

NFAF – Chair’s Report – 13 March 2023

• Farming in Protected Landscapes.

Four meetings have taken place since our December LAF Meeting.

No applications for funding have had a direct effect on access.

There have been a number of applications for the purchase of large items of kit which are thought to progress environmental farming. These applications have generated considerable debate.

The FIPL budget is limited and needs to be spent wisely.

•Recreation Management Advisory Group.

Further discussion took place about the implementation of PSPO's (Public Space Protection Orders). There was a very good (large) response to the consultation. Most in favour of the proposal.

Signage related to this is important. It is hoped that this will be in place by the summer. Funding is needed.

The PSPO item took up most of the meeting,

In addition there was some information about an Action Plan to Promote the New Forest Code. Go New Forest is to launch a Welcome Film to inform visitors of and are likely reference all the numerous codes.

Brief updates were given on LECWIP's and Camp Sites.

Richard Taylor as Chairman of this group may be able to give a further update at our meeting.

•Wetland Restoration - Penny Moor.

A prolonged discussion and site visit took place.

This is a very wet boggy area where over the years a lot of "restoration" has taken place. There was a lot of artificial drainage instigated in the 1960's. The area is grazed by cattle and is the home of rare plants. There are paths and a bridge which are used by both Commoners and recreation users, particularly dog walkers.

There ere is a dilemma as to what restoration work can be done to satisfy Natural England, Forestry England and all users. There is no obvious solution acceptable to all interested parties. Debate is likely to be ongoing.