

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 25 JUNE 2009

NEW FOREST ACCESS FORUM REPORT
Summary of the meeting on Monday 1 June 2009

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 1 June 2009.

Recommendations:

- 1. To note issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 1 June 2009.**
- 2. To note the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting is Monday 7 September 2009 at Damerham Village Hall.**

Resources:

Routine.

Papers:

NFNPA 311/09: Cover paper

Contact:

Sarah Manchester
Countryside Access Officer
Tel: 01590 646669
Email: sarah.manchester@newforestnpa.gov.uk

NFNPA 312/09

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Main Agenda items for discussion

1 Improving access to the Hampshire Coast

- 1.1 Alan Inder of Hampshire County Council gave a presentation on this project, which aims to produce a prioritised plan for access improvements to and along the coast based on suggestions made through the Countryside Access Plan process. The project covers the whole of the Hampshire coastline.
- 1.2 It is expected that the Access Forum's 2009 Workshop on 14 July, will generate the data for the coastal area between Barton on Sea and Calshot. Some data for the area between Calshot and Totton will be taken from suggestions put forward at the Forum's 2006 Workshop, but there will also be an opportunity at this year's Workshop to add to those data.
- 1.3 Prioritisation of the suggestions put forward will be by evaluation against set criteria. In order to be included in the prioritised plan, suggestions should be achievable, practical and useful. This project itself will not go on to implement any of the improvements; rather it will inform other projects that may have external funding or may be funded directly from local or central government.
- 1.4 The project is complementary to the proposed new Coastal Access scheme for England in that it will identify both improvements that can be achieved under Natural England's Scheme, and also improvements that will otherwise enhance coastal access, such as circular routes and routes for cyclists and horse riders.

2 Workshop 2009

- 2.1 Gordon Garrett updated members on the progress of the Workshop preparations. This year, the Workshop will be looking at how access can be improved in the southern part of the Forum's area. This

comprises the coastal parishes between New Milton and Calshot, plus Bransgore, Sway, Hordle and East Boldre.

- 2.2 The Workshop will be held at Milford on Sea Community Centre on Tuesday 14 July. In the morning there will be presentations from the National Park Authority, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Hampshire County Council and the South East Economic Development Agency. After a buffet lunch, delegates will be given the opportunity to put forward their suggestions for access improvements in the area.
- 2.3 Any National Park Authority member who would like to attend the Workshop is invited to contact Sarah Manchester before 1 July for more details.

3 Progress from Workshop 2008

- 3.1 Wendy Hughes gave an update on the progress of the sub-group that is taking forward suggestions made at the 2008 Workshop.
- 3.2 It was agreed that the sub-group will periodically review the progress of recommendations made at all previous Workshops from 2006 onwards. A record will be kept of those recommendations that are not being progressed in case circumstances change or an alternative improvement that meets the same or similar objectives becomes viable.
- 3.3 The sub-group views the Cycle Working Group as being fundamental in the development of the proposed strategic cycle network, and Peter Walsh will contact Chris Gregory of the National Park Authority to discuss how the Group can be reinvigorated.
- 3.4 It was suggested that Forum members make an optional site visit to look at the work being done on the disused railway line at Breamore after the next Forum meeting. Hampshire County Council, with support from the National Park Authority and help from the Parish Council and local volunteers, is creating a new walking route along the line.

4 Additional items included:

- a) an update on Government's proposals for new Coastal Access as the Marine and Coastal Access Bill approached the end of its time in the House of Lords;
- b) a report on responses to a recent Questionnaire of Forum members, which indicated that members are generally happy with the support given by the National Park Authority, but felt that they needed more explanation about the roles of the different bodies in the area;

- c) a brief summary of the March meeting of the England Access Forum and the April meeting of the Working Group of the England Access Forum;
- d) an update on the progress of the Authority's National Park Plan and Recreation Management Strategy;
- e) a review of the Forum's Structure and Remit document to reflect changes in legislation and progress on the Rights of Way Improvement Plans for the area;
- f) the Forum received updates from neighbouring local access forum meetings, and other meetings at which the Forum is represented by individual members;

Recommendations:

- 1. To note issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 1 June 2009.**
- 2. To note the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting is Monday September 2009 at Damerham Village Hall.**