

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 15 JUNE 2006**

**NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM REPORT  
Summary of the meeting on Monday 5 June 2006**

**Report by:** Sarah Manchester, Policy Adviser (Understanding and Enjoyment)

**Summary:**

This report outlines the proceedings and issues discussed at the first meeting of the newly constituted New Forest Access Forum on 5 June 2006.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. That members note issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 5 June 2006.**
- 2. That members note that the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting is Monday 4 September 2006.**

**Resources:**

Routine.

**Other major considerations:**

None.

**Papers:**

NFNPA 100/06: Cover paper



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**Main agenda items**

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman

Elections were by secret ballot. Ann Sevier was elected as Chairman, and Alastair Duncan was then elected as Vice-chairman. In accordance with government guidance, Ann and Alastair represent different interest groups – land management and other relevant interests respectively.

2. Forum Administration

Links with neighbouring Forums. The Forum agreed that John Thackray would be invited to attend Forum meetings and contribute to discussions as an observer from the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum. It was also agreed that Forum members would attend, as observers, meetings of neighbouring local access forums whenever possible. Ruth Croker was asked to represent the Forum at the Cranborne Chase AONB Access Topic Group.

Future Meetings. The Forum agreed to meet on the first Monday in September in Lyndhurst, and in December at a location to be confirmed. Meeting arrangements for 2007 will be decided at the September meeting.

Quorum. The quorum was set at 50%, with at least one representative from each of the three interest groups present – recreational users, land owners and managers, other relevant interests.

Representations. It was agreed that representations from members of the public could be heard at Forum meetings. Requests to make representations must be approved by the Chairman at least two weeks in advance of a meeting. Representations must last no longer than three minutes.

Other. Members were: informed of the procedure for claiming expenses; asked to provide brief biographies for publicity material; and asked to consider their future training requirements.

3. Amend/approve Structure and Remit

Members considered the proposed Structure and Remit. Some minor changes were proposed and agreed. The amended Structure and Remit will be reconsidered for approval at the next meeting.

4. Workshop: the Urban Fringe

The Forum is organising a workshop in July to discuss issues related to countryside access from the urban fringe. A summary of the aims of the workshop was presented and members were asked to attend.

5. Strategic Cycle Network

John Sorrell, Hampshire County Council, gave a progress update, including a report from the New Forest Cycle Group Meeting held on 26 May 2006.

6. Small Grants Scheme

Cath Hart, Hampshire County Council, introduced the scheme to the Forum. The Scheme encourages local groups, usually Parish Councils or landowners, to apply for small grants to improve or promote countryside access in their area. Applications are approved by a group comprising members of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum, and Hampshire County Council provides 50% funding towards approved works. The National Park Authority may make an additional financial contribution towards any projects within the Park boundary. Cath requested that a member of the Forum join the approvals group, and it was agreed that this would be Rachel Pearson.

7. Countryside Access Plan

Cath Hart reported on the Plan which is now available in draft form for comment. The County Council is required to consult the Forum on the Plan. Copies of the Plan have been sent to Forum members who may also comment individually. The Plan will be discussed in full at the next Forum meeting, and a Forum response will be given.

**Additional items discussed included:**

8. It was agreed that the Forum would request formal representation on the New Forest Consultative Panel, to represent recreational access. This role has been undertaken informally by Sam Dovey in the past but the Forum would prefer the arrangement to be formalised.

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