

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting
Chestnut Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre, Lyndhurst
5 December 2022

Present

Members: Ruth Croker (Chair)
Peter Armstrong
Erika Dovey
Sarah Hammett
Pippa Hutton
Olly Leicester
Richard Shirley
Richard Taylor

Officers: Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance:

Jim Mitchell (New Forest National Park Authority)
Jim Day (New Forest National Park Authority)
Christelle (Southampton National Park City Project)

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Bob Damper, Paul French, Gary North and Marcus Ward

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

3 Chair's Report

3.1 The Chair ran through her report highlighting that a number of Access Forums in the Southwest had joined together to express concern regarding the lack of support from Natural England. A question was raised as to whether the NFAF should also raise their concerns, it was agreed that the Forum would hold off for the time being.

Ms Croker advised that the Forum had been asked to comment on a recent consultation from NFDC regarding PSPO's in the Forest, she asked members to read the consultation and forward any comments to Adam who would respond on behalf of the Forum. She advised that the NFA were keen to include sky lanterns in the fire and BBQ PSPO.

Action: All members to read and respond to the PSPO consultation - [Public Spaces Protection Orders consultation - New Forest District Council](#) and send their comments to Adam Vasey..

It was noted that the Forum had received an email from some residents in Dibden Purlieu asking if the forum would be able to join up cycle routes and networks in the

forest. It was agreed that Richard Taylor would contact them and provide further information.

The remainder of the report was taken as read.

4 Forum Officer's Report

- 4.1 Adam Vasey gave a brief overview of his report advising Forum members that the first payment of the three-year infrastructure project by Defra had been received. Mr Vasey explained that the funds from the Landscape Enhancement project should be received in January, however, should this not be received he would contact National Grid.

The remainder of the report was taken as read.

5 Additional Reports

- 5.1 A report was provided from Gary North on behalf of Forestry England which was available on the website. The report was then noted by the Forum.

6 Public Representations

- 6.1 None.

7 Health & Wellbeing Update – Olly Leicester & Jim Mitchell (NFNPA)

- 7.1 Olly Leicester introduced himself and advised that within his role as a Social Prescriber was to provide assistance to people to help themselves when suffering with stress or feelings of isolation. Mr Leicester then provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the role of a Social Prescriber and ideas in which people could improve their own mental wellbeing, a copy is available on the website. He also showed a YouTube video, which detailed community gardens please see link here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAFz9lb3s-A&t=1s>
- 7.2 Jim Mitchell, NFNPA, followed with a presentation detailing health and wellbeing work within the National Park Authority. He highlighted the Green Health Hub which would form a 'one stop shop' for information on local groups in and around the New Forest, this would be launched imminently. Mr Mitchell informed the Forum of a recent report which outlined the health benefits of natural capital. A copy of this presentation can be found on the website.

8 Southampton National Park City Project - Christelle

- 8.1 Christelle from the Southampton National Park City project began her presentation by explaining what a National Park City was; a large urban area that is managed and semi protected through both formal and informal means to enhance the natural capital of its living landscape. Christelle went on to explain the reasoning why Southampton wanted National Park City status along with how this would be achieved and how this would link to the New Forest. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

9 NPA Access Update – Adam Vasey

- 9.1 Adam Vasey gave a brief presentation on where and how the Access Forum budget was spent and how this would fit within the five strands of the Partnership Plan. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

10 Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

- 10.1 Following an election Ruth Croker was elected Chair and Richard Taylor Deputy Chair for the ensuring year.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 13 March 2022, 9.30am – 1.00pm