

**Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group
Thursday 23 September 2021 via Microsoft Teams**

Attendance:

Steve Avery, NFNPA
Richard Burke, Forestry England
Ruth Croker, New Forest Access Forum
Linda Devlin, FE
Barry Dowsett, Verderers
John Durnell, HIWWT
Louise Evans, NFDC
Claire Lambert (CL), NE
Charlotte Lines (CLI), CDA

Gale Pettifer, NFA
Leanne Sargeant, Forestry England
Graham Smith, TVBC
Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Association
Richard Taylor, (Chair) NFNPA
Nick Tomalin, RSPB
Philip Thomas – New Forest Cycle
Working Group
Claire Upton-Brown, NFDC – joined for
agenda items 6,7 8 and 9.

Apologies:

David Bennett, NFD OG
Anthony Climpson, Go New Forest
Nick Wardlaw, FE
Jenny Thomas, NE

1 Welcome / Introductions

1.1 Richard Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. As this was the first meeting following Nigel Matthews' retirement in July, all agreed to record in the minutes their thanks to Nigel for all his hard work and support over the years.

2 Minutes of the last RMS Advisory Group meeting (25 May 2021)

2.1 The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3 Matters arising from both RMS Advisory Group and RMS Steering Group (20 July 2021) meetings

3.1 Matters arising will be covered in the agenda items.

4 Review of 2021 Action Plan 'Care for the Forest, Care for Each Other' – Steve Avery

4.1 SA reminded the Group about the purpose of the campaign and a brief overview of some actions that were taken during the summer and some that continue. The parties that signed up to the plan will carry out a formal evaluation in the near future and are keen to receive feedback. When the campaign was launched in March, it received good local and national media coverage. Some feedback already received was that things were not as bad this year as they were last year and that the increased signage had been well received.

- 4.2 Anti-social behaviour on the HIWWT's estates was not as bad this year but it was difficult to know how the poor weather impacted on visitors to the area. Key to this was presence on the ground and this clearly had a positive impact.
- 4.3 Feedback from the Parish Council Quadrant meetings was that the verge parking signs were very effective as were the 'don't touch the pony' signs and the electronic signs. It seemed that the right signs in the right places made a difference.

Action: All – please send any feedback regarding the 'Care for the Forest, Care for Each Other' to Steve Avery

- 4.4 BD wanted to highlight the work of Gary North at Forestry England, and all their efforts with the signage this season. CLI agreed and added that some data could be helpful to assess how effective the signs had been, adding that there had still been a number of incidents in Beaulieu.
- 4.5 RB suggested there might be a way to collect traffic data as this had previously been done.
- 4.6 NFA had recently launched a New Forest Byelaw Watch campaign. By completing a simple survey, it was hoped to make people more aware of the byelaws – the survey can be accessed [HERE - New Forest Byelaw Watch](#). NFA will report back with their results.

5 Responses to Partnership Plan consultation

- 5.1 Thanks were recorded to those that had completed and helped promote the consultation. There was a total of 371 responses, 25 of which were from Forest organisations. There was also a great deal of interest on the NPA Facebook page and website. Three quarters of those who responded were in broad agreement with the five themes. A paper will be taken to the Authority meeting next month which will provide much more detail and will outline what happens next. The intention is to produce a joint annual work programme, containing around 20 actions that will sit alongside the Partnership Plan and it is aimed to have these finalised by the end of the year.
- 5.2 A number of other comments from the Group included more clarity on who was taking forward the actions and how to demonstrate what success will look like.

6 Update on feasibility of Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) – Claire Upton-Brown and Richard Burke

- 6.1 Discussions have taken place with neighbouring authorities to gain their experience and knowledge of using PSPOs. The process for applying is complex and to take this forward it needs to be something that can be enforced. Good progress is being made but more evidence is needed to justify taking it any further. CUB confirmed that there is potential for displacement to privately owned publicly accessible land resulting from this order which is why it needs careful consideration.

7 Update on Habitats Regulation Assessment for activities and events on Crown Lands – Linda Devlin

- 7.1 LD gave an update regarding the finalised HRA and NE assent (presentation attached), including details about mitigation and monitoring, reasons for issuing permits and what events are allowed. The Group praised LD for such an achievement when faced with a complicated and in-depth project and the application process has been greatly improved as a result. There was also a short discussion around the potential impacts of permission being given for an event that could potentially cross over onto land owned by others and events that take place on the Crown Lands, but money is exchanged off the Crown Lands.

Action: LD to liaise with CDA about upcoming events and locations

8 Progressing the LCWIP – Richard Taylor

- 8.1 The Steering Group, consisting of HCC, NFDC, FE and NFNPA were due to meet soon and set out the timeframes for auditing the proposed routes and a network around the Forest. Once this has been completed, a consultation with stakeholders will take place, likely in the New Year. PT updated the Group with regards progress on the Waterside.

9 Removing permitted development rights for temporary campsites – Steve Avery

- 9.1 SA provided the background to the Article 4 Direction that will be in place soon. BT summarised his paper that was previously circulated to the Group in advance of the meeting regarding the need to address/relocate CiTF sites. SA replied that this issue has been present for a very long time and efforts had been made in the past to try to relocate certain campsites. Relocation of existing sites to less sensitive locations was already facilitated by the Local Plan but it needs the CiTF owners/management company to initiate this. The Article 4 Direction will be the subject of a public consultation which will start next week and run for 6 weeks. If confirmed, it will come in effect September 2022. CL gave her full support to the action that the NPA are taking with regard to effluent and water discharge at campsites and how this is dealt with. RB agreed to come back to a future meeting with Forestry England's position on campsites and their locations.
- 9.2 CLI requested if Forestry England had the ability to cut short the current lease that is in place with Camping in the Forest that currently runs for 70 years, and the legalities around this.
- 9.3 GS informed the Group the TVBC should be putting their Supplementary Planning Document out for public consultation next month which will include tourist accommodation having to demonstrate they are satisfying the habitat regulations.

10 AOB

- 10.1 CLI requested an update on the RMS Actions and how they are progressing.
- 10.2 Further to discussions at the last meeting, RT suggested members forward any ideas regarding celebrating the achievements / successes of the Group and RMS actions. GP would be happy to include articles in the 'Forest Matters' publication.

11 Date of next meeting

- 11.1 The next meeting will take place in early January 2022.

DRAFT