

## Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group 14 October 2021 via Teams

Attendance:

Diane Andrews (NFDC)	Tom Lord (Natural England)
Steve Avery (NFNPA)	Lord Manners (Verderers)
Alison Barnes (NFNPA) – from item 4	Claire Upton-Brown (NFDC)
Richard Burke (FE)	Jonathan Woods (HCC)
Patrick Heneghan, Chair (NFNPA)	

Apologies were received from Sam Jones (FE) and Graham Smith (TVBC).

### 1. Welcome and introductions

1. PH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting (20 July 2021)

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

2.2 Dibden Inclosure – RB and TL met on site and proposals will be reviewed and options considered.

2.3 Farming in Protected Landscapes launched in the summer and grants are available for projects delivered under four themes (climate, nature, people and place) – under people and place there is potential for recreation themed projects to come forward, e.g. landowners making land more publicly available to help relieve pressure on the most sensitive areas.

Action: SA to check whether public bodies such as FE can apply for FiPL grants

### 3. Matters arising

*Feedback from RMS Advisory Group (23 Sept 2021)*

3.1 A positive meeting was held, which included a discussion on the 'Care for the Forest, Care for each other' campaign. Attendees to the meeting welcomed the additional signage. NFA have launched a byelaw watch survey, the results of which have been requested to be shared with the Group. An update on the RMS actions was requested, which could be supplied in table or bullet point format.

Action: NFNPA to produce a brief summary of progress on the RMS Actions for sharing with external organisations

The benefits of meeting after the RMS Advisory Group were discussed and it was agreed that the timing worked well.

3.2 *Review of 2021 Action Plan 'Care for the Forest, Care for Each Other'*  
A review of the Action Plan is currently taking place between all of the relevant organisations, including the collation of all relevant data such as how many times the police assisted, how many cars received stickers, gate

blockages etc. Feedback is encouraged from all RMSSG members to help establish the success of the Action Plan. Positive feedback already received included the use of digital signage and successful joint working between local Forest organisations.

#### *Cycling Management Plan*

- 3.3 RB explained that cycling in the Forest was a difficult and complicated issue to manage. RB shared a draft plan containing a list of tasks that might go some way to address the issues around cycling (attached). Some of these items included dealing with inappropriate cycling activity, signage, online resources, mapping and data collection.

There was a lively debate about cycling in general including comments about electric bike use and the damage they cause along with the safety issues around their speed.

Action: RB to circulate Cycle Management Plan for comment, then to prioritise the tasks, listing the separate issues and actions needed and bring back to a future RMS Steering Group meeting

## **4. Updates on strategic actions**

### Partnership Plan Consultation update and next steps

- 4.1 A 10-week consultation has now ended, and a summary paper has been produced that will be taken to the Authority meeting Thursday 21 October (attached). 350 responses were received of which 27 were from local organisations and approximately 80% agreed with the 5 main themes. Cycling was the topic mentioned most (by 16% of respondents) with requests for better cycling facilities, improved access and linked cycle paths. A detailed annual action plan and work programme are now being worked up in collaboration with partners.

### Public Spaces Protection Order (feasibility study progress)

- 4.2 Following the last RMSSG meeting, PH wrote to Cllr Heron NFDC with the aim of highlighting unanimous RMSSG support for the undertaking of a feasibility study into the potential use of a PSPO. Cllr Heron responded positively and identified 4 specific issues thought to be most relevant.

A recent meeting held with Dorset County Council provided information regarding the steps to take and possible challenges associated with a PSPO, including identifying the specific issues to be addressed and how enforcement will be handled. NFDC have discussed the matter internally and are in principle happy to explore further but are clear on the requirement for an evidence base to demonstrate that the conditions required for the granting of a PSPO have been sufficiently met. A further discussion in a legal context needs to take place with NFDC officers and to agree a way of working moving forward.

Dorset County Council have also requested to work with Forestry England to include fire setting and BBQ use in a Dorset wide PSPO, applicable to heathland and forest areas.

Action: To set up a working group with FE, NFDC and NFNPA to take forward the PSPO and report back to PH and then bring an action plan back to the next meeting

Action: PH to reply to Cllr Heron thanking him for suggestions and input from NFDC

#### Car Parking & LDO update

- 4.3 RB has looked at the spatial plan and proposals and what might come under the LDO. Further work is needed, and momentum has picked up again recently.

Action: RB to bring more information about the LDO to the next meeting

### **5. Article 4 Direction**

- 5.1 The consultation will end on 7 November. Issues associated with Pop up campsites were identified before the pandemic, but during the pandemic the need to bring them under better control intensified. If confirmed, the Direction will remove permitted development rights for all new sites first established after 1 March 2020 and for all larger sites (51+ pitches, both existing and new).

### **6. Future liaison with Advisory Group**

- 6.1 It was agreed that having the RMSAG a few weeks before the RMSSG worked well.

### **7. AOB**

- 7.1 Having been presented with 2 petitions regarding the introduction of average speed cameras, NFDC is supportive of a feasibility study being conducted on the Roger Penny Way. This is supported by Hampshire Police.

### **8. Date of next meeting**

- 8.1 Likely February 2022 (RMSAG to be held in January)