

Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group Wednesday 16 November 2022 via Microsoft Teams

Attendance:

Steve Avery, NFNPA
Richard Burke, Forestry England
Ruth Croker, LAF (from item 5.2)
John Durnell, HIWWT
Claire Lambert, NE
Leanne Sargeant, FE
Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Association

Richard Taylor, (Chair) NFNPA
Nick Tomalin, RSPB
Philip Thomas – New Forest Cycle
Working Group
Claire Upton-Brown, NFDC
Tony Vanderhoek, CDA

Apologies:

Carol Seymour, Go New Forest
Graham Smith, TVBC
David Bennett, NFD OG
Rick Manley, Verderers

1 Welcome / Introductions

- 1.1 Richard Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 New Partnership Plan (and relationship with RMS)

- 2.1 The new Partnership Plan was formally launched in the summer at the NF Show. The plan for the National Park, produced with the principal statutory organisations, contains 5 themes. Many of the high-level actions within the RMS have been carried through to the Partnership Plan which shows a commitment to work together to take them forward. Examples of some of the actions were shared and can also be seen on the following link: [Partnership-Plan-Annex-Actions-RENew.pdf](#).
- 2.2 It was agreed that the actions could be updated if necessary, depending on resources and priorities.
- 2.3 The Group was advised that there is an intention to hold a Partnership Plan Leaders Panel a few times a year with the leaders and Chief Executives of the partner organisations to help activate and oversee the implementation of the Partnership Plan.

3 Update on PSPO

- 3.1 NFDC cabinet recently considered a detailed report and in fully supporting this work have agreed to take it forward to the next step; a public consultation for the 2 PSPOs – wildfire and BBQs and feeding and petting of ponies. The NFA attended the meeting suggesting a dog control PSPO and were also hoping the BBQs and wildfires PSPO would include fireworks and sky lanterns as used in other areas. FE had received very little evidence that fireworks and sky lanterns cause wildfires, and after extensive discussion it was decided not

to be included. BBQs and wildfires will cover the Crown Lands only but the feeding and petting of ponies will cover the perambulation.

4 Progress on LDO/Spatial Strategy

- 4.1 Progress had been very slow, and some work had been paused on the LDO to focus on the Spatial Strategy. FE were due to meet with Natural England again soon with a view to progress the LDO and move forward. Natural England having recently been unsuccessful in a funding bid, will be submitting a further bid to obtain funding to help drive the LDO forward and the work around the Habitat Regulations.
- 4.2 The Group agreed to ask the RMS Steering Group to help push forward the LDO/Spatial Strategy.

5 Cycling in the Forest – off road gravel network and the New Forest LCWIP

- 5.1 There were some hold ups on the LCWIP which HCC were working on, but they have faced a number of challenges in preparing the document. A public consultation is aimed for the new year. The LCWIP's purpose was to generate desired routes, mostly on road, and may provide the ability to unlock funding. Any off-road routes would be subject to the appropriate procedures and checks.
- 5.2 The gravel network is a key action from the RMS but there had been some complications in taking it forward. The cycle network was key to help achieve the spatial plan and links with both the gravel network and the LCWIP. There was still agreement needed with regard to the management of cyclists off the network which had yet to be resolved.

6 Article 4 Direction for temporary campsites

- 6.1 Those affected are 28-day pop up campsites that have been established since March 2020 and those with 51 pitches or more. Planning applications are expected soon as some are already advertising for next year. Further information is available on this link [Planning Article 4 Direction](#)

7 NFA Bylaw Watch – latest findings (report attached)

- 7.1 Snapshot surveys were conducted in the summer of 2022 to get a sense of the level of breaches that were taking place in the Forest. The purpose of the survey was to raise the profile and make people more aware that these rules exist and also to help inform the conversation over these issues.
- 7.2 The NFA hope to repeat the survey next year, so there might be an opportunity to see any trends, but the surveys aren't exactly the same year on year.

8 Habitat Mitigation Schemes and the National Park

- 8.1 All local planning authorities have mitigation schemes in place to help mitigate the impacts of new housing and visitor developments. One way to do this was by way of a financial contribution and there were plans to better coordinate this work and find a more consistent approach.
- 8.2 Some further items discussed:
- Eastleigh Borough Council are now funding a ranger to work in the New Forest
 - NFDC already fund a People & Wildlife Ranger and have done so for some time
 - Southampton City Council are looking to make money available as they recognise residents are using the New Forest
 - Some temporary campsites also have to contribute under the habitats regs
 - Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) are looking at opportunities to provide new green infrastructure in South Hampshire, which could include creating a new country park to the east of the Forest.

9 AOB

- 9.1 Any missing agendas or minutes to be added to the website.
- 9.2 NFA would like to see additional items contained within the PSPO (dogs on leads in certain areas, out of control dogs, dog fouling and leaving bags of dog poo) - these suggestions were discussed at length in the Cabinet meeting; however, it was decided not to move forward with these items currently but focus on the 2 pilot issues.
- 9.3 Natural England's local manager will be Graham Horton once Louise Crothall leaves. Claire Lambert is moving to a different team within Natural England - Congratulations were offered to Claire from the whole Group.

Action: Graham Horton (Natural England) to be invited to the next meeting

- 9.4 HIWWT have appointed a new manager in the New Forest area, and they will be taking over from John Durnell on this Group.

Action: Invite new HIWWT manager to the next meeting

10 Date of next meeting

- 10.1 End of January / early February.