

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 JANUARY 2007**

**NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL REPORT  
Summary of the meeting on Thursday 4 January 2007**

**Report by:** David Stone, Head of Member Services

**Summary:**

This report outlines the various issues discussed by the Consultative Panel on 4 January 2007.

**Recommendations:**

1. To note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 4 January 2007.
2. To note the date of the next Panel meeting is Thursday 1 March 2007.

**Resources:**

None

**Paper:**

NFNPA: Cover paper 154/07

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**Main agenda items:**

1. Meeting with the New Forest Equestrian Association

Steve Trotter (New Forest National Park Authority) reported on the meeting held on 30 November 2006 with the New Forest Equestrian Association. He reported that the meeting had been very positive and briefed the Panel on a number of action points that had been agreed.

2. Forestry Commission Management Plan

Mike Seddon of the Forestry Commission, updated the Panel as to how the Forestry Commission intended to proceed with the renewal of its Management Plan and elaborated on the summary report which had been circulated for the Panel's information.

3. New Forest Access Forum Small Grants Scheme

Sarah Manchester of the New Forest National Park Authority provided the Panel with an overview of the small grants scheme and invited interested panel members to submit applications before the next closing date of 16 March 2007.

4. Update on National Park Authority work in progress on interpretation and recreation

Steve Trotter updated Panel members on progress to date on boundary markers and signage as well as the membership and activities of the Advisory Group which had been appointed to consider this matter.

Sarah Manchester then briefed the Panel as to progress on the National Park Authority's Recreation Management Strategy, which had been identified by stakeholders as a priority activity and as such was highly prioritised in the Authority's Corporate Plan. She advised that the National Park Authority intended to hold a formal consultation exercise in the spring and would bring a paper to the Panel at that time.

**Additional item discussed:**

5. Southampton Laser Gateway

Steve Trotter raised the New Forest National Park Authority's concerns on Southampton City Council's proposal to project four laser beams from the Southampton Civic Centre. Of particular concern was the westward facing beam above the New Forest, which would be visible for a distance of between 5-15 miles from the source. The Panel learned that Clive Chatters, the Chairman of the Authority, had written to Southampton City Council to express these concerns, citing the Council's "Section 62 duty" to have regard for the National Park's twin statutory purposes: the promotion of recreation and enjoyment and of conservation and enhancement of the New Forest, in taking its decisions.

The City Council would be holding a Cabinet meeting on Monday 8 January and subsequently the proposal would be taken to the full Council at a meeting on 22 January. Panel members agreed unanimously that a letter should be sent in the Chairman's name on behalf of the Panel expressing concern at the proposal, to arrive in time to be taken into account at the Cabinet meeting.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 4 January 2007.**
- 2. To note the date of the next Panel meeting is Thursday 1 March 2007.**