

## NFNPA RAPC 273/15

### NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – 7 SEPTEMBER 2015

#### NEW FOREST INCLUSIVE CYCLING – FUTURE PLANS

**Report by:** Mark Holroyd, Transport & Tourism Manager and Jolyon Whaymand, Inclusive Cycling Officer.

#### 1. SUMMARY

1.1 Since 2011 the Authority has delivered inclusive cycling sessions to enable disabled children and their families to enjoy the special qualities of the National Park. A review of this activity recommended that an independent non-profit organisation is formed to deliver and grow provision for these activities in the future. In response the Authority has established PEDALL to deliver inclusive cycling activities and to prepare the business case for a developing a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This paper introduces this development to members and seeks approval for the formation of a CIO.

#### 2. BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

2.1 In 2011, 12 specially adapted cycles and a trailer were bought by the Authority with a grant from Hampshire County Council's (HCC) Inspiring You fund to enable disabled children and their families to cycle within the National Park. Currently the Authority's staff deliver sessions for groups and individuals to try out the bikes and go on cycle rides on the permitted network of cycle routes. The bikes are available to hire at other times from Cyclexperience in Brockenhurst for families who want to use the bikes by themselves. Since 2011, 1500 users have undertaken sessions in the New Forest with the Authority's staff. The project is delivered in partnership with Special Children and their Relatives and Families (SCARF) and Cyclexperience Limited, Brockenhurst and supported by New Forest District Council.

2.2 The 2011 Census states that over 300,000 people with a disability live in Hampshire, with around 11% of those living in the New Forest. A recent consultation with users noted that demand for inclusive cycling sessions and feedback has been very positive. A survey of local families with disabled children showed that 85% stated that they were interested in taking part in inclusive cycling sessions and 60% said their child could not cycle without access to specially adapted bikes. Since April, the project has engaged with charities, day services, schools, older peoples' groups, care homes and secondary health services to further establish and provide services for this demand.

2.3 In 2014, the Authority commissioned a review of its inclusive cycling activity provision to establish ways in which services could be improved with declining National Park Authority resources. One of the report's main recommendations was that the Authority look to establish an independent not for profit organisation to manage, deliver and develop inclusive cycling in the New Forest.

2.4 More recently the Authority included the inclusive cycling project in its bid with HCC and the South Downs National Park Authority to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. An Inclusive Cycling Officer was employed in April 2015 on a one-year fixed term contract to deliver additional sessions and progress the development of an independent not for profit organisation. This paper introduces how the latter will be progressed.

### **3. CREATING A NEW INCLUSIVE CYCLING ORGANISATION**

3.1 The three main reasons for the Authority to facilitate the formation of an independent organisation to drive forward this activity in the future:

- The Authority does not have the resource to staff the current project on a long term basis and has no capacity to scale the current project within existing resources.
- A not-for-profit organisation can access funding streams that the Authority cannot. For example, the Big Lottery's 'Reaching Communities' fund, which could award revenue and capital funding to support the project for up to five years.
- As a small not for profit organisation it will be easier to fundraise and seek philanthropy.

Encouraging participants to attend a session for the first time can be a real challenge. A dedicated organisation could have a stronger focus on addressing individual's needs and will be more flexible in adapting to feedback to operate in a user-led manner.

3.2 The new organisation, using the moniker PEDALL, will be established to engage a broader section of society (both local people and visitors) in cycling activities. The current suggested aims are to:

- Engage people in cycling who otherwise would not have. For example:
  - people with disabilities
  - people on low incomes
  - older people who may feel like they are 'past cycling'
- Promote the New Forest as a safe, accessible and enjoyable environment in which to cycle and to understand and enjoy the special qualities of the National Park.
- Promote integration and interaction between users e.g. people with and without disabilities – demystifying disability and challenging barriers between supposed groups of people.

This will not be a lobbying organisation; its role is purely to deliver services.

3.3 A detailed business plan will be developed this autumn which will be brought to a future RAPC meeting for consideration by Members. The following income sources are being considered:

- Applications for funding
  - An application to the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities fund is currently being considered
  - Other likely funders include: Sports England, Peoples Postcode lottery.

- Partnership work/contracts
  - Health Sector
  - Local Authority
  - Schools
  - Residential care homes
- Cycle roadshows
  - A mobile PEDALL session, giving people the chance to test-drive a selection of adapted cycles. In addition to promotion of the project, outcomes include enjoyment and education.
  - A small number of these have been booked for spring 2016 – charged at £500 each.
- Corporate partnerships
  - The aim is to partner with an organisation that is sensitive to PEDALL's aims e.g. a cycle manufacturer.
- Donations / membership
  - The desire is to generate a steady influx of revenue through structured donations. For example, individual fundraising for events such as challenge events (marathons/cycle tours).
  - Plans to charge a nominal annual membership fee for regular participants and supporters.

#### **4. PROPOSED GOVERNANCE**

4.1 Several organisational structures have been considered including companies, social enterprises and charities. The recommendation is that the organisation is formed as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) as this:

- Offers trustees limited liability – the organisation enters into agreements and takes on volunteers itself (not in the name of the trustees)
- requires no minimum registration threshold for CIOs
- qualifies the organisation for gift aid and excludes the organisation from corporation tax.
- Is less demanding than other organisational structures in terms of bureaucracy.

4.2 An initial board of three is being recruited, including one Authority Member. There is a potential for the trustees to grow this to recruit specific skills and create strong links with other relevant organisations locally. At the Authority meeting on 16 July Members considered the Appointment of Authority representatives on external organisations, and appointed David Harrison to fulfil this role.

It is important that the organisation retains strong links to the Authority as it relates closely to our second purpose (promoting understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park).

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 PEDALL is currently delivering activities on a regular basis in the New Forest. In order to apply for funding or for others to fundraise on the organisations' behalf, PEDALL must be registered as a not for profit organisation. Three initial trustees have been identified and approached.
- 5.2 A full business plan will be developed, outlining how the organisation will sustain itself. This will be brought to a future RAPC meeting for consideration. In the meantime, due to the processing time required by the Charity Commission to register a new organisation, we would like to continue with this process as quickly as possible. This should have no financial implications for the Authority.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

To consider and, if thought appropriate, recommend the above proposal to the full Authority for approval.

### **Contact:**

Mark Holroyd, Transport & Tourism Manager, 01590 646641  
Jolyon Whaymand, Inclusive Cycling Officer, 01590 646683

### **Papers:**

Proposal for developing Inclusive Cycling in the New Forest, Sarah Newman, May 2014.

### **Equality Impact Assessment:**

The Inclusive Cycling project contributes significantly to ensuring that residents and visitors to the National Park with a physical or intellectual disability are able to enjoy its special qualities.