



NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK PLAN

Zoning Working Group Meeting

3 March 2009

This paper provides a summary of the main outcomes of the Zoning Working Group, held on Tuesday 3 March 2009 at the Lyndhurst Community Centre.

1. Attendance and participation

The event was attended by 15 people (excluding National Park Authority members and staff) representing 15 organisations. These are listed in Annex 1.

The session was chaired by Ted Johnson of the New Forest National Park Authority who explained the purpose of the Working Group. Richard Lemon, Director of Strategy and Planning then set out the consultation process in relation to the Management Plan and Local Development Framework.

Sarah Applegate introduced the summary of the key issues raised during the consultation on the draft New Forest National Park Plan which was set out in the background paper distributed in advance. These formed the basis of the discussion. A summary of the main outcomes of the meeting is given below.

2. Overall outcomes of the discussion

The appropriateness of the concept of Zoning in the New Forest

- More explanation is needed on how the zoning concept was arrived at – how the idea emerged and how it is to be implemented. It was suggested that the policy should emerge from the Plan's aims and vision and not be imposed, and that there is a lack of clarity about how the concept will be applied;
- There is confusion between development control aspects of zoning and management of people (recreation) and there is no clear link between the zoning policy and Development Control policies;
- Confusion has been caused by combining Management Plan, Core Strategy and Development Control policies;
- Zoning should be more clearly identified as a recreation management technique and is not appropriate as a development control tool;
- Zone 1 gives protection to tranquillity, an aspect not covered by current designations;
- The Forest is already divided into 'zones' which the policy simply reflects;
- All parts of the National Park have the same policy approach. Zoning applies inappropriate levels of different policy approach;
- More research and evidence is required to justify the Zoning policy.

Relocation of facilities and services

- There are very few suitable locations in National Park for relocation of businesses and there is no clear mechanism for relocating activities;
- Concern about loss of economic activity from Zones 1 and 2 (including local employment). It is important to keep these facilities and services for visitors and the local economy which are needed throughout the National Park, not just in Zone 3;
- There are concerns that some very rural areas are currently in Zone 3 and development or relocation is not appropriate;
- Another zone (outside the NP boundary) may be more appropriate for some activities currently within Park boundaries;
- Could zones be expanded to include other sensitive areas, arrived at through more detailed analysis?
- Is it appropriate to provide recreation facilities outside the Park?

Identification of the three zones

- A fourth zone was suggested which gives more positive encouragement for business e.g. to encourage small technology centres in existing community facilities for small businesses to use - throughout all zones, taking into account the future of 'smart' businesses
- Detailed map based boundaries will be needed for each zone

Resulting pressures in certain areas

- Restrictive policies in zones 1 and 2 could prevent survival / expansion of current businesses
- Clarity needed on detail of map of zones – which areas are covered by zones 1 and 2, and which are excluded (i.e. are all private enclosed lands excluded)

3. Key conclusions for further consideration by the National Park Authority

The group broadly agreed in principle that the zoning approach should not be ruled out but more details are required on the rationale and implementation. All the above points will be used to help inform the review of the Plan, but the following broad options are suggested for consideration by the National Park Authority.

OPTION 1: retain zoning approach for recreation and development, but provide more clarification, explanation and implementation

- Chapter 3 Strategic Policy Approach – insert more detailed explanation of the rationale for the zoning policy, especially relationship to settlement hierarchy
- Retain overarching policy (UP3.2) on application / implementation of approach for recreation and expand (or new policy) on approach towards control of development
- Development Control Policies – requires additional policies to expand on policy UP3.2 and the application of zoning

- Need recognition of business activity (in which zones?)
- Policies need to be credible and enforceable

OPTION 2: retain zoning for recreation management only

- Chapter 3 Strategic Policy Approach – insert more detailed explanation of the rationale for the zoning policy as a recreation management tool and refer to the links with the Recreation Management Strategy
- Retain overarching policy (UP3.2) on application / implementation of approach for recreation and relocation of facilities and services
- Development Control Policies – follow policy UP3.2 through to the Development Control policies on approach to applications for recreational facilities and services in different zones and consideration of possible relocation
- Consider retaining combined Zones 1 and 2 as the core protected area of the National Park

Further comments from participants on the outcomes of the meeting

All those attending the meeting were asked for agreement that the note was a fair summary of the key points raised at the meeting for consideration by the National Park Authority in revising the Plan, or to comment where they felt this was not the case.

Eight of the fifteen organisations attending made comments on the content of the notes: the key points of these are summarised below. These comments will be included as part of the views of the working group, to be fully considered by the National Park Authority when deciding on revisions to the National Park Plan.

The appropriateness of the concept of Zoning in the New Forest

There was some discussion as to whether Zoning was necessary for the Management Plan; it was thought it was better suited in the Recreational Management Plan.
Bramshaw Parish Council

An additional area of confusion could result from the relationship between respective Zones (if implemented) and both existing and newly created/expanded Conservation Areas if the Zones were to fall within Development Control policies and in which respect any establishment of Zones should be utilised more as a Recreation Management technique as outlined under item 2 of the paper “Overall Outcomes” bullet point 4.
New Forest Business Partnership

Identification of the three zones

If Zoning is to be kept in the Management Plan then we would like to see Zone 1 stretch at least up to the perambulation of the New Forest in Bramshaw Parish.
Bramshaw Parish Council

If it is the NPA’s intention to keep Zoning as part of the Management Plan then we need to know exactly where one zone starts and finishes i.e. a larger scale map showing the divisions more accurately.
Bramshaw Parish Council

Bramshaw Parish is very concerned that Zone 3 will allow for more development of “redundant” farm buildings.
Bramshaw Parish Council

ANNEX 1

**Zoning Working Group
 3 March 2009**

Participants:

Organisation	Representative
Bramshaw Parish Council	Cllr Sue Bennison
Brockenhurst Parish Council	Mr Gordon Taylor
Federation of Small Businesses	Mr Paul French
Forestry Commission	Mr Mike Seddon
Giffords	Mr James Prowse
Godshill Parish Council	Mrs Ann Cakebread
Hampshire County Council	Mr John Davison
New Forest Association	Mr Peter Roberts
New Forest Bird Group	Mr Alan Snook
New Forest Business Partnership	Mr Barry Olorenshaw
New Forest District Council	Mr Graham Ashworth
New Forest Tourism Association	Mr Stephen Lorton
Ringwood Town Council	Cllr Barbara Woodifield
Verderers of the New Forest	Mr Anthony Pasmore
Whiteparish Parish Council	Ms Sheila Campbell
National Park Authority Member	Ted Johnson (CHAIR)
National Park Authority Member	Clive Chatters
National Park Authority Officer	Lindsay Cornish
National Park Authority Officer	Richard Lemon
National Park Authority Officer	Stephen Trotter
National Park Authority Officer	Nick Evans
National Park Authority Officer	Sarah Applegate