

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group
The Library, Queen's House, 11 May 2017**

Attendance:

Alison Appleby, Natural England
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman), New Forest National Park Authority
Richard Burke, Forestry Commission
Adam Godwin, Forestry Commission
Lord Manners, Verderers
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority
Tim Oliver, Forestry Commission
Colin Read, New Forest District Council
Bruce Rothnie, Forestry Commission
Rachael Bowen (notes), New Forest National Park Authority

1. Welcome / introductions

- 1.1 OCE thanked everyone for attending; Willie Manners and Adam Godwin were welcomed to their first meeting. Apologies were received from Jenny Thomas, Natural England and Jonathan Woods, Hampshire County Council.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record subject to one amendment to paragraph 4.4.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 On-going action:

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

- 3.2 Meetings were held with both the RMS Advisory Group and the New Forest Access Forum. Both Groups had input into draft consultation documents and expressed their support for the process.

- 3.3 Because of the upcoming Election, a period of Purdah is being observed; the consultation on the England Coast Path is now not due to start till 19 June.

4. Update on the public consultation about recreation management

- 4.1 The purpose of the consultation is to engage the public and other organisations in helping to produce an update to the RMS. It is hoped to identify a much smaller number of high priority actions, with agreed lead organisations. HCC officers are helping to set up the consultation using Snap Survey software which will also help in analysing responses.

- 4.2 Discussion followed, particularly regarding the draft introductory text and explanation for the consultation.

- 4.3 It was agreed that 'Future Forest' should be the consistent title throughout the consultation, with the strapline 'join the conversation about recreation in the New Forest'. A Communications Plan is being developed and news releases, drop-in sessions and local promotions were all planned.
- 4.4 The draft document, containing text for both the website and the consultation was considered page by page and amendments were agreed.

Action: NM to amend wording and ensure the reason for the consultation is clear

- 4.5 NM requested a presence from partner organisations at the drop-in sessions. A rota will be drawn up.
- 4.6 At the New Forest Show, the NPA stand will have a small area dedicated to promoting the consultation; again it will be important that partner organisations assist for at least some of the time. The Group supported the idea of a reception at the NPA stand on Tuesday 25 July, to which a range of local organisations could be invited.

5. Liaison with Advisory Group

- 5.1 The Steering Group will need to consider the responses to the consultation before the Advisory Group meets again.

6. Funding

- 6.1 There is in-principle agreement that the costs of the consultation could be shared between Steering Group organisations. NM will keep a record of expenditure.

7. Date of next meeting

- 7.1 To be set for the last half of September.

8. AOB

- 8.1 None