

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group  
The Library, Queen's House, 20 May 2019**

**Attendance:**

Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre (Chairman), New Forest National Park Authority  
Steve Avery, New Forest National Park Authority  
Richard Burke, Forestry England  
Lord Manners, Verderers  
Nigel Matthews, New Forest National Park Authority  
Graham Smith, Test Valley Borough Council  
Jonathan Woods, Hampshire County Council

Apologies: Alison Appleby, Natural England; Colin Read, New Forest District Council;  
Bruce Rothnie, Forestry England

**1. Welcome and introductions**

1.1 Apologies were noted.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting (13 03 2019)**

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

**3. Matters arising**

3.1 The two recreation management roles being created by Forestry England (projects manager and engagement) are currently being graded.

3.2 The brief for the work to review the 'sense of place' conveyed by signage and other infrastructure across the New Forest has been completed. Funding has so far been committed by the NPA, FE, Verderers, HCC and the CDA.

**4. Option for a Local Development Order**

4.1 Initial discussions with consultants indicate that it should be possible and beneficial to create a Local Development Order (LDO), focussed on the provision of recreation facilities, should the proposal be supported by the NPA (as the Planning Authority).

4.2 It is envisaged that a LDO would include a spatial plan or 'vision' for recreation but not be specific about individual locations. Instead, it would establish principles, criteria and thresholds that would set a legal planning framework for any changes to specific facilities. The aim is to achieve net benefits to wildlife and the recreational experience, as well as better use of limited resources.

4.3 If a LDO is to be further investigated, it is important that all Steering Group organisations are supportive (and engaged in its development). Subject to this support, those present agreed that NPA officers should propose to the NPA (at its meeting on 11 July) that it should further investigate the feasibility of a LDO.

- 4.5 NM will inform National Trust and HCC site management staff so that they are aware of potential benefits to their respective recreation management programmes.

## **5. Updated draft strategic actions**

- 5.1 Minor changes were agreed to the draft strategic recreation management actions which had been updated to include reference to the potential LDO.
- 5.2 Recreation is likely to be a central topic within the new Partnership Plan that is due to be completed in 2020. As a statutory document, it is the best place to articulate the most important recreation management actions – and ensure they are implemented. The full suite of recreation management actions should also be kept within a working document so that progress can be monitored by the RMS Steering Group.
- 5.3 Each organisation on the Steering Group will seek confirmation of their support of their support for full suite of actions, including the work on the LDO.

## **6. Date of next meeting**

- 6.1 The next meeting should be after 11 July, hopefully in the second half of July.

## **7. Liaison with Advisory Group**

- 7.1 It was agreed that an Advisory Group meeting should be convened so that it has advance notice of proposals being taken to the NPA in July.

## **8. AOB**

- 8.1 The Footprint Ecology research being done on behalf of several local planning authorities is yielding interesting initial results. The telephone survey is complete but needs to be viewed alongside results of face-to-face interviews that are ongoing. Car parking counts are also ongoing and will provide vital information about peaks of usage and available capacity within car parks. A stakeholder workshop is being arranged for 27 June at which different options for mitigating the impacts of new housing will be discussed.
- 8.2 Initial investigation of different ways in which harmful verge parking could be better managed has resulted in a list of options, including various Traffic Regulation Orders, none of which would be easy to implement. It is hoped that an analysis of the options can be brought to a meeting of the Group in September or October.