryside for recreation and for mental and physical health.

4. Millyford Consultation Woodcrates. 14th June. A Forestry England project.

This was an on site half day visit to walk the area and consider the proposals.

It is the result of the Verderers HLS Agreement with Natural England.

Natural England wish to restore ancient and ornamental woodland (oak and beech), fell some conifers and ringbark single trees.

This is a desirable boggy area.

Those present were mainly Forestry England employees and Verderers.

There was general agreement that the felling should be allowed but not the ringbark of any trees.

Hampshire Countryside Access Forum.

Meetings were held on 9th March and 8th June, both virtual.

I have little to report.

In March HCAF had many new members of their Forum.

There continues to be great concern about the implementation of ELMS, (The Environmental Land Management Scheme.)

I was unable to attend the meeting on the 8th June and I am not aware of any other member attending. Minutes will be published in due course.