

BUSINESS PLAN 2015-2018

Draft 2016-17 Work Programme – Fourth Quarter

Prosper

We will foster the National Park's social and economic wellbeing.

Prosper Priority 1: Supporting a distinctive and prosperous local economy

We will encourage a strong and distinctive local economy that benefits the communities of the National Park, by:

- championing the local rural economy with Local Enterprise Partnerships and national and European funders
- enabling long-term success of local producers through high quality products, promotion, events and access to local outlets
- playing an active role in the New Forest Business Partnership and New Forest Tourism Association
- encouraging land based businesses to develop opportunities for positive management of the landscape.

Action/Outcome	Officer	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Through the New Forest Destination Partnership, encourage tourism businesses to improve their overall sustainability, communicate 'caring for' messages to visitors and encourage car-free visits (e.g. through training days, walkers & cyclist welcome scheme, Green Leaf scheme and input to marketing initiatives led by NFDC and NFTA). EW9	Mark Holroyd	We continued to work with NFDC and NFTA during the transition to the GoNewForest CIC which will lead on the delivery of destination marketing activity for the area. We met with the new owners of Sandy Balls Holiday Park to discuss ways in which they can engage with our work and communicate our 'caring for messages' to their guests. We engaged with other National Parks around the development of the national bid to the Discover England Fund project, ultimately we determined not to participate in the national project.		
Work with the New Forest Trust and New Forest Tourism Association to create a revised business plan and increase participation in the 'Love the Forest' Visitor Giving Scheme.	Paul Walton	A Memorandum of Understanding between the NFT and NFNPA was agreed in January. Formal partnership working with the NFT to begin in the 2017/18 financial year.		
Work with the Brand New Forest Broadband Development Group to enable "hard-to-reach" communities to connect to Superfast broadband services. EW7	Paul Walton	Plans to improve 4 cabinets that serve up to 440 houses in East Boldre, Burley, South Gorley and Brockenhurst were announced in February.		

Action/Outcome	Officer	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Support New Forest Produce Ltd to develop a Business Plan for the New Forest Marque that encourages Marque food producers and land managers to make a positive contribution towards conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the National Park. EW5	Paul Walton	The Marque Operations manager started in February. Current membership stands at 141, with a target of 155 members by the end of the year. The Marque Directory was published in February and a new website launched.		
As part of the Local Enterprise Partnership, LEADER Local Action Group and New Forest Business Partnership, deliver investment in the forestry and food sectors of the local economy. Revise NPA Prospectus for Prosperity to reflect UK 25 year plan for food and farming EW2, EW3	Paul Walton	<p>A total of 33 initial applications to LEADER were made in the year to the end of March, with approx. 1/3 progressing to consideration by the LAG.</p> <p>The NFNPA is working in partnership with the Forestry Commission to promote applications to the LEP Woodfuel grant programme. In March the LEP also announced 3 new grant schemes to support food processing, rural business development and rural tourism infrastructure. The NFNPA will be working with businesses to encourage take up of these grants.</p> <p>Defra has delayed publication of the UK 25 Year plans for Food and Farming and the Environment.</p>		

Action/Outcome	Officer	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Complete build and let of two new affordable homes in Bransgore using developer contributions. LC5, LC6	Steve Avery	A report outlining the details of the completed scheme was presented to the full Authority meeting on 22 September 2016. The properties were formerly opened by Sir Desmond Swayne MP on 16 September 2016. The scheme has since been shortlisted for a national RTPI award – the results of which will be announced at a ceremony in London on 15 June 2017.		
Work with New Forest District Council, parish councils and other partner organisations to identify possible sites for affordable housing, including suitable publicly owned land, and agree new schemes designed for local people which are of high quality and sustainability, and are in keeping with the character of the area. LC5, LC6	Steve Avery	Discussions with Burley Parish Council, New Forest District Council and the relevant third parties concerning the proposed acquisition of land in Burley for two affordable homes and a local heritage centre were reported to the RAPC meeting on 6 February 2017. The solicitors expect to complete the agreement to purchase the land by end of May 2017. Other possible sites for affordable housing are being promoted through the draft local plan and discussions are progressing with another private landowner who is interested in bringing a site forward similar to the Bransgore Scheme. Planning permission granted for 12 new affordable homes in 2016/17.		

Action/Outcome	Officer	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
<p>Deliver the Heritage on my doorstep and Rediscovering our archaeological heritage OPOF projects with 170 volunteers trained in skills to enhance local heritage over the life of the OPOF Scheme. LC1</p>	<p>Frank Green / James Brown</p>	<p>Rediscovering Archaeological Heritage Project on schedule:</p> <p>Completed Woodland Survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700 Hectares National trust Land • 800 Hectares of Forest Commission land • 25 Hectares private holdings <p>Buckland Rings: placement student obtained permission to Geophysically survey the interior of the hillfort and provide interpretation.</p> <p>Archaeological report from the Bucklers Hard 2016 Festival of British Archaeology dig is in draft stages and soil samples processed. 46 volunteers have been involved in various tasks including soil processing and field surveys</p> <p>Heritage on my Doorstep A call for papers for a local history conference in October 2017, where local groups will be encouraged and supported to talk alongside academics and other researchers (in partnership with the Academy project)</p> <p>Liaison with Parishes - currently engaged with 5 parishes (Emery Down, Minstead, Netley Marsh, Burley and Copythorne). Also advising New Milton (adjacent to the Park)</p> <p>Community Heritage Audits have begun with a New Forest wide oral history audit that will be used to assess training and other opportunities going forward.</p> <p>Portal development in conjunction with Academy. Working model of portal now being tested.</p>		

		Training Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second session at the National archives 47 attending from local groups. • Social media training course for local groups • Additional training on geophysical survey in partnership with Bournemouth University including Interpretation of results. • Training in photogrammetry and Reflective Transformation Imaging photography being developed. To record grave stone inscriptions. 		
Deliver a programme of training in traditional building skills as part of OPOF with 180 people trained on courses in Year 1. EW8	Lisa Crouch	<p>In March a professional traditional building skills course was held on the subject of traditional masonry at Bucklers Hard.</p> <p>In February and March two sessions were held for homeowners of historic buildings on traditional building skills at Beaulieu.</p>		

Prosper Priority 2: Promoting sustainable transport

We will promote sustainable transport for the benefit of residents and visitors, by:

- working with highway authorities to improve the network of sustainable transport options available
- supporting tourism businesses to encourage existing visitors to travel to and around the National Park by sustainable transport
- working with transport operators to sustain existing bus services, and grow use of the New Forest Tour and Beach Bus
- working with partner authorities to improve aesthetics and safety of the highway network.

Action/Outcome	Officer	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Promote and enable the three New Forest Tour routes and the Beach Bus to achieve overall increased passenger journeys (from 41,000 in 2015). TT8	Mark Holroyd	Reported in previous quarters.		
Operate the New Forest Travel Concierge service at Brockenhurst Station throughout the summer to welcome visitors arriving by train, tell them about the special qualities of the National Park and help them to explore car-free. SQ1, TT8	Mark Holroyd	Reported in previous quarters. Members agreed to extend the service to Lyndhurst in 2017/18, plans are being developed to implement this.		
Work with key partners (HCC, NFDC, transport operators and tourism businesses) to build on previously successful projects to increase the range and scope of sustainable transport opportunities in the National Park. TT9, TT11	Mark Holroyd	We had a productive meeting with the strategic transport team at Hampshire County Council about the forward plan for schemes being delivered in the National Park and their engagement with emerging local plans. We continue to struggle to identify revenue funding which can develop initial feasibility and design for capital walking and cycling schemes which could be implemented within the highway boundary using external capital funds (e.g. from the LEPs or DfT). The Government announced that the new South Western rail franchise has been awarded to First Group, we are in contact with the new franchisee to lobby for improvements to rail gateways to the National Park.		

Prosper Priority 3: Encouraging sustainable communities

We will support new local initiatives that create more self-sufficient and resilient communities, by:

- supporting specific projects that incorporate business opportunities, renewable energy and efficient use of resources.
- promoting sustainable living and good environmental practice to residents and businesses
- supporting the sharing of innovative ideas through grassroots local action groups and Sustainable Communities Fund partners.

Action/Outcome	Officer	Progress during the Quarter	RAG status	Risks and mitigation (if amber or red)
Support current beneficiaries of the Sustainable Communities Fund (SCF) to complete their programme claims by September, redistributing funds to new projects as necessary and deliver the new SCF programme for 2016-17. LC10	Fiona Wynne	Funds of £2,000 have been agreed to Milford Conservation Volunteers to develop a redundant building into a new bird hide overlooking Avon Water.		
Promote sustainable living and renewable technologies to residents and business through involvement with the Woodfuel Supply Chain and Market Project. EW3, LC10	Andy Brennan	<p>Work is continuing with the Forestry Commission to stimulate interest in the woodfuel grant programme amongst landowners, potential heat users, arborists and local sawmills. Grants are available until March 2018.</p> <p>Working with Southern Water the Authority promoted their water efficiency grants to local business and schools, nine businesses and two schools successfully applied for grants, reducing water use. Carbon Trusts green business fund workshop took place in Southampton which was also promoted to New Forest Businesses.</p>		