

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group
The Library, Queen's House, 29 May 2018**

Attendance:

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman), New Forest National Park Authority
Cllr James Binns, NFDC
Richard Burke, Forestry Commission
Adam Godwin, Forestry Commission
Lord Manners, Verderers
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority
Alison Appleby, Natural England – by telephone
Colin Read, New Forest District Council
Bruce Rothnie, Forestry Commission
Jonathan Woods, Hampshire County Council
Rachael Bowen (notes), New Forest National Park Authority

Apologies: None were received.

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 OCE welcomed everybody to the meeting

2. Minutes of the last meeting (9 April 2018)

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

3. Matters arising - updates

3.1 Demand for recreation in the New Forest: An inception meeting with the successful consultant will be held shortly.

3.2 Enforcement information: The work commissioned by the NPA has now been completed and the FC are continuing to liaise with the consultant.

3.3 Car parks: TVBC is inviting tenders for the habitat mitigation research work for which they have funding.

3.4 The Verderers were unanimous in their support that the draft actions should be put out for consultation. They asked that existing damage caused by recreation should be acknowledged. The NPA will be asked to confirm their support at an Authority meeting on 15 June.

4. Feedback from the Advisory Group (23 April 2018)

4.1 It was noted that two attendees had been omitted from the minutes of this meeting. The Advisory Group's comments were noted, including the view that asking a question about the criteria was not necessary, and that there was broad support for the actions.

5. Draft proposed actions for consultation

- 5.1 After some discussion, it was agreed to use the criteria that can be used to judge the merits of different sites, routes and organised activities that were included in the MoU agreed between Steering Group organisations in 2015. However, it is not necessary to ask a question about them in the consultation.
- 5.2 The content of web pages associated with the consultation was discussed and a small number of changes were agreed.
- 5.3 Some of the actions are ambitious, and will need significant resources from lead organisations. It is important to convey that the actions are intended to be for the good of the Forest and that proposals are supported by participating organisations. Communications contacts were identified for each of the Steering Group organisations so that a good communication plan can be put in place.

Action: NPA to lead on promoting the consultation and FC to help prepare answers to anticipated questions

6. Consultation questions

- 6.1 The questions to be asked in the consultation were discussed and amendments were agreed including the removal of some technical wording, giving greater opportunity for people to make general comments and reviewing the order in which outdoor activities are listed.
- 6.2 A leaflet about the consultation will be produced for distribution by partner organisations. The NPA Stand at the New Forest Show will have a recreation management focus and some activities and panels designed to promote the consultation. Help on the NPA stand and signposting from other stands was agreed.

7. Liaison with Advisory Group and date of next meeting

- 7.1 Two RMS Steering Group meetings will be set, for early September and late October. Liaison with the Advisory Group will be considered after the September meeting.

8. AOB

- 8.1 None was raised.