

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 AUGUST 2005**

New Forest Consultative Panel – Update from meeting of Thursday 7 July 2005

Report by: Nick Evans, Policy Adviser

Summary:

An update from the Panel meeting of 7 July 2005.

Recommendation:

To **note** the update.

Resources:

None.

Other major considerations:

None.

New Forest Consultative Panel – Update from meeting of Thursday 7 July 2005

Report by: Nick Evans, Policy Adviser

Summary:

1. The New Forest Consultative Panel met for its 194 Meeting on the 7 July 2005. This was Linda Ryan's last meeting as Panel Secretary. The Chairman and Panel members thanked her for all the excellent work over the last 14 years, and wished her success in future work for the communications team of the National Park Authority.
2. Mike Seddon (Forestry Commission) speaking on behalf of the Panel members, extended his congratulations to the Chairman on his well deserved recently awarded OBE.
3. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Jayne Bissington and Mr Kevin Fuller as new representatives for Salisbury District Council and Hampshire County Council Highways respectively.
4. Items discussed by the Panel included:
 - Re-structuring of Crown Lands Management Plan - progress by the Forestry Commission is on-going.
 - Ragwort – concerns were raised about the large number of flowering heads this year; the Chairman noted that action is needed by local communities and the highways authorities (Hampshire County Council have recently started control work).
 - Ashurst to Lyndhurst Cycle Route – concerns were expressed about progress; English Nature is awaiting information from Hampshire County Council.
 - A326 – issues regarding crossing points will be passed to Hampshire County Council's Highways Area Surveyor.
 - Code of Conduct for Horse Riders – members discussed aspects of the technical advice contained in this new publication.
 - Litter Bins – the Forestry Commission explained their policy on the provision of bins in car parks on the Crown Lands.
 - Low flying aircraft over Bramble Hill – concerns were expressed about noise levels on this particular occasion, and more generally about civil and MOD aircraft flights over the Forest.
 - Condition of Cattle Grids – the safety and state of repair of cattle grids was raised, together with lack of 'no parking' signs

5. There were two presentations to Panel members:

Vicky Myers and Sue Lynes from the Forestry Commission talked about the importance of the work of the Voluntary Rangers.

Jonathon Mycock from Hampshire County Council updated members on the Life 3 Project and on-going practical work to restore rivers, bog woodland and wet grassland.

6. National Park Authority reports

In response to reports from the last two NPA meetings, questions were raised regarding:

- Parishes which are split by the boundary and the confusion / conflict which may result from two separate planning units working either side of the boundary.
- The cost of staffing for the NPA

The Chairman noted that the NPA intended to work closely with the other planning authorities, and would be prudent in its use of allocated resources.

Recommendation:

That the National Park Authority note the contents of this report from the New Forest Consultative Panel meeting