

7 January 2009

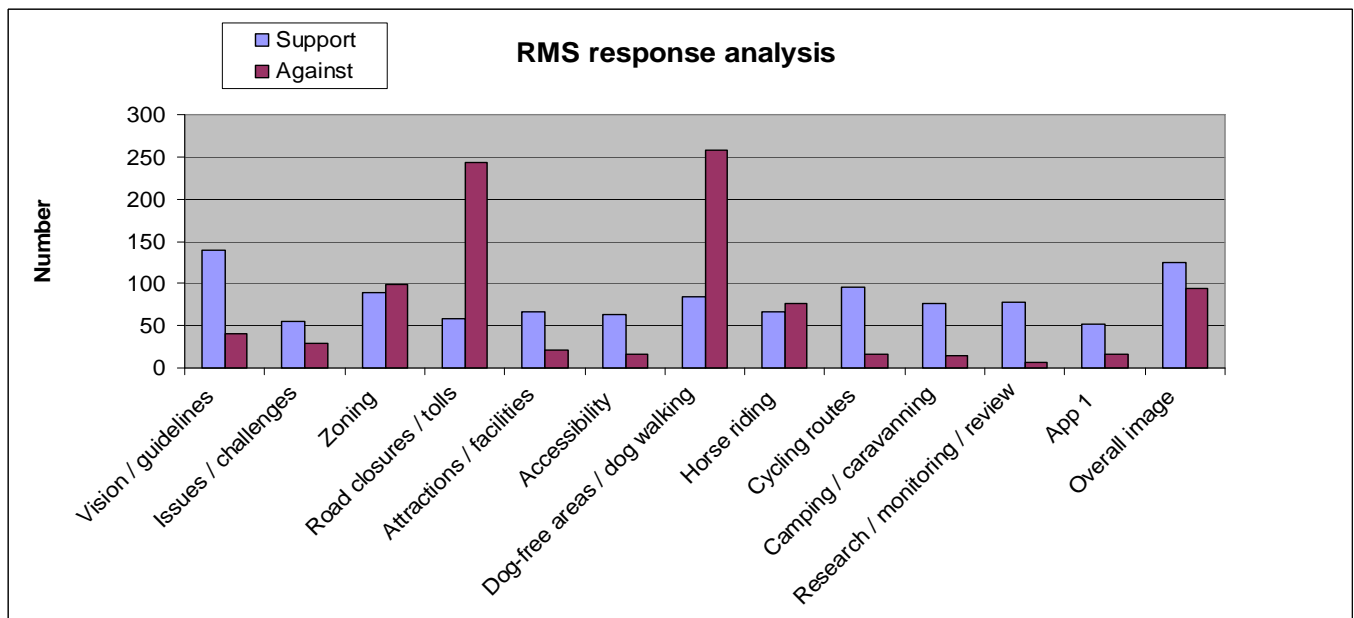
Dear Sir / Madam,

Draft Recreation Management Strategy Public Consultation

Thank you for sending us your comments on the consultation draft Recreation Management Strategy. We are writing to you now to let you see the results of our initial analysis of the responses, and explain how we will be reviewing each document and who will be involved.

Consultation responses

The consultation closed formally on 14 November 2008 and we have now completed our logging, acknowledgement and initial analysis of the comments we received. Our initial analysis is summarised in the chart below. We received a total of 461 responses specifically on the draft recreation strategy, made up of individual response forms, letters and e-mails (excluding the letters based on a standard template provided by the New Forest Dog Owners Group which have been included in the National Park Plan figures). The figures in the chart refer to the number of respondents who made comments supporting or objecting to the various policy areas identified.



All the responses will be available for inspection by the public in the foyer of our offices at South Efford House during normal office hours from 19 January 2009. Details of our opening hours and location can be found on our website www.newforestnpa.gov.uk or from our general enquiries phone number 01590 646600. To assist examination of responses from specific organisations, an index of names and reference numbers will be available, although personal

details have been removed from individual responses to comply with data protection requirements.

Next steps

We are now carrying out a more detailed analysis of the comments received which will help us plan the next phase of reviewing the draft Strategy. Our current intention is to set up a working group on recreation and dog walking issues, as well as holding meetings with the New Forest Access Forum and possibly running other workshops to provide an input to this process. We will also be talking to parish councils about the possibility of holding parish council-hosted events which would be open to the public as part of the Park Plan process.

We hope to finalise all of these arrangements early in the New Year with meetings taking place between February and June 2009. We are planning to invite representatives from local authorities, partner organisations [such as the Forestry Commission and the New Forest Access Forum], representatives from interest groups and groups of consultees who have addressed particular issues. The working group will be led by an Authority member.

A revised Recreation Management Strategy will be taken to the full Authority for formal approval after the National Park Plan has been approved – probably in the summer 2009.

We hope this information is helpful and clarifies the next stages in the process, and if you have any comments on the content of this letter, please let us know.

Best wishes for the New Year

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Trotter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stephen Trotter
Director of Conservation, Recreation and Sustainable Development