

Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group 28 November 2022 via Teams

Attendance:

Diane Andrews (NFDC)

Steve Avery (NFNPA)

Richard Burke (FE)

Louise Crothall (NE)

Patrick Heneghan, Chair (NFNPA)

Graham Smith (TVBC)

Claire Upton-Brown (NFDC)

Jonathan Woods (HCC) (from item 5.1)

1. Welcome / apologies / introductions

- 1.1 PH welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Lord Manners. Graham Horton will join for the next meeting, replacing Louise Crothall as the Natural England rep.

2. Matters arising from the recent RMSAG meeting

- 2.1 The NFA Byelaw watch survey which took place during the summer months was highlighted to the Group and was available on the following link: [2022-FoNF Byelaw Watch Report](#).

3. New Partnership Plan (and relationship with RMS)

- 3.1 The RMS Strategic Actions have now been incorporated into the new Partnership Plan and SA will produce a document showing progress and which of the five themes they appear under. Some of the actions were further discussed including those relating to Team New Forest and Nature Recovery.

Action: SA to produce a document that cross references the RMS progress report with the Partnership Plan actions and priorities

- 3.2 The progress of the RMS actions was likely to come under the reporting of the recreation themed actions that are within the Partnership Plan if the Group were in agreement. A Partnership Plan Leaders Panel is also being established which will meet two or three times a year to activate and oversee the implementation of the Plan and move things forward if there are any stumbling blocks, the first meeting of which will take place on Monday 16 January 2023.

4. Update on PSPO

- 4.1 The PSPO is being led by NFDC – evidence has been submitted by NFNPA and other organisations and at the recent NFDC cabinet meeting it was agreed to progress further, the next step being a formal public consultation to run from early December to end of January. The two PSPOs would look at tackling wildfires and BBQs, and the feeding and petting of ponies. If successful, the soonest it would come into effect would be June 2023 and will be for the local rangers (NFNPA, FE and NFDC) to enforce.

- 4.2 The Group discussed resources, training and signage that will be needed and whether there was a possibility that the HLS scheme could resource something.

Action: SA to discuss the role of the Agisters or how the Verderers would contribute if the PSPO was successful

Action: SA to send both PSPO maps showing the extent of the geography to GS to discuss with the National Trust - newforest.gov.uk/PublicSpaceProtectionOrders – *action complete*

5. How do we best progress the Local Development Order (LDO) & Spatial Strategy?

- 5.1 Little progress had been made in the last 10 months and this was something that the RMSAG were hoping the RMSSG could help with. The Group discussed the options for kick starting the LDO and the Spatial Strategy. It was suggested that a consultant could be engaged to develop a plan to establish a way to get the LDO through the HRA. Natural England will have initial discussions with Forestry England to take forward.

Action: RB to share the draft map with the Group

6. Cycling in the Forest

- 6.1 SA advised of a delay with the New Forest LCWIP over the previous months but had understood that HCC were working on it again lately. Forestry England had been continuing to progress, looking at how the cycling network joins with the car parks and more recently have had positive talks with the Verderers.

7. Camping in the Forest

- 7.1 The Camping and Caravanning club's lease expires end of November 2022. Negotiations were still taking place and once agreed a public statement will be made. In the interim, a process is in place to allow some year-round camp sites to run before an operator is appointed.

8. Habitat Mitigation Schemes and the National Park

- 8.1 RMS Strategic Action 16 – Wiltshire have led on this piece of work and a consultant had been chosen and work had progressed well. Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) have considered looking at a new country park on the east of the Forest; something that has been considered before.

9. AOB

- 9.1 Any missing minutes and agendas to be added to the website.
9.2 Louise Crothall was thanked for her contribution to the Group.

10. Date of next meeting

10.1 Mid to late February 2023 avoiding half term.

DRAFT