

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 258<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in the Pine Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY, 7 June 2018**

**Those present:** Harry Oram (Chairman)  
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)  
Frances Connolly (Panel Secretariat)

Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received

#### **Also in attendance:**

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Purgle Linham (Natural England)  
Sam Dovey (NFU)  
Mark Carter (Institute of Chartered Foresters)  
Roly Errington (Ellingham Parish Council)  
Marian Still (Hordle Parish Council)  
John Korbey (Brockenhurst Parish Council)

#### 1.2 Substitutes:

Cllr Chris Harrison, on behalf of Cllr Johnson for Hythe & Dibden Parish Council  
Cllr Jacquie Shaw, on behalf of Cllr Martine Humphray for Netley Marsh Parish Council

#### 1.3 New Representatives:

Martin Fletcher would be the new representative for the Royal Forestry Society.

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2018**

- 2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

- 3.1 There were no matters arising from the minutes

#### **4 Presentation by Hale Purlieu Movement – Peter Gear & Richard Carter**

- 4.1 The Chairman introduced Peter Gear and Richard Carter from the Hale Purlieu Movement and reminded the Panel that a presentation on the scheme was provided in September 2016 by National Grid.

- 4.2 Peter Gear introduced himself to the Panel and explained why some of the residents of Hale were objecting to the scheme. They believed that it would

cause extensive damage to the heathland as the digging of troughs which would house the cabling and the troughs where the cabling would be laid would produce a significant amount of heat which would damage the flora and fauna above.

He raised concerns regarding the fencing which would be required to keep the area safe which would in turn have an impact on both animals and the public he also highlighted that the timescales which National Grid had provided were more aspirational than tangible.

- 4.3 Richard Carter then introduced himself to the Panel and drew their attention to the environmental and planning issues which surrounded the scheme. An EIA and Habitat Assessment had taken place on the original route which had uncovered some potential issues; the route had now been changed and further problems had been uncovered. He explained that the new route would run through some of the wettest land on the Purlieu and impinge on sensitive conservation areas. Mr Carter asked the Panel and stakeholders to reconsider this proposal.

*The Hale Purlieu Movement have produced a document on this scheme and it can be found at [www.haleprotection.uk](http://www.haleprotection.uk)*

*For more information from National Grid on their proposal further information can be found at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/investment-and-innovation/environment-and-community/visual-impact-provision-vip/new-forest-vip>*

- 4.4 Cllr Ann Cakebread, Godshill Parish Council, commented on the presentation by Protect Hale Purlieu Movement and stated that there was also support for the undergrounding of the pylons scheme.

## **5 New Forest National Park Authority Update – Steve Avery**

- 5.1 Steve Avery drew the Panel's attention to the review of National Parks and AONB's which the Government had recently launched and was being led by former journalist Julian Glover. In the Government's own words, the review would "consider how protected landscapes can best meet our needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century". Government had stressed that the review would not weaken or undermine the protection of these landscapes but would consider if there was any scope to expand AONB's and National Parks. The review would be completed next year.
- 5.2 Mr Avery advised that the Authority was currently awaiting the Government's response to the recent consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework, due to be published next month. The Authority along with the other English National Parks had submitted strong representations that National Parks should retain the highest level of protection, a reference which had been omitted from the consultation draft.

- 5.3 The Authority's Local Plan had now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for approval and public hearing sessions would take place in October / November 2018. New Forest District Council's Local Plan would be published next month. Mr Avery reminded the Panel of the impending Authority meeting on Friday 15 June and drew attention to the various agenda items that were up for discussion.
- 5.4 Mr Avery concluded his update by referring to the presentation by Hale Purlieu Movement and advised that it would be inappropriate for the National Park Authority and/or the Panel to pre-determine the proposal in advance of the anticipated planning application, which will need to be accompanied by a full Environmental Impact Assessment and a range of detailed supporting documentation.

## **6 Recreation Management – Nigel Matthews**

- 6.1 Nigel Matthews updated the Panel on the process to update the actions in the Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030. The next phase of consultation will start on 18 June and run for 8 weeks. He reminded the Panel that this was a joint partnership between the Forestry Commission, the Verderers, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and the National Park Authority.
- 6.2 Following the Future Forest Consultation in 2017 which asked people to prioritise topics and say what was missing, two reports were produced detailing the findings and next steps. This next consultation will look at 25 draft proposed actions and the examples of how they could be delivered. Nigel advised that later in the year the team would work through the responses and begin to gain agreement for specific organisations to lead specific projects.

## **7 Country Watch – Inspector Korine Bishop**

- 7.1 Inspector Korine Bishop introduced herself as the Strategic Rural Policing Inspector for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. She then gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Panel which described the work that her team conducts in the area.
- 7.2 During the presentation Inspector Bishop advised that 85% of Hampshire and the IOW is defined as rural and that 12% of crime occurs in these rural areas, this could range from anti-social behaviour, burglaries to identity fraud. The Country Watch team take a pro-active approach in operations, actively advising people on crime prevention, increasing community engagement and building an intelligence picture.

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the website*

*For more information, to contact Inspector Bailey or another member of the Country Watch team - <http://www.hampshirecountrywatch.co.uk/> or use 101.*

## **8 Forestry Commission Update – Bruce Rothnie**

- 8.1 Bruce Rothnie commented that the Forestry Commission worked extremely closely with the Country Watch team and regularly shared information on incidents to help analyse trends and consider co-ordinated action. For many reports of incidents on the Crown Lands the Forestry Commission staff would usually be first to investigate and consider if Police support may be required. The safety of staff is paramount so we will use our judgement as to whether to tackle any incident.

Mr Rothnie then went on to introduce two members of Forestry Commission staff; Sean Marsh (Estates Officer) and Jane Albery (HLS Verge Protection Officer).

- 8.2 Sean Marsh introduced himself to the Panel advising that his role included engaging with people, Parish Councils and residents about encroachment on the Forest. He explained that people were not aware that moving their fence slightly or leaving building materials on the Crown Land or sensitive areas would affect habitats. Sean said that he had recently found more residents were contacting him to ask how they would be able to help mitigate these problems and how they could help to look after the Forest, which was encouraging.
- 8.3 Jayne Albery introduced herself to the Panel commenting that she had worked for the Forestry Commission for 44 years and she was extremely passionate about the Forest. She explained that her current job role was to open dialogue with parish councils and residents with the aim of reducing the impacts on grass verges from parking and how this affects the wildlife and landscape of the Forest.

*For more information on the verge restoration project:*

<http://www.hlsnewforest.org.uk/projects/special-projects/verge-protection/>

## **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 There was no further business.

## **10 Date of the next meeting**

- 10.1 The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 6 September 2018 at 7.30pm at Lyndhurst Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm