

## NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK RECREATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 The New Forest National Party Authority (NPA) has, in pursuance of the Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030, consulted various bodies (including the District Council) on proposed revised strategic recreation management actions in support of that strategy.

1.2 Those strategic actions referred to above had been compiled by the Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group (RMSSG), which comprises the following:-

Forestry England  
Verderers  
Natural England  
NFDC  
TVBC  
Hampshire County Council  
NPA

1.3 The RMSSG is asking partner organisations to endorse the proposed recreation management actions.

### 2. THE PROPOSALS

2.1 The proposed actions were endorsed at a meeting of the NPA on 11 July 2019 ([see link](#)), and considered by the District Council's Community and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel, to which Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel were invited, on 25 July 2019 ([see link](#)).

2.2 Both meetings noted the findings from the 2018 Future Forest Consultation on Recreation Management, the Strategic Actions compiled by the RMSSG together with the NPA's intention to undertake further investigations into the feasibility of a Local Development Order.

2.3 The District Council is supportive of all the strategic actions, and asks that the NPA take the following issues into account:

- The need to mitigate road safety issues in the area and take account of the impact of cyclists
- The need to consider closure of certain car parks during the nesting season
- Parking charges and the effect on local residents
- Educating the public to stay on appropriate roads and drive safely around animals
- The need to ensure that any measures did not displace parking onto verges
- Provision of information on parking to be clearly available, and good signage
- The need to engage with younger age groups on the use of the Forest and in surveys
- Consideration of the reduction of speed limits

- 2.4 The Council notes the NPA's intention to investigate the feasibility of a Local Development Order as a tool to facilitate changes to the distribution and capacity of car parking on the open Forest and adjacent commons.
- 2.5 The Council supports the objective of directing visitors to more sustainable and resilient locations and away from the most sensitive areas, providing this does not have 'knock-on' impacts, such as on neighbourhood roads and verges, and on local residents.

### 3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the New Forest National Park Authority be advised that the District Council:
- (a) Notes the findings of the 2018 Future Forest consultation on Recreational Management;
  - (b) Supports the proposed Strategic Actions under the Recreation Management Strategy as set out in the document dated 11 July 2019 ([see link](#));
  - (c) Notes the intention of the New Forest National Park to undertake further investigations into the feasibility of a Local Development Order.
- (ii) That the NPA be advised of the issues raised by Members as set out in paragraph 2.3 and ask that those are taken into account; and
- (iii) That the Council continue to be kept similarly informed and involved in future work.

### 4. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

**I have agreed to the recommendations of this report.**

**Signed:** CLLR MARK STEELE      **Date:** 15 OCTOBER 2019

**Date notice of decision given:** 15 OCTOBER 2019

**Last date for call-in:** 22 OCTOBER 2019

**For further information contact:**

Matt Wisdom  
Democratic Services Manager  
023 8028 5588  
[Matt.wisdom@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Matt.wisdom@nfdc.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**

Published documents