

**Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group  
Brockenhurst Village Hall, 19 September 2013**

**Attendance:**

Graham Baker, New Forest Association  
Rachael Bowen (notes), New Forest National Park Authority  
Ruth Croker, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society  
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman), New Forest National Park Authority  
Simon Curson, Natural England  
Martin Devine, New Forest District Council  
Alastair Duncan, New Forest Access Forum  
John Durnell, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust  
Sam Jones, Hampshire County Council  
Phil Marshall, New Forest National Park Authority  
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority  
Steve Lorton, New Forest Tourism Association  
Nick Tucker, Forestry Commission

**Apologies:**

Heather Gould, New Forest Dog Forum  
Ann Sevier, CDA  
Barry Dowsett, Verderers

Oliver welcomed everybody to the second meeting of the RMSAG.

AD raised concerns about the accuracy of the previous notes and felt they did not reflect the discussion concerning the suggested membership of the Steering Group. NM recommended a vote be held later in the meeting to firmly establish the view of the Advisory Group members.

**1 Priority actions**

1.1 OCE referred to the List of Actions from the RMS stating that less than half of member groups had responded, including FC, NFA, NFTA, NFDC, CDA and NPA. Both HCC and the Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society provided generic responses. SJ preferred to look at priorities once the membership of the Steering Group was confirmed which was echoed by AD.

5 votes – action 5.4.1

3 votes – action 5.2.1, 5.3.3, 5.9.1

2 votes – action 5.3.1

1.2 NM suggested a good approach would be to look at where we do and don't want people to go; car parks, hot spots, routes, loops and toilets etc and to establish a route plan / strategy from this starting point. The Group endorsed this initial approach. GB suggested use of the word 'access' rather than 'recreation' and summarised the aim of the Group – 'to improve access while enhancing the ecological value of the Forest'.

Action: NM to prepare short paper setting out a vision and list of priorities for the Group

1.3 The Group discussed the importance of joint working and the necessity to always look at the big picture and ensure good communication at all times.

## **2 Membership of the Steering Group**

2.1 Further short discussion followed concerning membership of the Steering Group. By a show of hands, every member voted in favour of including both HCC and NFDC onto the Steering Group. AD suggested inclusion of the NFAF, however it was agreed that SJ, being a member of the NFAF, could wear a 'dual' hat and report back. Further consensus was for the Group membership to be fluid and change as necessary or when relevant. The membership is currently therefore confirmed as

- Forestry Commission
- The Verderers
- Natural England
- Hampshire County Council
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest National Park Authority

## **3 Membership of the Advisory Group**

3.1 OCE had recently received a written request for membership from the New Forest Equestrian Association. After a short discussion it was agreed that equine interests were already represented by the Equine Forum and was therefore unnecessary to have further equine representation.

3.2 Discussion took place concerning representation by cycle users. The conclusion was to ask the Cycle Working Group if there was a suitable representative with broad interests in all cycling.

## **4 Minutes of the last meeting**

4.1 Action 7.1 - OCE reported back from Sarah Kelly, NFNPA Landscape Officer, that tranquillity maps could be helpful in the management of recreation within the Forest. NM added that Local planning policy documents will include tranquillity in coming years.

4.2 To help with the Tranquillity mapping project, Sarah Kelly has requested support and advice for the ground truthing exercise. The Group established they were happy to endorse the research but were not necessarily in a position to offer significant help since the research sub-group had previously concluded that the task was beyond them. NM offered to assist Sarah and to have individual discussions with some members outside of the Advisory Group; NT also offered assistance.

**5 Date of next meeting**

- 5.1 It was decided that there was not sufficient time to move forward with anything substantial before the next scheduled meeting in December. It was therefore unanimously agreed to rearrange the next meeting for early in 2014, after the Steering Group had met.

**6 AOB**

- 6.1 JD reported a change of job role and would therefore not be sitting on the Advisory Group; Bob Chapman will be the new Wildlife Trust representative.

Meeting closed: 7.30pm