

## **Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group Thursday 8 October via Microsoft Teams**

### Attendance:

Rachael Bowen (notes), NFNPA  
Richard Burke, Forestry England  
Anthony Climpson, Go New Forest  
Ruth Croker, Ringwood & Fordingbridge  
Footpath Society & Access Forum  
Barry Dowsett, Verderers  
John Durnell, HIWWT  
Louise Evans, NFDC  
Heather Gould, NFD OG  
Renny Henderson, RSPB

Claire Lambert, NE  
Charlotte Lines, CDA  
Nigel Matthews, NFNPA  
Leanne Sargeant, Forestry England  
Graham Smith, Test Valley Borough Council  
Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Association  
Richard Taylor, NFNPA  
Jenny Thomas, NE  
Nick Wardlaw, Forestry England  
Jonathan Woods, HCC

### Apologies:

Claire Upton-Brown, NFDC  
Dylan Everett, National Trust  
Mark Cowling, Cycle Working Group  
Allison Potts, NE  
Julie Melin-Stubbs, NFNPA

## **1 Welcome / Introductions**

1.1 NM welcomed everyone, especially those attending for the first time

## **2 Election of Chairman**

2.1 AC proposed NM as Chair. JW proposed RT as Chair which was seconded by RB and then agreed by the Group. RT added that his position on the Group will need ratification at the Authority meeting on Thursday 15 October. The Chairman's term will last for one year.

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

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

## **4 Matters arising**

4.1 The request for a better and meaningful dialogue with the RMS Steering Group was taken to the last Steering Group meeting as was the Advisory Group's interest in the spatial planning, especially in relation to car parking. The Steering Group had agreed that the link between the Groups needed to be improved – the two main agenda items for this Advisory Group meeting are a tangible response to this.

## **5 Mapping for wildlife recovery and recreation**

5.1 NM shared different mapping styles that have been developed recently by the Wildlife Roundtable. JT explained that the work had been focused on and driven by nature recovery, but also recognised that there are potential opportunities for areas that could accommodate more people / recreation.

5.2 After discussion, various comments and suggestions were made, including:

- Enclosed landscapes could offer significant opportunities
- Coastal habitats and adjacent areas are important

- The New Forest Access Forum could be asked to look at the maps from a recreational user's point of view
- Forestry England would welcome the opportunity to input into the maps
- Hampshire Biological Information Centre has produced very detailed maps that could be used to cross reference the information.

5.3 There was a request to understand the data sets that underpin the information. LE highlighted that any locations for recreation should align with the visitor survey work carried out by Footprint Ecology.

## **6 Positive and negative impacts of recreation**

6.1 The document circulated in advance of the meeting, had come from a discussion at the RMS Steering Group. The idea is to create a webpage on the NFNPA website with links to other useful information.

6.2 The Group welcomed the idea and agreed that simple, eye-catching descriptions of the main pros and cons of recreation would be useful. AC welcomed the initiative and would like to use it with Go New Forest's work with the tourism industry. JD suggested that life-long learning and an 'ownership' of the countryside should be added to the list of positive impacts.

Action: All to forward to NM any further suggestions or photos for inclusion in the positive and negative impacts document by middle of November

## **7 AOB**

7.1 CL expressed concern about aspects of cycling. RB said that the Recreation Management Strategy contains recommendations for managing cycling, including better signage and cycle routes, and more people on the ground.

Action: A more detailed update to be provided at the next RMSAG regarding cycling in the Forest

7.2 Natural England is re-examining the habitat regulations assessment for the proposed stretch of the England Coast Path from Highcliffe to Calshot which has faced a lot of opposition.

Action: NM to forward the email from Natural England which asks for any new data and evidence that might affect the proposed Coast Path route

7.3 BT reported that the Friends of the New Forest has published '[A contribution to understanding the relationship of the recreational use of the New Forest with its Special Qualities](#)'.

## **8 Date of next meeting**

8.1 Mid December – early January 2021.

Action: NM to discuss with RMS Steering Group if meetings could be set further in advance and at regular intervals