

Update item on Members Feedback for 6th June LAF

Item No: 10

Natural England Report to Regional Chair's Meeting Bob attended on 26th March and follow up notes from Andrew Mackintosh to John T

New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS) Last time I think I said that we were working with Defra to include public access options within the new scheme and I can say now that it is included and we are now working on the delivery details and we will share information as soon as we can. Sorry I still can't say more at this stage but this is definite progress from when I last updated you!

To be honest, as I said in my last email, there really isn't anything else to share re: NELMS at the moment. Defra are still looking at the various measures and options and we continue to supply them with advice and data. As indicated the Recreational vehicle survey is yet to go out to authorities (via the ADEPT Rights of Way Managers group network) We will also share any new re: 2026/ Deregulation Act implementation if we hear anything from Defra.

Recreational vehicle use/management: We are about to gather information/best practice form highways authorities in this area of rights of way management as part of actions agreed last year in the *Motoring Stakeholder Working Group* and in line with recommendations from the Lords NERC Act Select Committee. We are also liaising with Dft who are themselves looking at information and advice provision for TRO use within their area of interest i.e. surfaced roads/streets. The aim is to revise existing best practice and advice and highlight any problem areas, identify training needs etc.

National Trails . We have secured agreement from the Minister to funding (with a 5% saving) for 2019/20 in advance of NE having confirmation of its budget. The amount agreed includes maintenance support for new stretches of ECP. We are currently in the process of actually making the grant offers but then effort will inevitably focus on longer term funding. Two things to say about this. First we are obviously expiring how we can play into Comprehensive Spending Review discussions etc and secondly - the Trails are about to receive the independent consultants report they commissioned (paid for from HLF Resilience Fund). This will set out recommendations for how they organise themselves in future.

Changes at Natural England. *We have a new Chair (as of 23rd April) – Tony Juniper. As you can see below he has had a long career in conservation and sustainability work but we have yet to hear how he sees the recreation/access/people elements of NE's remit.*

“This year will be my 35th working for the environment and sustainable development and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been able to contribute in so many different capacities – as a campaigner, policy advocate, researcher, writer,

broadcaster, lecturer and advisor to private sector companies. I've also been lucky to have held senior positions with several organisations, including the Wildlife Trusts, Friends of the Earth, the World Wide Fund for Nature and the Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit."

Our acting Chief Exec Marian Spain (ex Countryside Agency) certainly does 'get' access and recreation and we have had a couple of useful meetings with her so far and are optimistic that in her we have a sympathetic ear in this area.

Please send my apologies for not attending on 6th June. I am more than happy to answer any specific queries arising from the meeting

Kind regards

Andrew Mackintosh

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