

**Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting**  
**Waghorn Room, Calshot Activities Centre Calshot**  
**12 September 2022**

**Present**

Members: Ruth Croker (Chair)  
Pippa Hutton  
Gary North  
Bob Damper  
Richard Taylor  
Peter Armstrong

Officers: Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)  
David Stone (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance:  
David Illsley (New Forest National Park Authority)

**1 Apologies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Richard Shirley, Erica Dovey, Ann Sevier and Marcus Ward

**2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**3 Chairman's Report**

3.1 The Chair introduced her report referring to the last meeting of the Recreation Management Advisory Group and specifically the discussions around Public Space Protection Orders. She said that a call for evidence had been announced in this regard and this evidence would be submitted to, and considered by, the New Forest District Council in terms of a way forward for the designation to protect against anti-social behaviour. Feedback from the District Council was currently awaited on this issue.

The remainder of the report was taken as read.

**4 Forum Officer's Report**

4.1 Adam Vasey reported on the coastal access routes as at 3 August and advised that the Planning Inspectorate was starting to consider 77 planning objections which had been submitted by stakeholders and landowners to the next section of the path and it was possible that this section would be delayed further. He reported that Richard Austin, the NPA's Volunteer Co-ordinator would shortly be leaving the Authority for another appointment.

4.2 The Forum Officer's report was taken as read.

## **5 Additional Reports**

- 5.1 Garry North of Forestry England updated the Forum with regard to prosecutions on fly tipping and informed the Forum of the work being led by Jim Mitchell, the NPA's Interpretation and Outreach Officer, on improving mental health through the use of NHS resources and financial support.

This report was then noted by the Forum

## **6 Habitat Mitigation Scheme David Illsley (NFNPA)**

- 6.1 David Illsley provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Habitat Mitigation Scheme which included information on the hierarchy of nature conservation designations which existed, the international nature conservations areas within the New Forest and the NFNPA's designations compared to other Planning Authorities. He then explained the legal requirements of the Habitats Regulations and the key tests of the Regulations which needed to be considered for any proposed plans and projects. He advised the Forum of the impact on habitats of recreational pressures and the level of mitigation contributions applicable to various development levels and the mitigation work done by the NFNPA's ranger team. Communication and raising awareness work was also being done by the NPA and through the Solent Bird Aware Mitigation Strategy adopted by 14 planning authorities along the Solent coast.

## **7 Site Visit - the England Coast Path, Adam Vasey, New Forest NFNPA**

- 7.1 Following a short break the Forum went on a site visit of the Calshot to Gosport section of the England Coast Path and received an explanation of the Public Access Rights which came into effect on 3 August 2022

### **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 5 December 2022, 9.30am – 1.00pm

The Chestnut Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre