

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 254<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in the Lindon Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY, 1 JUNE 2017**

Those present: Clive Chatters (Chairman)  
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)  
Debbie Copping (Panel Secretariat)

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

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

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from:  
Martin De Retuerto (HIWWT)  
Lynne Aggas (Breamore Parish Council)  
Marian Still (Hordle Parish Council)  
Russell Webb (CPRE)

#### **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017**

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

#### **3 Matters Arising**

- 3.1 Ailsa Farrand (New Forest Equestrian Society) brought to the attention of the panel that one of their members, Burley Villa riding school had to cancel rides due to the wiggle cycle event taking place. She explained that horses had been clipped during the event weekend by both cyclists and impatient car drivers. This was having a detrimental financial effect on their business.

Steve Avery responded that the NPA continue to keep the 'Cycle Charter' under review and would encourage anyone who had been affected by these events to leave feedback on the Safety Advisory Groups website (<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/15466/Public-Events-and-the-Safety-Advisory-Group>) Currently the government do not wish to regulate these events but Mr Avery urged that both Burley Villa riding school and the Equestrian Society should write to the wiggle organisers to let them know what is occurring.

#### **4 Low Flying Aircraft in the New Forest – Wing Commander Steven Bell (RAF)**

- 4.1 Wing Commander Steven Bell introduced himself to the Panel as chief of staff at RAF Odiham in Hampshire, he informed the panel that he had been in the RAF for 26 years and flying Chinooks for 23 of these. He then gave a presentation explaining why low flying training was necessary and the 'be

safe, be seen' campaign they were currently running for the equine community.

- 4.2 Panel Members were then invited to ask questions and raise concerns. The main concerns raised were the impact on Tranquil Areas and how to report incidents of low flying aircraft.

Wing Commander Bell responded that they avoided designated nature sites e.g. SSSI's but were not aware of tranquil areas. It was advised that should anyone wish to raise complaints they can do so at the following web addresses –

The military low flying complaints website - <https://www.gov.uk/low-flying-in-your-area/complaints>

For more information on the RAF Odiham flying programme - <https://www.gov.uk/low-flying-in-your-area/complaints>

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

## **5 NFNPA Update – Steve Avery**

- 5.1 Steve Avery updated the Panel on the continuing work with the Local Plan, currently a number of small sites were being looked at to potentially meet the needs for housing in the forest; consultations would be carried out shortly in the villages which may potentially be affected.
- 5.2 The NPA response to the Fawley Waterside proposal would shortly be ready for submission and would be taken to the October Authority Meeting to gain Members approval. It was also highlighted that NFDC were producing an updated strategy on the Waterside developments which would include all partner organisations.
- 5.3 Mr Avery advised the Panel that a 'call for views' consultation would be taking place shortly to gather information on what the public think were the main issues on recreation in the New Forest. This would then begin to form the basis of an updated Recreation Management Strategy to be taken forward.

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

- 6.1 Bruce Rothnie gave an overview on how the Forestry Commission handle consultations, he highlighted that there were three tiers of activity levels; strategic plans, tactical plans and operational plans with each level leading to the next and having their own form of consultation. He explained that strategic and tactical plans would normally involve direct consultations with invited stakeholders and may include the public; but operational plans were usually presented for information to people local to the area through a choice of means such as on-site events, briefings to parish councils or temporary information boards on site.

6.2 Panel members were then given the opportunity for questions.

A question was raised regarding the New Forest Design Plan consultation which was showing on the Forest Service's website that it was open. Bruce responded that this consultation was not open at the moment and that this shouldn't be the case and would look into it further.

Following the meeting the secretariat received an email from Bruce Rothnie regarding this issue. (As below)

*At the Panel meeting this week a question of clarification was raised about whether the public consultation on the Forest Design Plan for the New Forest Inclosures was currently open. The public consultation phase is governed by Forest Services, the regulator for woodland management plans. The Forestry Commission team in the New Forest have submitted the plans to Forest Services and provided a ready-made on-line explanation and plans for them to share formally with consultees when they are ready. This submission included some proposed dates for a consultation period but restrictions on consultations during the pre-election purdah period mean that this has had to be postponed. We now await notification from Forest Services when the consultation will open for comments.*

6.3 Mr Rothnie commented that this year's Panel Tour was very well received and that he would welcome ideas for further tours.

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

## **7 Any Other Business**

7.1 Robert Clarke commented that an article in the Daily Telegraph regarding the 'Decline of new planting of woodlands' had recently been brought to his attention. He asked what the Forestry Commissions position on this issue was and he also stated that villagers had recently expressed concerns involving the decaying trees in Pound Lane where natural regeneration was not taking place.

Bruce Rothnie responded that the article was referring to a national policy on woodland creation and at national level there had not be a net loss of trees. The article was referring to a reduction in the levels of woodland creation in the past year. He explained that in the New Forest, an important designated area for open habitat, that certain Inclosures were planned for return to open habitat such as heathland.

Mr Rothnie went on to explain that the Forestry Commission undertake regular tree inspection surveys in many areas across the Forest where trees are close to property and roads. As a consequence of these surveys some trees will have to be removed or branches lopped to reduce risk to people and homes. So some loss of trees does occur in these situations. At Burley recent work has occurred within the pasture woodlands and regeneration of trees

would be expected but may be over a long period of time of many years. Mr Rothnie would arrange for some staff to visit Burley to look into this issue further.

Hannah Thackery from Natural England advised that they prefer natural regeneration but to get in touch with her team to talk through any problems this may pose.

Steve Avery (NFNPA) commented that outside the crown lands the New Forest Land Advice Service were working with local landowners to look at privately owned woodland and the NPA periodically carry out family tree planting events in the forest.

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

10.1 7 September 2017, 7.30pm Lyndhurst Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm