

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group
The Annex, Queen's House, 29 November 2017**

Attendance:

Alison Appleby, Natural England
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman), New Forest National Park Authority
Richard Burke, Forestry Commission
Lord Manners, Verderers
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority
Allison Potts, Natural England
Colin Read, New Forest District Council
Jonathan Woods, Hampshire County Council
Rachael Bowen (notes), New Forest National Park Authority

Apologies:

Bruce Rothnie, Forestry Commission
Adam Godwin, Forestry Commission

1. Welcome / introductions

1.1 Oliver welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

3.1 There were no matters outstanding

4. Feedback from the RMS Advisory Group

4.1 The RMS Advisory Group had met on 15 November 2017. Those present were generally very happy with the draft Findings Report, and their comments had already been taken into account within the version now being considered by the Steering Group. There had also been discussion about the England Coast Path and night time events.

5. Progressing the review of the RMS

5.1 The Steering Group considered the time-frame over which progress now needs to be made. Representatives were asked to obtain endorsement for the two draft reports from their own organisations by February 2018 to demonstrate their joint commitment to work together. Thereafter, careful liaison between key stakeholders will be needed. Ultimately, it will be important that each organisation is able to commit resources to implement agreed actions.

6. Draft Findings Report for Future Forest RMS public consultation

6.1 Changes were agreed to the introduction in the draft Findings Report to ensure the purpose of the RMS review and nature of the consultation are clear.

7. Draft 'Next Steps' Report for Future Forest RMS public consultation

- 7.1 Similar changes were agreed to the 'Next Steps' Report so that it follows on from the Findings Report. A diagrammatic flowchart of the process by which the RMS will be updated should be added. Amongst other suggestions, it was agreed that the proposed heading of 'raising awareness' should come first, followed by 'managing recreation' – and that we are aiming to achieve a net gain for the Forest. Additional linkages to the third heading of 'finding resources' should be added where relevant. Other suggestions should be emailed to NM.

Action: All to send suggested changes to Next Steps Report to NM by 13 December

8. Options for the Update to the RMS

- 8.1 Initial ideas about the types of actions that could be included in the draft update to the RMS were discussed. These would be published for public consultation in the summer of 2018.
- 8.2 The general consensus was that although there should be fewer, more strategic actions than in 2010, they should demonstrate ambition and that tangible progress will be made in managing recreation.
- 8.3 It was confirmed that the term 'update' would continue to be used for the time being.
- 8.4 Liaison with key stakeholders will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Liaison with Advisory Group and date of next Steering Group meeting

- 9.1 It was agreed to finalise the two reports and gain endorsement by Steering Group organisations by January / February, hold a Steering Group meeting in late February and probably hold an Advisory Group meeting in March.

10. Funding

- 10.1 There were no immediate funding issues to resolve.

11. AOB

- 11.1 None of the Steering Group members wished to see the raw consultation data.
- 11.2 The 2018 New Forest Show is likely to provide opportunities to jointly promote the next consultation either together and/or from organisations' own stands.
- 11.3 HCC will be trialing a new ANPR car parking system at Lepe, and in the future other country parks could adopt the same system.
- 11.4 The Natural England consultation about the England Coast Path between Highcliffe and Calshot has been delayed until January 2018.