

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting
Council Chamber, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington SO41 9ZG
13 March 2023

Present

Members: Ruth Croker (Chair)
Peter Armstrong
Bob Damper
Erika Dovey
Paul French
Pippa Hutton
David King
Paula Palma
Richard Taylor (Deputy Chair)

Officers: Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance:
Jonathan Woods (Hampshire County Council)

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Adam Vasey, Jim Mitchell, Ann Sevier, Olly Leicester, Richard Shirley and Sarah Hammett.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

2.2 The Chair welcomed two new members to the Forum, Paula Palma who would be representing Tourism and Heritage and David King who would represent Accessibility.

3 Chair's Report

3.1 The Chair ran through her report highlighting the recent Recreation Advisory Group meeting, at which the main discussion was regarding Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO). It was explained that there were two potential PSPO's one to cover BBQ's and fires and the other the petting and feeding of ponies and livestock. These should be in place by the summer ready for the 2023 season. For more information on the RMS groups please see the NPA website here - [Recreation management - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/recreation-management)

The remainder of the report was taken as read.

4 Forum Officer's Report

4.1 Due to the Forum Officer not being available for this meeting the report was taken as read.

5 Additional Reports

5.1 None.

6 Public Representations

6.1 None.

7 Health & Wellbeing Update – Jim Mitchell (NFNPA)

7.1 Jim Mitchell was unable to attend the meeting.

8 Hampshire County Council Access Update – Jonathan Woods (HCC)

8.1 Jonathan Woods explained that there had been quite a lot of staff changes within the department recently and there had also been a mini restructure. There were now four rights of way officers around the county with two dedicated to the New Forest, Keith Honeychurch and Benjamin Partridge, Community Engagement Ranger. He said that the definitive map team were currently working on 12-15 definitive maps. They were still looking a bridleways and cycle routes around the New Forest. Mr Woods advised that they were currently only processing around 15 rights of way applications per year, this was due to the amount of work surrounding these and many landowners challenging the applications.

8.2 The Countryside Access Plan 2015-2025 ([Countryside access plan 2015-2025 | Hampshire County Council \(hants.gov.uk\)](https://www.hants.gov.uk/countryside-access-plan-2015-2025)) was due for review later in the year and consultation would take place in conjunction with the Forum with planned workshops. During this review the supplementary planning documents would be looked at and a programme of review formulated, with more specifics and aspirations.

9 Dilton Farm Discussion

9.1 Bob Damper provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the current issues on Bridleway 7 located near Dilton Farm, the track had been reduced to a poor state from recent heavy downpours and was not fit for purpose. Members also expressed concern regarding the state of the environment near the farm.

9.2 Following a full discussion the forum agreed that Jonathan Woods would visit the farm to look at the path surface and the bridge, Adam Vasey, Erika Dovey and Andy Aitken would contact the landowners and formulate a plan to improve the Bridleway. It was suggested that an information board be placed to avoid any confusion with regards to the bridleway and it was requested that a progress report be discussed at the next meeting.

10 Any other business.

10.1 It was requested that Richard Burke attend a future meeting to discuss campsite management.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 12 June 2023, 9.30am – 1.00pm