

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 250th Meeting held in the Linden Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2016

Those present: Clive Chatters (Chairman)
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)

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

Also Present: Ian Miller, Environment Agency

1 Election of Chairman

- 1.1 David Stone facilitated the election of Chairman and Clive Chatters was elected for a further term.

2 Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from:
Bob Chapman – HIWWT
Jo Florance – NF Dog
Malcolm Connolly – Fordingbridge Town Council
Jenni Tubbs – NF Friends of the Earth
Richard Reeves – NF History and Archaeology
Alan Clarke – Wellow Parish Council

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016

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

4 Matters Arising

- 4.1 Brian Tarnoff updated the Panel on behalf of Graham Baker who gave a presentation at the last meeting on underground cabling (minute item 37). Six cable routes had been nominated – west from Hinchleslea sub station, Holmsley old station to Burbush car park, Burbush car park to Smugglers Road car park, across HIWTT Setley reserve, across Newtown Park Portmore and Linwood to Ogdens. The first three had been surveyed. Any further entries would need to contact Graham at brookleyfarmhouse@btinternet.com
- 4.2 Robert Clarke enquired if there had been a response to the proposal of setting up a separate forum to discuss and review wetland restoration projects as requested during the meeting in November 2015. Bruce Rothnie advised that he would speak to the HLS Board and advise Mr Clarke accordingly.

5 National Park Authority (NPA) update

- 5.1 Alison Barnes informed the Panel that the National Park Authority was currently in the first stage of reviewing the Local Plan. This had included the liaison and discussion with a wide range of organisations, the business community, parish councils and adjoining local authorities. A call for sites had been carried out with 130 being identified; these are currently in the process of being reviewed by officers. A six week

consultation period on the proposed submission would be undertaken in October and November 2016, following consideration of the draft plan by Members at the September 2016 Authority meeting. The finalised Submission Draft Local Plan would be published for public consultation between July and September 2017 it would then be submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2017.

- 5.2 Ms Barnes informed the Panel that the National Park had recently been visited by Rory Stewart which had proved to be an excellent opportunity to showcase what the NPA was doing with partner organisations. Last week the National Park was visited by David Evennett, Sports, Tourism and Heritage Minister where an introduction was given on how the NPA worked with the tourism industry in the New Forest.
- 5.3 The first New Forest Arts Festival would be taking place from 11 – 26 June, this is part of the Our Past, Our Future project full details of which could be found on the Authority's website at http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/downloads/file/1375/our_past_our_future_newsletter_may_2016

6 Forestry Commission Update

6.1 New forest Tour

Bruce Rothnie advised that the main focus of his presentation would be on the Forest Design Plan below, however members thanked Bruce Rothnie for the very informative Panel tour on 12 May and suggested that in order to facilitate increased attendance for future tours, the date of the next tour be circulated to the Panel as early as possible.

7 Forest Design Plan

- 7.1 Bruce Rothnie gave a presentation to the Panel on the Forestry Commission's Design Plan for the Forest Inclosures that sets out woodland management over the next 10 years. Anticipated outcomes from the Plan were increasing the resilience of key, vulnerable habitats; maintaining a productive forest and using natural regeneration to make very gradual transitions of woodlands.
- 7.2 The draft Plan, which includes a longer term vision for the character of woodlands in two hundred years, was being led by John Stride, Planning and Environment Manager at the Forestry Commission. The Plan would be reviewed again at the end of the 10 year period in light of the Forest policy and legislative context at that time.
- 7.3 The consultation was now open and would run until 4 July, the team would then analyse the comments received and make any revisions. The plan is then submitted for approval by Forest Services which does include a further period of public consultation.
- 7.4 A number of queries were raised by several members, namely Mark Carter (Institute of Foresters), Harry Oram (Royal Forestry Society) and Bryan Tarnoff (New Forest Association) regarding a number of issues including commercial income from New Forest timber (and price comparisons with European timber imports), changes in woodland species and management of conifers.

The PowerPoint slides presented at the meeting have been updated to include information on queries raised at the meeting and can be found on the Panel website.

8 Flood Risk in the New Forest – Ian Miller, Environment Agency

8.1 Ian Miller made a presentation to the Panel on flood risks in the New Forest which could be caused by many sources including river flooding, surface water and the sea. He explained that several organisational bodies manage flood risk and that to ensure flood risk management worked effectively, it is necessary to ensure partnership working. Mr Miller went on to explain the roles and responsibilities of the associated bodies (*full details can be found in the presentation*).

8.2 Mr Miller advised that since the 2013/14 floods initial assessments and work had been carried out in Totton, Bartley, Woodlands Ashurst and Lymington. This had included the widening of channels to improve capacity, blockage and vegetation clearance and a community action group had been established. The Environment Agency was continually updating its flood maps and provides this information via its website. A new insurance scheme had recently been developed backed by the Government and association of British insurers which would help those in flood risk areas to find affordable insurance through existing providers this would only be available for those homes built prior to 2009.

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

9 Any Other Business

9.1 There was no further business on this occasion.

10 Date of the next meeting

10.1 1 September, 7.30pm Lyndhurst Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.30hrs.