

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 259<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in the Pine Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**Those present:** Harry Oram (Chairman)  
David Stone (Panel Secretariat)  
Vicki Gibbon (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 Ted Fleat (Sway Parish Council)  
John Korbey (Brockenhurst Parish Council)  
Chris Harrison (Hythe and Dibden Parish Council)  
Gordon Bailey (Test Valley Borough Council)  
Melissa Sheppard (Bransgore Parish Council)  
Mike Manley (Bransgore Parish Council)  
Linda Palmer (Whiteparish Paris Council)  
Lynne Aggas (Breamore Parish Council)  
Richard Reeves (New Forest History and Archaeology)

#### 1.2 Substitutes

Sonia Lorenzo-Martin substituted for Bruce Rothnie on behalf of the Forestry Commission.

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2018**

- 2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.
- 2.2 In considering matters arising from the minutes, it was noted that Ann Cakebread of Godshill Parish Council had commented following the presentation by the Hale Purlieu Movement and members requested that a summary of these comments be added to the minutes of the June meeting.

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

- 3.1 Steve Avery advised the Panel that the Planning Inspectorate had confirmed the date of 6 November to look at the Authority's Local Plan. Interested members of the public and local organisations could lodge applications to address the two inspectors involved and the hearing would last for two weeks, taking place at Lymington Town Hall where the inspectors would follow an indicative timetable on what would be considered each day.

- 3.2 At the last meeting, Mr Avery commented that in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework it was omitted that National Parks would have the highest level of protection, Mr Avery was now pleased to report that this had been reinstated in the document.
- 3.3 Mr Avery drew the Panel's attention to a recent document which had been launched detailing the proposed developments on the Waterside. Discussions had taken place with the landowners involved with a view to co-ordinating the various Waterside developments under a shared vision.
- 3.4 The Recreation Management Strategy consultation was now closed and over 1,000 responses had been received, a report would be heard at the full Authority meeting in October and Nigel Matthews would attend the Consultative Panel meeting in December to give a further update.
- 3.5 Referring to the work by NFDC and the Authority in promoting rural affordable housing, Mr Avery advised that a new housing association 'English Rural' had recently been appointed to deliver smaller affordable housing schemes in rural areas including the New Forest. He added that the Authority was currently working with the Burley Parish Council and a local landowner in connection with an affordable housing site in that area which would also include a proposal for a local heritage centre – a planning application in this regard would be considered by the NPA's Planning Committee during September. The Authority was also involved in delivering commoners housing such as the site at Rockford Farm.

Mr Avery requested that any Panel members who were aware of suitable housing sites to contact his department.

- 3.6 Mr Avery concluded his report by advising the Panel that the Authority's enforcement team were currently short staffed but recruitment was underway.
- 3.7 He said that nominations for the Authority's Building Design Awards, which recognised high quality development and design in the National Park, would close on 31 December 2018 and invited members to submit nominations in the various categories. For more information please see the website using the following link [The search is on for Forest's best buildings - New Forest National Park Authority.](#)
- 3.8 Following brief discussion on the above points, the Chairman of Hale Parish Council, Cllr Gaby Lucas mentioned National Grid's Visual Impact Provision project at Hale Purlieu and advised that Hale Parish Council had not formed a view on the project until all relevant information was available.

#### **4 Forestry Commission Update – Sonia Lorenzo-Martin**

- 4.1 Sonia Lorenzo-Martin began her Forestry Commission update by thanking everyone, on behalf of Bruce Rothnie, who had attended the recent Panel Tour. Sonia then highlighted the success of the New Forest Show, the Forestry Commission featured in three different areas on the showground this year so

were extremely busy. As part of the show, Lord Gardiner (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity) joined representatives from National Parks England and the Forestry Commission to plant a tree in the woodland area to symbolise the coming together of different organisations.

- 4.2 Ms Lorenzo-Martin remarked on the unprecedented dry weather conditions during the summer months which saw the fire hazard risk for the Forest raised to severe, 'High Fire Risk' signage was displayed across the Forest which had since been removed once the fire risk was downgraded.
- 4.3 It was highlighted that this year had proved to be an excellent year for butterflies in the forest with over twenty species recorded including the Silver Washed Fritillary and the White admiral butterfly, at sites where FC volunteers carried out habitat conservation tasks. In June the Goshawk chicks that live in the Forest were ringed which enabled the wildlife staff to examine their health and to keep overall checks on them in the future.
- 4.4 It was advised that the consultation period for comments on the Environmental Statement for the deforestation element of the Forest Design Plan had now closed. Forest Services were currently examining and assessing the comments before advising what additional work would be required before they are signed off. A further update would be provided at the December meeting.
- 4.5 Ms Lorenzo-Martin concluded her report by drawing the Panel's attention to the work the Forestry Commission would be carrying out during the next quarter. This included the autumn fungi campaign to encourage visitors to look and not pick. Bracken harvesting which would be carried out between now and the end of October and the development of the New Forest Wetland Restoration; the second workshop would take place on 18 October where the draft review documents which had been prepared would be discussed.

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

- 4.6 Some Panel members were concerned that the consultation period for the deforestation element of the Forest Design Plan was too short and, as it fell over the summer holiday months, was difficult for people to respond to.

*Following the meeting the Panel were advised that Forest Services had now extended the consultation on the deforestation section of the Design Plan until the end of September.*

## **5 Any Other Business**

- 5.1 Alison Hoare, New Forest District Council advised the Panel of the Clean Air Zone consultation which was launched on 1 June and would end on 13 September; which NFDC are working on in conjunction with Southampton City Council.

Ms Hoare went on to explain the background to the consultation advising that in 2015 Southampton was named by the government as one of the first 5 authorities which needed to assess the need for a clean air zone; in 2017 NFDC was also identified for a short stretch between Rushington roundabout and the

Southampton border. It had been agreed that Southampton City Council and NFDC would work together and as part of that agreement it was stated that SCC could not resolve their air quality problem by making air quality worse in the district and vice versa.

Over 3,000 replies had been received so far with 20% coming from the Forest, for more information on the consultation [Have your say - Clean Air Zone \(CAZ\) Consultation](#)

5.2 The Chairman asked the Panel if they would consent to an agenda item on Freshwater Habitats at the next meeting, all were in agreement.

## **6 Date of the next meeting**

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

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm