

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 26 MARCH 2008

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND PANEL

Report by: Claire Gingell, Sustainable Development Fund Officer

Summary:

This report asks the Authority to appoint a member as Chairman of the Sustainable Development Fund Panel until the Annual meeting of the Authority in 2009.

Recommendation:

To appoint a member as Chairman of the Sustainable Development Fund Panel for the period until the Annual Authority meeting in June 2009.

Resources and Corporate Plan:

SE1 – Promote sustainable development within the National Park as the basis for the social and economic well-being of local communities.

SE3 – Support existing and encourage new businesses and community services which enhance the New Forest environment while providing economic and community benefits.

No additional resources.

Paper:

NFNPA 239/08: Cover paper
NFNPA 239/08 Annex 1: Pro-forma for member involvement with outside bodies

Background papers:

NFNPA 236/08: Proposed changes to the Sustainable Development Fund Panel
NFNPA 188/07: Sustainable Development Fund – annual progress report
NFNPA 129/06: Sustainable Development Fund – six month report
NFNPA 62/06: Sustainable Development Fund Panel
NFNPA 31/05: Sustainable Development Fund

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1 Background

- 1.1 The aim of the Sustainable Development Fund is to encourage sustainable ways of enjoying and living in the New Forest National Park.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Sustainable Development Fund Panel is to direct the delivery of the Fund as set up by the New Forest National Park Authority on 1 April 2006. The Panel has the following roles:
 - stimulating interest in the Fund
 - appraising projects against agreed criteria
 - making recommendations to the Authority on Fund priorities
 - making recommendations to the Authority on project applications and sanctioning the release of grant offer letters.
- 1.3 Following approval by the Authority on 28 February 2008 a number of changes to the Panel are currently being implemented.

2 Appointment

- 2.1 The position of Panel Chairman must be filled by an Authority member and is open to all members. The appointment will be until the Authority's Annual Meeting in June 2009 and will subsequently be reviewed on an annual basis. The Chairman has a casting vote in the event of an equality of votes amongst the Panel. **Annex 1** sets out the role in more detail.
- 2.2 As the Fund aims to support and promote sustainable living in the New Forest it is important that the Chairman has a sound understanding of sustainability issues particularly those relating to climate change. The Chairman will also play a key role in involving the two young Panel members in project appraisals and drawing them into discussions.

Recommendation:

To appoint a member as Chairman of the Sustainable Development Fund Panel for the period until the annual Authority meeting in June 2009.



Pro-forma for Member Involvement with Outside Bodies

Name of meeting/committee

Sustainable Development Fund Panel

Frequency of meetings

Usually every two to three months but on an 'as and when' basis. Panel members are also required to appraise funding applications via email or post as and when necessary.

Terms of reference/ brief description of aims and objective

- The purpose of the Sustainable Development Fund Panel (SDFP) is to direct the delivery of the Sustainable Development Fund as set up by the New Forest National Park Authority on 1 April, 2006.
- The aim of the Sustainable Development Fund is to encourage sustainable ways of enjoying and living in the New Forest National Park.
- The SDFP will work to maximise the benefit of the Fund aim in line with the two National Park purposes:
 - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the New Forest.
 - To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Forest's special qualities by the public.

Status of Authority – involvement and any specific requirements for member involvement

Decision making (on funding applications). The Authority representative will automatically be the Chair of the Panel.

Lead National Park Authority officer contact details

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Contact details for outside body

As above

Name of members nominated to represent Authority

One Authority Member who is non-voting (although with casting vote as Chairman) – currently Barry Rickman

At present, the Panel also has one Authority member who is also a LAG member – John Sanger. From April 2008 the Authority may only have one direct appointment as set out above; any additional member wishing to apply to the Panel would have to do so in accordance with the application process for all Panel members, rather than as a representative of the Authority.