

Outdoors for All?

Action Points from Meeting held on 13 July at Renslade House, Exeter.

Present

Wendy Brewin (Chair)	Sensory Trust	wbrewin@sensorytrust.org.uk
Janine Clarke	Rights of Way Officer	Janine.clarke@torbay.gov.uk
Michael Enright	Rights of Way	MEnright@swindon.gov.uk
Simon Hewett- Avison	Exmoor National Park	SHewett-Avison@exmoor- nationalpark.gov.uk
Dot Isgrove	Natural England	Dot.isgrove@naturalengland.org.uk
Mary Knight	Rights of Way	Mary.knight@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Sally Vickery	Rights of Way	SAVickery@somerset.gov.uk
Hilary Winter	South West Local Access Forum	Hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk
Apologies		
Giles Aspinall	BTCV	g.aspinall@btcv.org.uk
Tim Braund	Exmoor National Park Authority	TPBraund@exmoor- nationalpark.gov.uk
Steve Gardener	Devon CC	Steve.gardner@devon.gov.uk
Martin Gorringe	Access & Recreation	Martin.gorringe@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Peter Hobley	Rights Of Way	PAHobley@somerset.gov.uk
Rob Leek	Natural England	Rob.leek@naturalengland.org.uk
Sarah Littler	Rights of Way	slittler@somerset.gov.uk
Suzanne Powner	Open Access	S.Powner@dorsetcc.gov.uk
Orlando Rutter	Dartmoor National Parks Authority	orutter@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk
Dave Waterman	Access & Recreation	Dave.waterman@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Full list of participates attached for interest

1. Actions from last meeting

1.1. MEME rep unavailable to attend but had provided update – see agenda item

1.2. Dot had circulated sample questions received from Orlando and Fiona. Andy Jasper was unable to attend this meeting. Dot's actions to contact Tim and NEs 'One million' children campaign carries forward – see agenda item

1.3. Steve had circulated an invite to this meeting via the LAF resulting in the new contacts made and new attendees today.

2 . Development of South West Visitor Questionnaire

We looked through the various questionnaires that had been passed to the group including the latest Exmoor National Park event questionnaire. Although most questions were similar in type eg; age, ethnic groups, disabilities - all asked for the information in a different format. Most of the questionnaires are devised at a national level rather than regionally. We decided to ask Andy Jasper to run a workshop for us at the next meeting. The results of the workshop will be feed into the national 'outdoors for all?' group. We aim to produce a core of questions that can be adopted and incorporated into questionnaires being developed for info collation exercises in 2010 and beyond - to ensure we can share a fundamental layer of information eg; age, diversity and activity type stats.

Actions

Wendy ;- 1. to ask Eden's Project Andy Jasper to run workshop (Dot will ask Orlando to run if Andy cannot), 2. E-mail group via Dot pictorial questions

Hilary to send sample of MORI questions used when seeking info on people accessing the countryside.

Dot ;- 1.to discuss input from Tim Mines, Jurassic Park and NE 'One Million' children campaign(carried forward from last meeting) 2. Check out NEs contribution to conference in Malaga Nov/Dec; 3. to flag as agenda item for next meeting.

All check out www.widgit.symbols

3. MENE (Monitoring Engagement in the Natural Environment) update.

Recruitment for NEs national diversity manager should be completed shortly.

The omnibus MENE survey started in March and will reach over 40k households throughout the year. It will target a random group of people and include home visits. NE has brought a selection of questions to help us grow a picture of what people are doing in the outdoors.

A sample questionnaire was circulated to show types of questions asked.

Data can only be made available at a regional level and at present is not robust enough to take to a local NP or AONP level. This is mainly due to the way people describe the destinations they visit. The MENE project team will check on this as the project progresses to see if it can be improved.

The regional data is currently being set up in excel viewer to allow people to obtain different analysis without assessing raw data. At present the new Statistics Act is holding up the release of the information. Indicative findings should be available on the NE website in Dec.

The work has a nine year life span. The first three years to gather data and create credibility, the remaining time to set up and test systems and finally deliver outcomes . All organisations named in the plan may still be contacted and asked

to complete an on-line survey to find out what people do in their patch. The information will help form the baseline statistics for 'Outdoors for All'

Actions

Dot to invite 1. new national diversity manager to next meeting and 2. rep from the MENE project to lead us through Excel spreadsheet/database if available

Dot to find out;- 1, how people are chosen to complete the survey eg; if people have chosen not to be listed on the electoral register are they ignored for this survey; 2. How are phone numbers found – many people use mobiles rather than landlines; 3. Is there a particular method used to reach disengaged communities

4. Under Represented Groups Regional Mapping

Chris Green from NE mapping section had produced more detailed maps showing deprivation in graduation across the SW and also one showing the Quantock and Mendips AONBs. The group found the last the most useful as areas including towns and villages showed more clearly.

Actions

Dot 1. To send electronic version of the maps to all.

All to send requests of areas and deprivation type to Dot to arrange mapping as required.

5. Barrier Busting Workshop Update

The plan is to cascade the findings and implement the recommendations made at the regional event held in April 2009 to local volunteer centres - focussing on 7/8 sub regional groupings made up of approx 30 people. Caroline Cook from the South West Forum will facilitate the events working closely with each volunteer centre to ensure we invite people who can ensure the recommendations can be put into practise.

Actions

Dot 1. to send more detailed info to group when available 2. Send copy of report from April event to all when received from SWF

6. Any Other Business

6.1. The Sensory Trust had just received confirmation from National Lottery of £247k funding to run a pilot scheme in the South West to reconnect people with dementia living in care homes to the natural environment by redesigning garden areas and green spaces and running community events in revamped areas. This is the second successful bid for the Sensory Trust this year. The first being with LEAF to secure three and a half years funding for a flagship project across Britain to take disabled groups onto farms. Congratulations Sensory Trust.

6.2. Simon gave an overview of the MOSIAC project now running on Exmoor, Dartmoor & the New Forest. The project is funded through the Access 2 Nature grant scheme and links with similar projects running in national parks across the country. Claire Taylor will be running the project focussed on BME groups from Exeter, Bristol and Barnstaple for Exmoor; Exeter, Plymouth & Torquay for

Dartmoor; finding and engaging with community champions to encourage visits and vol opportunities. David Rowes will be running a project focussed on 16-25 people and disabled users.

Current live projects include a Polish people training camp where 46 family groups have accepted an invitation to look at converting the currently available national park literature into Polish; another project is working to youth proof information - investigating the use of Facebook, u-tube etc.

Actions

Simon 1. to send contact details for David & Claire via Dot to circulate to the group.2. Invite either David or Claire to give a presentation on the MOSAIC project

Dot to send copy of the Times article 'Is the countryside racist?' to group

6.3 Hilary had recently encountered a problem finding somewhere on the Blackdown Hills AONB to take a friend in a wheelchair where they could eat and use a toilet comfortably. In discussion many people had experienced similar problems at several different destinations across the region which were promoted as easy access areas. We agreed that it would be useful to have information available to visitors about pubs, cafes, visitor centres etc that catered for all abilities, particularly wheelchairs. Wider discussions were required with tourism providers.

Actions

Dot 1. Check with the nation team to find out if there is any work going on to establish a national database for places without barriers linked with our easy access promoted areas 2. Invite James Maben from Blackdowns AONB to our next meeting to find out more about the work they are doing in this area and to invite to join group.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 Sept commencing with lunch at 1pm at Renslade House, Exeter. Simon Hewett-Avison to chair (to be confirmed)

Attachments

1. Maps for social deprivation produced by Chris Green
2. Copy of Times article; 'Is the countryside racist?'
3. Full list of participants for interest and update as required

DI 14/6/09