

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group
The Library, Queen's House, 4 September 2018**

Attendance:

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman), New Forest National Park Authority
Cllr James Binns, NFDC
Adam Godwin, Forestry Commission
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority
Colin Read, New Forest District Council
Bruce Rothnie, Forestry Commission
Adam Vasey, New Forest National Park Authority
Jonathan Woods, Hampshire County Council
Rachael Bowen (notes), New Forest National Park Authority

Apologies: Lord Manners, Alison Appleby

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 OCE welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Adam Vasey as the new NPA Access Ranger.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (29 May 2018)

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

3. Matters arising - updates

3.1 An early draft of a report on recreation and leisure visits by RJS Associates showed an increase in visitor days to the National Park of around 1% a year since 2004. The largest proportion of day visits is from dog walkers and walkers. The calculations are based on trends in existing data sets, applied to the methodology used in 2004 when the total was estimated at 13.5 million visitor days.

Action: Send any comments regarding logic and explanatory notes in the report to NM

3.2 The habitat mitigation research commissioned by TVBC on behalf of six local planning authorities will be completed in August 2019. NM suggested that the Forestry Commission should be represented at the inception meeting.

Action: NM to encourage TVBC to invite FC (Adam or Richard) to the inception meeting.

3.3 NM took the opportunity to thank members of the Group for promoting the RMS consultation over the summer.

4. Initial analysis of feedback from consultation

4.1 Although there were fewer respondents this time (1000 compared to 1500 in 2017), it was still a high response rate for a public consultation of this nature. There was a high level of support for all 25 draft proposed actions. NM and AV will read and summarise the additional comments submitted – these are likely

to include useful feedback that will help inform the final actions. BR requested any FC specific comments to be forwarded. JW requested that any HCC specific comments be forwarded.

Action: NM to look at total engagement numbers (i.e. facebook followers, e-newsletter recipients etc.) as well as the number of respondents.

4.2 All agreed that a findings report should be produced, to include a statement about next steps.

5. Progressing the Strategy and developing delivery plans

5.1 The Group discussed the level of detail that should be included in the update to the Strategy and the processes needed for each organisation to approve it. JB confirmed that NFDC intend to set up a working group to look at the document and make any recommendations to their Cabinet.

5.2 OCE reiterated that this was a joint strategy and that the aim was for all of the partner logos to appear as they had done in all previous key stages.

Action: NM to draft an update to the Strategy, circulate to the Group for comment prior to the next meeting

Action: RB to organise further meetings for early October and early December

5.3 In 2015, when the composition of the Steering Group (and the Advisory Group) was decided, Test Valley Borough Council and Wiltshire Council had not been included. They are aware of the recent consultations, and since their areas include part of the National Park it was agreed to invite both authorities to endorse the update once agreed.

Action: NM to approach Wiltshire Council and Test Valley Borough Council to highlight the work of the Steering Group, the intended update to the RMS and find out how their endorsement might be made possible

6. Date of next meeting

6.1 Tuesday 30 October 3pm and possible further meetings in early October and early December.

7. Liaison with Advisory Group and date of next meeting

7.1 The RMS Advisory Group will be invited to look at the draft update once produced. A meeting will be organised when needed.

8. AOB

8.1 It was agreed that there should be a joint press release about the results of the consultation.

Action: NM to organise a draft press release and share for comment.