

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 22 FEBRUARY 2007

PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Report by: Steve Avery, Head of Development Control

Summary:

At the Authority meeting on 16 November 2006 it was resolved that the revised draft guidance note 'Planning Enforcement – Policy and Practice' be approved (subject to some minor amendments) and that it be sent to the parish and town councils and the New Forest Association of Local Councils for their comments (paper NFNPA 144/06).

This report sets out the comments received from the parish and town councils. The approved revised draft guidance note (as amended following the meeting on 16 November) is attached as **Annex 1**.

Recommendation:

That Members approve the guidance note 'Planning Enforcement – Policy and Practice', subject to the consideration of any further comments from local councils, or Members at the meeting.

Background papers

NFNPA 132/06: Planning Enforcement
NFNPA 144/06: Planning Enforcement

Resources:

Officer time and document production.

Papers:

NFNPA 164/07: Cover paper
NFNPA 164/07: Annex 1: 'Planning Enforcement – Policy and Practice'

Contact:

Steve Avery
Tel. 01590 646629
Email: steve.avery@newforestnpa.gov.uk

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 At the Authority meeting on 16 November 2006 it was resolved that the revised draft guidance note 'Planning Enforcement – Policy and Practice' be approved (subject to some minor amendments) and that it be sent to the parish and town councils and the New Forest Association of Local Councils for their comments (paper NFNPA 144/06).
- 1.2 The approved revised draft guidance note (as amended following the meeting on 16 November) is attached as **Annex 1**. The guidance note was sent to the parish and town councils and the New Forest Association of Local Councils on 29 November 2006 asking for their comments by 31 January 2007.
- 1.3 This report sets out the comments received from the parish and town councils.

2 Parish and town council comments

- 2.1 Thus far, only three councils have provided specific comments. Reminders have been sent to those local councils that have not responded and any further comments received will be reported orally at the meeting.
- 2.2 The guidance note has been well received by the responding local councils, with comments such as "a very helpful document written in terms the non-expert can understand" and "it was fully supported and members did not wish to make any comments".
- 2.3 One local council felt that where the "rules are blatantly broken then so much time should not be spent in appeasing the offender" and that "negotiating with the offender is very time consuming". However, the

same council did conclude that the “general consensus of opinion on the report was fair.”

- 2.4 Based on the comments received to date, it is recommended that the guidance note be approved as drafted.

Recommendation:

That Members approve the guidance note ‘Planning Enforcement – Policy and Practice’, subject to the consideration of any further comments from local councils, or Members at the meeting.