

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2005**

**NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL REPORT**  
**Summary of the draft minutes of the meeting of Thursday 3 November 2005**

**Report by:** Nick Evans, Policy Adviser

**Summary:**

This report outlines the wide range of New Forest issues discussed by the Consultative Panel, and the continued helpful dialogue between Panel organisations and the statutory bodies.

**Recommendation:**

To **note** the report.

**Resources:**

None.

**Other major considerations:**

None.

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**Main agenda items**

1. Forestry Commission reports

Members noted progress on the revisions to the Forest Design Plans for the Inclosures.

There was considerable debate about the recently published surveys of dog walking and horse riding on the Crown Lands. Some members felt the information on the website was misleading, particularly regarding dog walking issues, and should be withdrawn. Others noted that these were real issues and should be addressed. The Forestry Commission agreed to give thought to the comments made and discuss the matter further with the main interest groups involved.

2. Chairmanship of the Panel and other matters concerning the relationship between the Panel and the National Park Authority

This item is discussed in detail in a separate paper to this Authority meeting.

3. New Forest Access for All

Mr Brian Chapman, Chair of New Forest Access For All, made a presentation about the organisation and requested that the Panel give consideration to them joining as members.

Access for All is a membership organisation and registered charity open to all. It represents the interests of people with disabilities in particular, within New Forest District. The organisation is committed to enabling more groups and individuals to enjoy the Forest, without detriment to the environment.

It was agreed that the application for membership would be considered at the next Panel meeting.

#### **Additional items discussed included:**

4. Ashurst-Lyndhurst cycle route. Hampshire County Council confirmed that work would commence in early 2006, and that copies of the plans were available on request.
5. Southampton Airport. The National Park Authority has written to both Southampton and Bournemouth Airports requesting that the Authority is formally involved in the on-going consultation on proposals for expansion.
6. Holmsley junction roadworks. New Forest Tourism Association were unhappy that, despite assurances to the contrary, tourism businesses had not been informed of the extended road closure. Hampshire County Council apologised, and agreed to take up the offer of a single point of contact for these businesses, for future reference.
7. Illegal party at Minstead Manor. English Nature clarified their role with regard to activities on SSSIs. They noted that dealing with unauthorised access is primarily the responsibility of the landowner and police. English Nature is keen to prevent similar incidents occurring in the future and have offered advice to the landowner concerned.
8. Running costs of the National Park Authority. Boldre Parish Council raised the question of accommodation costs for the Authority on the basis that they had anticipated a modest organisation, perhaps housed by existing organisations in Lyndhurst. In response, it was noted that the Authority was always intended to be a separate organisation and that the limited office space made available temporarily by other organisations had already reached capacity. The site proposed at Efford was temporary, for a period of about two years.

#### **Recommendation:**

Members to note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 3 November 2005, and that the date of the next Panel meeting is on 5 January 2006.

#### **Resources:**

None

#### **Other major considerations:**

None