

Recreation Management Strategy Advisory Group Thursday 9 February via Microsoft Teams

Attendance:

Richard Taylor, (Chair) NFNPA
David Bennett, NFDOG
Richard Burke, Forestry England
Ruth Croker, LAF
Graham Horton, NE
Jim Mitchell, NFNPA
Leanne Sargeant, FE

Carol Seymour, Go New Forest
Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Association
Philip Thomas – New Forest Cycle
Working Group
Nick Tomalin, RSPB
Claire Upton-Brown, NFDC
Tony Vanderhoek, CDA

Apologies:

Steve Avery, NFNPA
Graham Smith, TVBC
Nick Wardlaw, FE
Rick Manley, Verderers

1 Welcome / Introductions

- 1.1 Richard Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2 Minutes of, and matters arising from, the last RMS Advisory Group meeting (16 November 2022)

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record, although the link to the Partnership Plan was not working (correct link is here - [Partnership-Plan-Annex-Actions-RENew.pdf](#)). The Group were yet to receive confirmation of the new HIWWT representative.

3 Proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders:

- 3.1 The public consultation had ended and current discussions with partners were around how to sign and enforce the PSPO. February 15th was the deadline to report back to NFDC with a list of authorised persons that could enforce the PSPO. Forestry England are currently looking at how the new responsibilities will integrate into existing roles. Suitable training is being arranged for all by NFDC for all authorised persons.
- 3.2 There will be fixed and possibly temporary signs for hotspots. Some mockups have already been produced which still need refining, including liaising with the Police to hopefully include their logo. The wording was discussed, noting the signs need to include appropriate language in relation to the PSPOs and to also compliment current codes. RB would investigate if there was opportunity and time for the Advisory Group to comment on the wording.
- 3.3 The CDA are in the process of installing 40 new signs along with another 100 in the future about feeding ponies and keeping dogs under control.

- 3.4 It was suggested that the Group familiarise themselves with the 2 different PSPO maps with regard to land ownership.

Action: Update Group at the next meeting regarding whether there were any additions to the PSPOs

4. RMS Strategic Actions mapped against Partnership Plan Themes and Priorities

- 4.1 The paper, a working document will eventually appear on the NFNPA website. The document usefully demonstrates the scale of work that is ongoing in and around the Forest both by the NFNPA and partners.

Action: ALL to provide any comments or suggestions to the RMS Strategic Actions within the Partnership Plan

5 Joint Action Plan for 2023

- 5.1 An infographic produced by partners was shared onscreen showing statistics around recreation in 2022. It covered things such as social media activity, stats around BBQs, littering and successful actions taken. The success of the New Forest Code and collaborative working was praised including a wide awareness of the code and its content by the public.
- 5.2 Relevant sections of the code could be pulled out separately and used as a basis for more detailed information where applicable.

6 Update on the New Forest LCWIP

- 6.1 There had been no substantial progress since the last Advisory Group meeting and a map was still awaited, however a meeting was planned in February where an update and results of a recent HCC audit would be shared. A recent government announcement for additional funding for cycling in rural areas was being looked into although it was not possible to bid for funds due to the lack of a New Forest LCWIP.

7 Update on Campsites

- 7.1 The recent tender process had concluded, and a new agreement had been signed with the New Forest Agricultural Show Society (Camping in the New Forest Ltd). Current priorities are focused on the 2023 season and how the existing management plan of the sites fit in. Longer term plans will be looking at the sustainability of the campsites and part of this process will likely involve the creation of a local stakeholders' group. The upkeep and modernisation of the facilities and the relationship with FE was also discussed.

8 Recreational Disturbance Conference

- 8.1 Further to information previously circulated, the full day virtual conference will take place on Tuesday 21 February and is open to all. The final agenda and joining instructions will be published soon. The morning session will focus on

recreational disturbance and conservation, whilst the afternoon session will look at habitats.

9 AOB

- 9.1 The Chairman again expressed a desire for the spatial strategy to move forward.
- 9.2 Footprint Ecology are carrying out a piece of work following on from the local plan authorities' aim to find a more strategic way of dealing with mitigation of the recreational impact of new housing on the SAC. It will determine what access measures are required on the SAC and they will interview those managing land. The idea is to come up with a broad proposal to mitigate recreational impacts on these sites. BT was hopeful that relevant experts would be consulted regarding land management.

Action: David Illsey to be invited to the next meeting to explain the brief around the latest Footprint Ecology work

10 Date of next meeting

- 10.1 To be decided.