

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group
The Library, Queen's House, 20 February 2017**

Attendance:

Alison Appleby, Natural England
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman), New Forest National Park Authority
Richard Burke, Forestry Commission
Jenny Thomas, Natural England
Mark Turner, Natural England
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority
Dominic May, Verderers
Tim Oliver, Forestry Commission
Jonathan Woods, Hampshire County Council
Bruce Rothnie, Forestry Commission
Rachael Bowen (notes), New Forest National Park Authority

As current Chair, OCE put his name forward to continue in this role for a further year to which the Group all agreed.

1. Welcome

1.1 OCE thanked everybody for attending. Apologies were received from Colin Read.

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 Since the last meeting, NM has progressed items 4.4, 5.1, 6.1 and 6.2.

4. Towards a public consultation about recreation management

4.1 It was agreed that two distinct things need to be achieved through public consultation: an update to the Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030 (RMS strategy) and a more detailed review of site-specific recreational facilities. Both warrant a two-stage process comprising a 'call for views' and subsequently a consultation on proposals. The NPA led the consultation that resulted in the current RMS strategy and is therefore best placed to lead on the update, with support from all members of the Steering Group.

4.2 It was proposed and agreed that consultants should be engaged to advise on the consultation process ensuring the different elements link together effectively.

4.3 The update to the RMS strategy would be achieved in a similar way to the National Park Partnership Plan, including assigning actions to lead organisations (which is not currently the case within the RMS strategy). The FC advised they would need to give careful consideration to any staff commitments due to budget constraints.

- 4.4 It is important that we raise awareness of how special the New Forest is so that discussions about the management of recreation are well-informed. The consultation would be run in accordance with the NPA's statement of community involvement.

(After the meeting it was agreed that the consultation on the update to the RMS strategy should be progressed first to ensure that detailed measures are kept to a further phase of subsequent discussions.)

Action: All to provide any additional comments on the proposed consultation by the end of February

Action: JT to gather evidence of recreational impacts on wildlife, with NPA staff

Action: RB to continue collating cycling data and provide a clear graphical summary of results - *DM requested a copy of this data for the April HLS Board meeting*

Action: NM to progress the communications plan, procuring consultancy support and awareness raising activities

5. Liaison with Advisory Group

- 5.1 Both the RMS Advisory Group and the New Forest Access Forum will be asked for advice regarding the review of the RMS.

6. England Coast Path

- 7.1 From 5 May there will be an 8 week consultation on the route proposed by Natural England. Affected landowners can object; others can comment. Once the consultation has taken place, a report will be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration.

7. Funding

- 7.1 The main cost of the initial RMS consultation is expected to be staff time. There is scope for jointly funding additional costs.

8. Date of next meeting

- 8.1 To be set for early May.

9 AOB

- 9.1 DM is stepping down from his role in April and OCE thanked him for his participation and support to the Steering Group over the years.