

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 OCTOBER 2007**

**NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL REPORT**  
**Summary of the meeting on Thursday 6 September 2007**

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

**Summary:**

This report outlines the main issues discussed by the Consultative Panel on 6 September 2007.

**Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 6 September 2007.**
- 2. To note that the date of the next Panel meeting is Thursday 15 November 2007.**

**Resources:**

None

**Paper:**

**NFNPA 213/07:** Cover paper

**Contact:**

David Stone  
Tel: 01590 646645  
Email: [david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:david.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk)



**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 18 OCTOBER 2007**

**NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL REPORT  
Summary of the meeting on Thursday 6 September 2007**

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

**Main agenda items:**

**1 Matters Arising**

Boundary maps

Steve Trotter informed the Panel that boundary maps would be available on request on two conditions: (i) maps should be used only for internal parish business, and (ii) users would be required to sign an Ordnance Survey sub-contractors' agreement.

Response to National Air Traffic Services consultation

Steve Trotter summarised the Authority's response to the National Air Traffic Services consultation on proposed airspace changes and explained the next steps of the consultation process.

**2 Forestry Commission**

Mike Seddon (Forestry Commission) confirmed the final arrangements for the Panel Tour on Wednesday 12 September.

He said that a map of the Forestry Commission's seasonal car park closures was available from the Panel secretariat.

**3 Village Design Statements**

John Ward explained that Village Design Statements would eventually have the status of Supplementary Planning Documents, once Government amendments to the Local Development Framework process had been made and the relevant Village Design Statement had been through the process of adoption by the Authority. In order to be adopted, a Village Design Statement would need to (i) include a sustainability appraisal and (ii) ensure there was no conflict with policies in the local plan; but parishes would be able to prepare their statements in consultation with the Authority.

The Authority was also in the process of producing its own Building Design Guide, which would be a Supplementary Planning Document, and officers hoped the Parish Councils would contribute to that process.

#### **4 Highway Maintenance and Management in the New Forest**

Kevin Fuller (Hampshire County Council) made a presentation to the Panel on the management and maintenance of the highways, and on the current draft of the Maintenance Plan and Specification for Routine Highway Operations, which was available for comment by Panel members until January 2008 and would be circulated to Panel members.

He explained that the Council's responsibility was limited to the edge of the 'black top' or tarmac section of the road, but that under an agreement with the Forestry Commission the Highways Authority also had responsibility for the edge of the roads. A current recurring problem was that the gravel edging of roads was being washed away during heavy rain; there were currently proposals that a 'cementitious' mix be applied to the gravel to bind it loosely. He pointed out that this was not concrete and would not have the appearance of it. However, because the Forest soils were acidic and a cement mix would be alkaline, it would be necessary to consult with and to obtain agreement from Natural England and local stakeholders. The verges were a huge reservoir of biodiversity that it was important to preserve. One alternative method, which had proved quite controversial in the past, was to use concrete blocks at the edge of roads.

A number of concerns were raised by Panel members, particularly the gradual widening of roads which might result. Alternative means of dealing with the issue, such as low banks adjacent to the road edge, were suggested.

#### **5. Safety of Horses on Roads in the New Forest**

Chris Aldhous (New Forest Equestrian Association) made a presentation on behalf of the New Forest Equestrian Society and the British Horse Society on issues relating to the safety of horses on roads in the New Forest. He covered topics including the dangers of traffic to horses, appropriate speeds for motorists passing horses on the roads and road surfaces, and summarised the results of a survey of horse riders as to their opinions on road safety.

#### **Recommendations:**

- 1. To note issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 6 September 2007.**
- 2. To note that the date of the next Panel meeting is Thursday 15 November 2007.**