

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group
The Library, Queen's House, 30 October 2018**

Attendance:

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

Apologies: Jonathan Woods, Hampshire County Council

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1 OCE welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (04 09 2018)

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

3. Matters arising - updates

3.1 The report by RJS Associates on recreation and leisure visits was close to completion, subject to a few final amendments. It adds weight to why a recreation management strategy is needed (i.e. to address the increasing visitor numbers). It was requested that the extent of the zones from which people visit be explained more clearly, perhaps through use of a map.

3.2 The report by Footprint Ecology (commissioned on behalf of several local planning authorities) will be completed in August 2019. This work is looking at the impact of development on the New Forest's internationally recognised sites and will help to inform the mitigation strategies of those authorities. Footprint Ecology will be carrying out face to face interviews in various car parks, doing car park counts and undertaking telephone interviews. These will take place at a variety of sites and at various times of the day and months of the year.

3.3 It was agreed that mitigation work is vital for all new development and the prospect of all local planning authorities using the same methodology is a very positive step forward. There were further discussions and varied opinions about the success of SANGS.

3.4 David Illsley (NFNPA) and NM will be meeting with Graham Smith, Test Valley Borough Council and Georgina Clampitt-Dix, Wiltshire Council in November to seek their support for the RMS work and to invite them to future Steering Group meetings.

4. Feedback from 2018 consultation

- 4.1 The draft Findings Report, in a similar format to 2017's, was well received by the Steering Group. When finalised, it will be a factual summary of the consultation responses, so the Group agreed to circulate it for information within Steering Group members' organisations rather than to ask for formal approval. An accompanying paragraph about next steps will also be produced.

Action: NM to finalise and circulate Findings Report before the next meeting along with a short paragraph about next steps.

5. Progressing the Strategy and developing delivery plans

- 5.1 Many of the draft recreation management actions are already being progressed, and this will continue. However, those related to *where* recreation takes place (key sites, routes etc.) need further discussion and community engagement before they can be finalised. The aim is therefore to achieve formal adoption of the update to the 2010 strategy next summer/autumn, by which time it will benefit from the Footprint Ecology research.

- 5.2 The draft actions, explained in more detail than previously, were discussed and amended. The Steering Group agreed that a sub-group should be asked to develop a plan for how best to engage with people over the coming months, in particular about options relating to key sites and routes, including criteria to be used to guide decisions. The sub-group will consist of representatives from NFNPA, NFDC, FC, and HCC if JW wishes to attend.

Action: NM to convene sub-group meeting to develop an engagement plan for consideration by the Group at its next meeting.

Action: CR to circulate new dog walking legislation

Action: AA to provide contact details for a contact in Devon who has successfully used local bylaws

Action: NM to convene meeting to progress options for dealing with illegal recreation activities – to include Sue Westwood

6. Date of next meeting

- 6.1 10 December 2018, 3pm
- 6.2 A further meeting to be organised for the first two weeks of February 2019.

7. Liaison with Advisory Group and date of next meeting

- 7.1 To be considered by the sub-group.

8. AOB

- 8.1 NM will attend the next Consultative Panel on 6 December to provide an update, focusing on the consultation findings.