

**Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group
20 July 2021 via Teams**

Attendance:

Diane Andrews (NFDC)	Lord Manners (Verderers) - Part
Richard Burke (Forestry England)	Nigel Matthews (NFNPA)
Linda Devlin (FE)	Graham Smith (TVBC)
Patrick Heneghan, Chair (NFNPA)	Claire Upton-Brown (NFDC)
Tom Lord (Natural England)	Jonathan Woods (HCC) - Part

Apologies were received from Steve Avery (NFNPA) and Sam Jones (FE)

1. Welcome and introductions

1. PH welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the new representative from Natural England, Tom Lord.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (26 April 2021)

- 2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.
- 2.2 The updated table of RMS Strategic Actions had been taken to the last RMSAG meeting.
- 2.3 Carry over action point 4.6 - RB will bring a draft plan about management of cycling, including required resources, to the next meeting.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 NM reported that a positive and lively RMSAG meeting was held, including items on NFDC Green Way work. Some members, such as the CDA and Go New Forest want to highlight the work they are doing as individual organisations, which could happen at a future RMSAG meeting.
- 3.2 Options continue to be explored regarding potential fencing around Dibden Inclosure to reduce the risk of issues between people, dogs and forest livestock.
- 3.3 NM gave a verbal update regarding the 2021 Action Plan to manage post-Covid-19 visitor pressures and the fact that it is having a positive impact on the ground. Regular meetings with partner organisations result in co-ordinated approaches to patrols, communications, signs and promotion of the New Forest Code. This has helped reduce verge parking, BBQs and litter. New signs about pony feeding and petting are in situ and the Group supported the deployment of electronic signs along three main roads.

Action: NM to circulate draft messages to appear on electronic signs - *done*

4. Updates on strategic actions

- 4.1 LD updated the Group on Forestry England's work to update the Habitats Regulations Assessment for activities and events that require permission on the New Forest Crown Lands – and the new suite of policies and procedures for managing them. Presentation attached.

Action: LD to attend RMSAG and give the same presentation

- 4.2 After taking legal advice, the work led by Forestry England to assess the feasibility of using a Traffic Regulation Order to address verge parking has concluded that this approach would not be straightforward because the verges are not regarded as part of the highway. Instead, the consultants have recommended that an area-wide [Public Spaces Protection Order](#) should be explored (as is already being done for other recreation-related issues). RB & CUB are arranging a meeting with staff from Dorset Council who have recent experience of introducing PSPOs. The Group agreed that a feasibility study would be appropriate and there was discussion on how this work could be resourced. There was further discussion regarding how a communication plan would need to be prepared as both public and political support would be crucial should a case for a PSPO be established. Issues to be potentially considered could include wild camping, fires/BBQs, dog fouling, out of control dogs, animal feeding/petting as well as verge parking. RB will report back to the next meeting.
- 4.3 The draft Partnership Plan is out for public [consultation](#) until 3 September and covers five themes: nature recovery, net zero with nature, thriving Forest, an inclusive National Park and Team New Forest. Key recreation management actions are incorporated in the draft (see 1.5 on [this webpage](#)) and members of the Group were encouraged to take part in and promote the consultation.
- 4.4 RB will prioritise feasibility work on car parking and the Local Development Order over the summer. RB liaising with TL and will report back to the Group at its next meeting.
- 4.5 PH provided an overview of the [Farming in Protected Landscapes funding scheme](#) which includes reference to improved access and enjoying the landscape, topics that make discussion relevant for the RMSSG.

Action: PH to discuss the FiPL scheme with Paul Walton to find out how it might help with managing recreation, whether the RMSSG has a role to play and how appropriate projects could be developed

5. Date of next meeting

- 5.1 PH proposed that the next meeting be held via Teams on Tuesday 19 October, 3pm.

6. Liaison with RMS Advisory Group

- 6.1 LD to be asked to present the same presentation given today. A short update from Jim Mitchell on the LCWIP might be useful.

7. AOB

- 7.1 Pages about recreation management on the NPA website are being updated. [Now completed.](#)
- 7.2 PH thanked Nigel for helping him settle in as Chairman, the work he has done for the Group and for the New Forest. The Group wished Nigel all the best as he retires at the end of July.