



NEW FOREST
NATIONAL PARK

The Update

News, information and decisions from the New Forest National Park Authority
October 2006

Decisions from the New Forest National Park Authority Meeting- 20 July 2006

1. July meeting of the National Park Authority

The July meeting of the Authority was held at Wellow Village Hall on Thursday, 20 July 2006 at 9.30 am.

Matters considered at the meeting included the following:

Chief Executive's Report

Members noted the Chief Executive's report, which included an update on recruitment. Announcements were made concerning the publication of the Corporate Plan and the use of the Cottage at Queen's House in Lyndhurst for meetings and planning surgeries.

Establishing a Resources and Performance Committee of the Authority

The Authority resolved to establish a Resources and Performance Committee and a Human Resources Case Review Panel. Draft terms of reference for the Resources and Performance Committee were adopted.

Scheme of delegation to officers

Members discussed a draft scheme of delegation to officers and it was decided the

scheme would be considered in full at the Authority meeting scheduled for 21 September. The Authority adopted the draft scheme for the interim period, subject to a number of minor amendments that were discussed at the meeting.

Report from the Standards Committee – Review of Scheme of Members' Allowances

A procedure for a review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances had been considered in detail by the Standards Committee, which had concluded that the Authority should establish an independent remuneration panel to review and make recommendations on the current Scheme of Members' Allowances. The Authority discussed the proposals and resolved to establish such a panel.

Boundary markers and related signage issues

The Authority confirmed its commitment to install appropriate boundary signage and agreed to develop plans for the installation of boundary signage as close as possible to where most A and B roads enter the National Park, in consultation with those members with local knowledge. The Authority authorised officers to commission design work for a New Forest National Park boundary marker, and approved the establishment of

a Boundary Markers and Signage Advisory Group to progress both boundary issues and related internal signage.

Access Forum, Small Grants Scheme

The Authority approved, in principle, the provision of additional support for the Small Grants Scheme operated by Hampshire County Council within the National Park, making a total sum of £10,000 per annum available for the grants. The impact and effectiveness of the contribution would be reviewed after two full years in operation.

New Forest common themes – developing an area partnership project in the new Forest for submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund

The Authority approved its continuing involvement with the emerging project and the potential funding bids, and also its role in leading the first stage of the application process.

Commoners' Housing Scheme

Members agreed that the Authority should take over the management of the Commoners Housing Scheme for the purposes of implementing planning and any related policies regarding affordable housing for commoners within the National Park. The transfer of existing scheme agreements from New Forest District Council and the

New Forest Commoning Trust would be investigated by the Authority. The Authority agreed to establish a small panel to consider eligible applicants and make recommendations to the Director of Conservation and Enhancement for approval of applicants on behalf of the Authority.

Response on the consultation for a new strategy for England's trees, woods and forests

The Authority's draft response to Defra on the consultation for a new strategy for England's trees, woods and forests was approved and officers were authorised to submit the response.

National Park Management Plan Review: Update on the process and timetable

The Authority endorsed the views of the Design Group relating to the overall 'look' of the final Management Plan and the range of stakeholder interests to be involved in the process and agreed that it would continue to support the principle of joining up the Management Plan, Community Strategy and Local Development Framework processes. Members agreed the preliminary consultation work required, and also agreed the establishment of a 'key partners steering group' to oversee the Management Plan preparation, comprising the National Park Authority, Forestry Commission, Verderers and Natural England. An inclusive approach to stakeholder involvement would be taken. Specialist consultants would be commissioned to design the process in more detail. The broad outline of the public consultation and final approval stages of the Management

Plan, to be worked up in more detail for future agreement, were also approved by the Authority.

Submission Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2026 – New Forest National Park Authority response

The Authority's response to the Panel Secretariat for the Examination in Public into the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006 – 2026, as set out in the report, was endorsed and officers were authorised to submit the conclusions, subject to comments made at the meeting.

New Forest District Council Economic Strategy: Consultation response

The Authority approved the proposed responses to the New Forest District Council consultation and authorised officers to submit the response.

The Test Valley Borough Local Plan: Adoption by New Forest National Park Authority

The Authority adopted the Test Valley Borough Local Plan, and agreed to publish a formal notice of adoption, as required by the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Development Control Officer

The draft Development Control Charter setting out the Authority's planning development control function, services provided and standards to be achieved, was approved, subject to comments made at the meeting.

New Forest Consultative Panel report

Members noted issues of interest at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel

on 6 July 2006, and the date of the next Panel meeting, Thursday 7 September 2006.

Phase 3 Accommodation

The press and public were excluded from the meeting so that members could hear a confidential report on Phase 3 Accommodation.

Next meeting of the New Forest National Park Authority

The next meeting of the New Forest National Park Authority will be on 21 September 2006 at 9.30 a.m. at Brockenhurst Village Hall.

2. Planning Development Control Committee

The fourth meeting of the Committee took place at 9.30 am on 18 July at the Authority's offices at South Efford House. The Committee considered 14 planning applications within the National Park. Further details of these planning applications can be obtained on the Authority's website at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/planning/pl-devcontrol/pl-plancomm.htm.

Next meeting of the Planning Development Control Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9.30 am on Tuesday 15 August 2006 at South Efford House.

3. Standards Committee

The Standards Committee met on 10 July 2006 at 2 pm in South Efford House. Issues considered included a report on a procedure for dealing with alleged breaches of a local Protocol and consolidated complaints procedure for the Authority, and a report on a review of the Scheme of Members' Allowances, the

conclusions from which were referred to the Authority meeting on 20 July 2006.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held, if needed, on Monday 25 September 2006 at 2.00 pm in the Meeting Room at South Efford House.

Decisions from the New Forest National Park Authority Meeting- 21 September 2006

1. September meeting of the National Park Authority

The September meeting of the Authority was held at Brockenhurst Village Hall on Thursday, 21 September 2006 at 9.30 am.

Matters considered at the meeting included the following:

Chief Executive's Report

Members noted the Chief Executive's report, which included an update on recruitment and reviewed the Authority's delivery of National Park purposes and functions. The Chief Executive informed members that arrangements for meetings of the Authority's Independent Remuneration Panel, the Boundary Markers and Signage Advisory Group and the Resources and Performance Committee were in hand.

Report from the Standards Committee – procedures for dealing with alleged breaches of a local protocol and complaints

Draft procedures for dealing with alleged breaches of a local protocol, together with outline procedures for dealing with complaints about the Authority's services or staff and

a draft Comments and Complaints Guidance and Feedback form, had been considered in detail by the Standards Committee. The Authority approved the procedures as presented.

Scheme of delegation to officers

Members approved the scheme of delegation to officers, which had been slightly amended since it was considered at the July meeting of the Authority.

Standing Orders as to contracts

The Chief Finance Officer explained that the draft document, which would govern the Authority's contracts for the procurement of goods and execution of works, formed part of the Authority's corporate governance framework. The purpose of the draft document was to ensure the Authority achieved good value for money in its contracts and to promote transparency. The Authority adopted the Standing Orders as to Contracts.

Ninth Centenary Trust partnership proposal - update

Members noted the report, which summarised progress on the proposed partnership between the Authority and the Ninth Centenary Trust through which the Authority would maintain a presence in the New Forest Museum in Lyndhurst. Discussions held to date had identified common ground between the two organisations, particularly in the areas of education and interpretation, and had covered the practicalities of implementing an agreement, but the amount of funding to be

committed by the Authority was as yet undecided.

Defra consultation on promoting integrated coastal zone management: New Forest National Park Authority response

The Director of Conservation and Enhancement introduced a report and proposed response to Defra's consultation, and emphasised that the Authority needed to work with others to deliver better coastal management against the backdrop of issues such as climate change. The Authority endorsed the report and authorised the Director to submit the response on the consultation to Defra.

Sustainable Development Fund – six month report

Members were updated on the grants made so far by the Fund. Expressions of interest had been received from a wide range of organisations; the value of grants currently allocated by the Fund stands at:

April 06 - March 07 ... 9 projects £54,328 ... 27% of the Fund budget

April 07 - March 08 ... 4 projects £45,940 ... 23% of the Fund budget

The Authority can provide up to 75% of funding of particular projects; the proportion given would depend upon a number of factors, including the income a project was likely to generate. Progress reports would be provided to members from time to time, and in future these reports would include reasons for the refusal of particular schemes. Members noted the progress made in delivering sustainable development within the New Forest National Park.

Outdoors for All? Draft diversity action plan – Authority consultation response

Members authorised the Director of Understanding and Enjoyment to submit the proposed response to the Outdoors for All? Draft Diversity Action Plan to Defra, subject to minor amendments to the response that were agreed at the meeting.

Statement of Community Involvement – submission draft

The Submission Draft Statement of Community Involvement was approved for submission to the Secretary of State and public consultation, subject to minor amendments agreed at the meeting.

Planning enforcement

Members discussed progress with the Authority's enforcement work and several members emphasised the importance of prioritising stringent enforcement. Further consideration would need to be given to enhancing the resources needed for this work.

The Authority resolved to instruct the senior enforcement officer to write to the parish and town councils to explain the current enforcement procedures and to enlist their active support in monitoring new developments. A quarterly review of the work being carried out by the enforcement team would be sent to all members, the constituent authorities and the parish and town councils. Members agreed that they would like a further chance to comment on the draft guidance note on "Planning Enforcement – Policy and Practice" that had been provided to them, before

it was sent out to the parish and town councils, and accordingly approval of the guidance note was deferred to the November meeting of the Authority.

New Forest Access Forum report

Members noted the issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Access Forum on 4 September 2006, and the date of the next New Forest Access Forum meeting on Monday 4 December 2006. Members discussed the planned reduction in expenditure by Hampshire County Council and how this might impact on particular projects; it was agreed that the Authority should encourage Hampshire County Council to ensure that the planned cycle route between Ashurst and Lyndhurst was completed without further delays.

New Forest Consultative Panel report

Members noted the issues of interest discussed at the meeting of the New Forest Consultative Panel on 7 September 2006 and the date of the next Panel meeting on Thursday 2 November 2006.

Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority

The Chief Executive explained that Ted Johnson had given notice of his resignation as Chairman of the Authority, owing to family reasons. Mel Kendal had also given notice of his resignation as Deputy Chairman of the Authority, owing to his recent appointment as Executive Member for the Environment at Hampshire County Council in addition to his existing role as

Leader of New Forest District Council. The resignations took place with effect from the close of normal Authority business at the meeting.

An election then took place to fill both positions until the Authority meeting in April 2007. Clive Chatters, a member appointed to the Authority by the Secretary of State, was appointed as Chairman of the Authority. Barry Rickman, a member appointed to the Authority by New Forest District Council, was appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Authority.



Next meeting of the New Forest National Park Authority

The next meeting of the New Forest National Park Authority will be on 16 November at 9.30 a.m. at the Authority's offices at South Efford House.

2. Planning Development Control Committee

Meetings of the Committee took place at 9.30 a.m. on 15 August and 19 September at the Authority's offices at South Efford House.

The Committee considered 8 applications during its August meeting and 14 planning applications during its meeting in September. Further details of these planning applications can be obtained on the Authority's website at

www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/planning/pl-devcontrol/pl-plancomm.htm.

**Next meeting of the Planning
Development Control
Committee**

The next meeting of the Committee will be held at 9.30 am on Tuesday 17 October 2006 at South Efford House.

If your details have changed or you would like to receive *The Update* by email contact Karen Evans on 01590 646650 or email karen.evans@newforestnpa.gov.uk

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