

## **Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group Brockenhurst Village Hall, 23 April 2018**

### Attendance:

Mark Adams, British Cycling  
Richard Black, RSPB  
Rachael Bowen (notes), New Forest National Park Authority  
Oliver Cook, CDA  
Ruth Croker, Ringwood & Fordingbridge Footpath Society & Access Forum  
Barry Dowsett, Verderers  
Louise Evans, NFDC  
Dylan Everett, National Trust  
Heather Gould, New Forest Dog Owners Group  
Stephen Lorton, Go New Forest  
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority  
Gary North, Forestry Commission  
Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Association  
Jake White, National Trust

### Apologies:

Ann Sevier, Commoners Defence Association, Jenny Thomas, Natural England,  
James Young, Equine Forum

## **1 Welcome / Introductions**

1.1 NM welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

## **2 Election of Chairman**

2.1 It was proposed and agreed that NM would Chair the meeting.

## **3 Minutes of the last meeting**

3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

## **4 Update on process**

4.1 NM reiterated that the task is to update the actions in the 2010-2030 Strategy, not to rewrite the entire document. In last summer's consultation people were asked to prioritise their top six topics from those identified in 2010, and say what they thought was missing. Over 1500 individuals and 52 organisations had responded. A draft set of actions is now being compiled, and with the assistance of HCC, questions for a second consultation are being drafted. The consultation is planned to run from 18 June for 8 weeks. Responses will be reviewed in the autumn; the update should then be completed around the end of 2018 / early 2019. The current Strategy lists 61 actions; the plan is to have more like 25 in the update.

## **5. Draft actions for the update**

5.1 The Group considered the draft criteria to be used in judging the relative merits of recreation sites, routes or organised activities, draft actions and the information that needs to be provided alongside these. Actions need to be

realistic and include some that will be achieved within a set time; we also need to anticipate potential future pressures.

5.2 The draft proposed criteria were originally developed by the Steering Group in 2015 within the Recreation Management MoU. The Advisory Group discussed a range of possible improvements or additions, including:

- referring to criteria used by Natural England for operations
- specifying that some activities require consent
- inclusion of the word 'sensitive' to describe certain habitats
- clarifying what might be meant by a 'picnic area'
- including times of year where relevant
- mention of potential impacts on commoning / land use

5.3 Comments were made on several of the draft actions, including:

- considering whether it would be helpful if the criteria used in granting permission for events are more 'transparent'
- a better network of permitted off-road cycle routes is needed
- some actions may be dependent on additional funding being found
- some recreational activities could be beneficial in some areas and detrimental in others
- using a map to highlight tranquil areas could encourage visitors to that area
- taking account of designated sites is a good first step
- local planning authorities are working together to look at parking provision
- at least some felt that if a firm and consistent approach was taken, charging for car parking could be adopted, provided there are adequate measures to combat verge parking.
- timescales for implementation should be made clear

## **6 Draft questions**

6.1 The second stage online consultation will be open to anybody to complete and will also be sent to those that requested to be kept informed after the first round of consultation. There was general agreement that there is no need to ask a question about the criteria. The question about the proposed actions needs to be short and easily understood.

## **7 England Coast Path**

7.1 The Advisory Group representatives from the CDA, National Trust, Verderers, Go New Forest and RSPB (and NM) remained to see a presentation by BT about the England Coast Path. The NFA has serious concerns about the Coastal Margin, the way this will be depicted on OS maps and the risk that people will access and disturb wildlife in excepted areas. All were encouraged to look at and make representations to Natural England by the deadline (9 May).

## **8. AOB**

8.1 None was raised

## **9. Date of next meeting**

9.1 To be decided