

Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group 7 June 2022 via Teams

Attendance:

Diane Andrews (NFDC)	Patrick Heneghan, Chair (NFNPA)
Steve Avery (NFNPA)	Sam Jones (FE)
Richard Burke (FE)	Lord Manners (Verderers)
Louise Crothall (Natural England)	Graham Smith (TVBC)

Apologies were received from Jonathan Woods (HCC)

Welcome and introductions

Patrick welcomed everybody to this meeting, specifically set up to discuss a possible PSPO.

NFDC held a meeting on 11 April which was attended by a broad representation of organisations including Hampshire Police who were very supportive, however the Police were very clear that they were unable to get involved with any enforcement. The key issues up for consideration were feeding and petting of ponies, out of control dogs, lighting of barbeques and wildfires - thought of as quick wins.

Evidence was needed, such as records of repeated behaviour and how they are having a detrimental effect on the public and community to assist NFDC present a strong case. The next meeting with NFDC is on 11 July so this was the target date to have something concrete in terms of supporting evidence.

Verge parking was discussed at the meeting in April, although it was thought unlikely to be included in the PSPO at this stage as it was difficult to enforce. Enough evidence could assist to help add this in the future. RB asked that wild camping also be considered at the same time as verge parking.

NFDC pointed out that achieving the quick wins, such as the issues previously mentioned, will help to learn what evidence is needed and the process involved as this situation was new to everyone.

To progress with evidence gathering, it was important to engage with organisations such as the CDA, Friends of the New Forest and others.

Feeding ponies

It was suggested that along with photos, statements from key personnel could be helpful evidence, accompanied by logs of dates and times held by organisations such as the NPA and FE as set out in the template provided by NFDC, with the location being referenced as the unfenced areas (the perambulation) at this stage.

The Head Agister could provide a statement explaining the behaviour of the ponies when they are fed and what can then happen to them because of this behaviour.

Examples / case studies and expert opinions are needed to demonstrate that it is happening and had started well before lockdown. It was important to remember that these activities were persistent and classed as anti-social behaviour.

Action: SA will prepare a statement from the NFNPA and back it up with as much evidence available.

Organisations to be contacted or provide information:

FE
The Verderers
Local Facebook village groups
Parish Councils
NFNPA
CDA – SA to contact
RSPB
National Trust
HCC (e.g., Keyhaven)
Beaulieu Estate – WM to contact

Additional sources of information:

- RMS consultations
- Verderers records of ponies removed from the Forest to see if there is a clear connection to feeding

Dogs

The same type of evidence for out-of-control dogs was needed and from similar sources. Although Byelaws exist for out-of-control dogs and feeding of ponies, Forestry England have no ability to issue fines.

Action: WM to speak to a vet regarding the negative health & behavioural consequences of feeding ponies

Organisations to be contacted:

NFDOG

BBQ and wildfires

There is plenty of evidence available about what could happen, as much as what has happened around unattended BBQs and wildfires. It was helpful to know that having a PSPO in place required the Fire Brigade to put the fire out under the legality of the PSPO.

Enforcement and signage along with a review of the evidence will be discussed at the next meeting on 11 July with NFDC.

Action: A statement by each organisation is ideally needed by the end of June or early July

Organisations to be contacted:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue – RB / SJ to contact

Additional sources of information:

Joint Ranger patrol logs

Action: PH and SA to talk to the RMSAG Chair to update him

Action: All to circulate statements to Group by Friday 1 July

Date of next meeting

Monday 4 July 4.30pm.

DRAFT