

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 21 SEPTEMBER 2006**

**NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM REPORT**  
**Summary of the meeting on Monday 4 September 2006**

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

**Summary:**

This report outlines the proceedings and issues discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum held on 4 September 2006.

**Recommendations:**

1. To note issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 4 September 2006.
2. To note the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting is Monday 4 December 2006.

**Resources:**

None.

**Papers:**

NFNPA 133/06: Cover paper

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**Main agenda items**

1. Matters Arising – Strategic Cycle Network

John Sorrell updated the Forum on the recent and planned work of the Cycle Working Group. The Forum was informed that due to newly imposed financial constraints some of the schemes being looked at by the Group are now under review. Updates were given on the Ashurt/Lyndhurst and Lymington/Keyhaven cycle routes, and the A35 crossing at Holmsley. A report on the New Forest Tour bus will be given at the next Forum meeting.

2. Annual Work Programme

It was agreed that the main topic for 2007/8 would be Coastal Access, with a secondary topic being the National Park Authority's Recreation and Visitor Management Strategy. If the expected consultation on Coastal Access does not materialise, then the 'reserve' topic will be Education.

3. Urban Fringe Workshop

The Forum ran a workshop in July to discuss issues related to countryside access from the urban fringe. A summary report from the workshop had been circulated to members. Members discussed the report and made recommendations as to how the ideas arising from the workshop could be progressed. It was agreed that the workshop had been very successful, and that the Forum should run similar workshops at different locations within its area.

4. Countryside Access Plan

Petronella Natrass summarised the processes by which the draft Plan had been produced. The Forum discussed the Issues described in the

Plan and formulated a response which will be submitted to Hampshire County Council.

5. Outdoors for All?

A sub-group of the Forum had worked together to produce a draft response to the Defra consultation document. The Forum approved the response with some minor amendments.

6. PROGRESS Project

Bruce Rothnie gave a brief summary of the PROGRESS project, and informed members that they would each be invited to attend consultation group meetings. The Forum invited the PROGRESS project to ask its advice on any recreational access matters. Bruce confirmed that the Forestry Commission recognises the Forum as the statutory local access forum and, as such, an advisory body for recreational access.

**Additional items discussed included:**

7. It was agreed that the Forum would continue to meet on the first Monday morning in March, June, September and December. After further consideration it was felt that Sam Dovey could continue to represent the Forum at the Consultative Panel, and that the Forum would not, at this time, make a formal application for representation. Members decided that their email addresses should not be made public, and that members of the public who wished to contact them should do so via the group email address. It was decided that written communications from the Forum should be sent on letterhead paper with a simple logo incorporating the words 'New Forest Access Forum'.

**Recommendations:**

1. **To note issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 4 September 2006.**
2. **To note the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting is Monday 4 December 2006.**