

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2007**

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

**Report by:** Sarah Manchester, Countryside Access Officer

**Summary:**

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

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 4 December 2006.**
- 2. To note the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting is Monday 5 March 2007.**

**Resources:**

None.

**Papers:**

NFNPA 153/07: Cover paper

**Contact:**

Sarah Manchester  
Tel: 01590 646669  
Email: [sarah.manchester@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.manchester@newforestnpa.gov.uk)



**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2007**

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

**Report by:** Sarah Manchester, Countryside Access Officer

**Main agenda items**

1. Matters Arising

Neighbouring Access Group Meetings

Nominated Forum members are now attending meetings of the Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset local access forums, and of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Access Topic Group. Members liaise between the groups, and report back to the Forum meetings.

Strategic Cycle Network

Two of the Forum members are investigating how signage to off-road cycle tracks from village centres can be improved. The Forum was also updated on the progress of cycle routes within the area: works on the Ashurst-Lyndhurst route are planned for spring 2007; work is complete on the Lymington-Keyhaven route; options for the National Cycle Network crossing of the A35 at Holmsley are being looked at; and additional funding has been received for the safety audit of the Hythe-Christchurch section of the National Cycle Network.

2. Coastal Access

Forum member Rachel Pearson gave a presentation on coastal access with specific reference to the Beaulieu Estate, and on some of the potential issues that may arise from the proposed introduction of public access to the coast, as outlined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Members decided to set up a sub-group to look at coastal access, and the forthcoming consultation from Defra in particular.

3. Urban Fringe Workshop

The Forum had received a number of responses to the actions it suggested, mostly positive. In particular, one of the routes mentioned will be improved by Hampshire County Council through the Local Transport Plan, and many of the suggestions had strong links with the

New Forest District Council's Local Plan. The District Council suggested that many of the suggested actions could be pursued through the forthcoming Transport Development Plan Document.

4. Open Spaces Study

Julia Norman, New Forest District Council, gave a presentation on the findings of the recent Open Spaces Study. The full report of the Study has not yet been finalised. The recommendations of the Study will relate to the quantity, quality, and accessibility of open spaces. The District Council will consult the Forum on issues relating to access and green space. (The presentation will be made available through the Forum's pages on the Authority web site.)

5. Hampshire's Local Transport Plan – Countryside Access Projects

Three proposals in the New Forest area have been made against the 2007/8 allocation of funding. These are: improvements to the Solent Way at Moses Dock, Lymington; regrading of two sections of the seawall footpath at Keyhaven; and improvements to the surface of Polecat Lane, Sway.

6. PROGRESS Project

Forum member Bruce Rothnie gave an update on recent work, and reported that a full stakeholders meeting is scheduled for January. The PROGRESS team is also doing some tourism related work, and the Forestry Commission is providing a purpose-built mountain bike area near to Moors Valley which will be freely available to the public.

**Additional Items**

7. Additional items discussed included:

- i) the Forum's formal structure and remit document was adopted with a minor grammatical change to the wording;
- ii) members agreed to discuss the Authority's Special Qualities consultation at the next meeting;
- iii) the Forum agreed to liaise with the Dorset local access forum on hearing about the British Canoe Union's aspirations regarding access to water;
- iv) forum member Peter Maltby has joined a sub-group of the Hampshire Countryside Access Forum to look at the issue of Vehicles in the Countryside. Peter will continue to report back to the Forum on the matter;

- v) members were invited to suggest subject areas on which training would be useful. The Forum was informed that there is broad recognition of a need for Natural England to provide regional training for local access forum members on such things as charring skills, consensus-building, effective forums and topic-based subjects. Natural England will be asked to make training available, and Forum members will be encouraged to attend any training sessions;
- vi) members were updated with progress on the Forum's recommendation arising from their studies in 2005 on disability issues;
- vii) the Authority's Corporate Plan includes actions to research and publish 'easy access' information. Work on this will start next year, and it is hoped that the information will be available in 2008.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 4 December 2006.**
- 2. To note the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting is Monday 5 March 2007.**