

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 24 JANUARY 2008**

**NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL REPORT  
SUMMARY OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY 3 JANUARY 2008**

**Report by:** Stephen Trotter, Director of Conservation, Recreation and Sustainable Development

**Summary:**

This report outlines the main issues discussed by the Consultative Panel on 3 January 2008.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 3 January 2008.**
- 2. To note that the date of the next Panel meeting is Thursday 6 March 2008.**

**Resources:**

None

**Paper:**

**NFNPA 230/08:** Cover paper

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**Main agenda items:**

**1 Forestry Commission**

Draft Crown Lands Management Plan

- 1.1 Panel members were advised that the draft Crown Lands Management Plan was now available at [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7A3F82](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-7A3F82). Mike Seddon (Forestry Commission) invited the Panel to submit any feedback and advised that the closing date for comments would be Friday 7 March 2008.

New houses at Anderwood

- 1.2 Mike Seddon made a presentation to the Panel on the construction of new houses for commoners at Anderwood. The houses, which had a frame of local timber, made use of “eco” technology including heat recovery systems and geothermal energy. It was expected that construction of the dwellings would be completed in April 2008, tenants would be installed by May 2008 and there would then be a launch event to showcase the new dwellings. In partnership with others, including the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the Authority, the Forestry Commission would be expanding the project to make publicly available a number of architectural outline drawings for cost effective and sustainable rural housing.

**2 Work of the Agisters and animal safety measures**

- 2.1 Jonathan Gerelli (Head Agister) made a presentation on the work of the Forest’s five Agisters, who assisted with the welfare and management of commoners’ stock, namely ponies, cattle, donkeys, pigs and sheep. He explained that an Agister would be summoned to any traffic accident involving stock, to deal with the animal, contact the owner and call a vet or, if the animal’s injuries were extensive, to destroy it humanely and contact the kennels to collect the carcass for incineration. The majority of accidents were caused by local drivers and occurred between 4.30 and 7.30 pm, often at the end of British summer time. In 2006 the Agisters had attended 162 accidents involving stock, in which 82 animals had been killed and 39 injured. Particularly dangerous roads were the B3078 from Cadnam to

Fordingbridge and the B3054 from Lymington to Beaulieu on to Dibden Purlieu. Accident statistics had been fairly constant over the last few years despite increases in both stock and traffic, which suggested that prevention measures had had some effect. These included the provision of reflective collars for ponies, education initiatives such as bumper stickers and the publication of accident statistics in the press, working with the police on 'speed trap' days when speeding drivers would be detained and told about animal accidents and a reward scheme for information leading to prosecution of hit and run drivers. In conjunction with the Authority, the Agisters were putting up temporary signs at recent accident sites to raise driver awareness. The Forestry Commission regularly cleared vegetation from roadside verges to improve visibility, and had installed post and rail fencing at many blind spots.

### **3 North Solent Shoreline Management Plan**

- 3.1 Andrew Colenutt of New Forest District Council's Coastal Projects Team gave a presentation on the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan. Shoreline management plans were non-statutory framework documents, the production of which assisted in the identification of major risks to the shoreline, the strengthening of planning policies, the prevention of inappropriate development, the fostering of partnership working between local authorities and the raising of awareness through public consultation. Such plans presented a number of scenarios based on alternative approaches to the problems identified (for example, habitat loss or flooding), such as "no active intervention", "hold the line", "advance" and "managed realignment".

### **4 Any other business**

- 4.1 In response to concerns raised by Peter Roberts (New Forest Association) as to redevelopment at the Hollands Wood and Roundhill campsites, Mike Seddon (Forestry Commission) explained that there were two elements to the works at Hollands Wood: some works were merely for the internal refurbishment of washroom facilities and did not require any consents, but the works relating to the connection of a sewer pipe would require Natural England's consent. The work at Roundhill involved the replacement of temporary buildings that had been on the site for many years with new portable buildings, which would involve a net reduction in footprint but a difference of alignment would impact on common grazing and consequently the changes would require the consent of the Verderers (although Natural England were content with these alterations). He acknowledged the problems with allowing camping within the ancient woodlands of Hollands Wood, but explained that no viable long-term solution had yet been found.
- 4.2 Sam Dovey (New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society) explained that Forest Friendly Farming intended to submit a bid to SEEDA under the new round of LEADER funding. He asked that a letter be sent on behalf of the Panel in support of the bid, and also that as many individual organisations as possible should write in support, especially those that had benefited from the previous award and those that would

benefit from any new award. Letters should be submitted to Kathryn Boler at the Authority by 10 January 2008.

- 4.3 In response to queries Steve Trotter told Panel members that the pony paddocks survey was now complete and a date would be set shortly for a meeting to discuss the results of the report.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 3 January 2008.**
- 2. To note that the date of the next Panel meeting is Thursday 6 March 2008.**