

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 253rd Meeting held in the Lindon Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017

Those present: Clive Chatters (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.

1 Election of Chairman

- 1.1 Panel Members voted to appoint Clive Chatters as Chairman of the Consultative Panel for another year.
- 1.2 The Chairman advised that this would be his fourth year in this role; he advised the Panel that he would make a decision during the middle half of the year as to whether he intended to continue for a further term. He asked Panel members to consider if someone would like to take on this role and to contact him to discuss the position further.

2 Apologies for absence

- 2.1 Apologies for absence were received from:

Dionis MacNair (Verderers)
Hannah Thacker (Natural England)
Jo Florance (NF Dog Owners Group)
Robert Clarke (Burley Parish Council)
Gerald Lewis (Sopley Parish Council)
Malcolm Connolly (Fordingbridge Town Council)
Marion Still (Hordle Parish Council)
Patricia Banks (Milford on Sea Parish Council)
Peter Dowling (Hyde Parish Council)
Alan Clarke (Wellow Parish Council)

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2016

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

4 Matters Arising

- 4.1 Brian Tarnoff remarked on the comments that were made regarding the Jonathan Cox Associates report on Wetland Restoration at the last meeting. He felt that the report was carried out by experts with a wealth of knowledge in the field. This should be taken into account and decisions based on expert analysis.

- 4.2 The Chairman advised that he had recently received an e-mail from Robert Clarke of Burley Parish Council who had submitted apologies for the current Panel meeting. Mr Clarke had requested to raise his comments in connection with the minutes of the last meeting with regard to the recording in the minutes of the meeting with Cox Associates on 11 November 2016 to consider the Review Report on New Forest Wetland Restoration projects.
- 4.3 In his e-mail, Mr Clarke had advised that the record of his comments under minute 22.10 understated the relevance of his comments and how lacking in robustness and scientific value the report and the whole exercise was shown to be. He further believed that the Consultative Panel had a most important role to perform at this point in taking forward the concerns now evident with regard to the report and that public faith needed to be restored in what the HLS Scheme was achieving overall in the New Forest.

5 National Park Authority (NPA) Update

- 5.1 Steve Avery updated the Panel on the recent full Authority meeting which had taken place in January. During the meeting Members considered a number of reports including the New Forest Cycle Event Organisers Charter, Love the Forest Visitor Gift Scheme and the England Coastal Path Plans. Members had also expressed their concerns regarding the increase in animal accidents over the winter months.
- 5.2 Mr Avery updated the Panel on progress with the Local Plan Review and advised that further public engagement was planned over the coming months. He reported that the Government had recently published a Housing White Paper which set out its aims on how to reform the housing market and boost the supply of new homes in England. The Authority had prepared a response to the Paper; more details of the Paper could be found on the New Forest National Park Authority's website at http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20016/our_work/53/consultations
- 5.3 The NPA's communications team had recently developed a new 'Welcome Home' leaflet designed for people who had recently moved to the New Forest, copies of which can be found on the website at http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/site/scripts/google_results.php?q=welcome+home+leaflet
- 5.4 Mr Avery reported that the recent new dwellings built in Bransgore had been shortlisted in the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence in 2017, which were the most established and respected awards in the UK planning industry.

6 Update on Proposed Developments along the Waterside

- 6.1 Steve Avery gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Panel detailing the proposed developments on the Waterside; although outside the boundaries of

the National Park, they would likely have an impact on the Forest. The proposed developments included:

Fawley Power Station

The power station was decommissioned three years ago and had now been acquired by Fawley Waterside who wished to redevelop the site. This was a significant proposal with the prospect of 1,500 new homes, a primary school, fast ferry service, road improvements and the creation of 1,500 jobs. A workshop meeting convened by NFDC was held on 20 January where Fawley Waterside gave a presentation on their aspirations for the site, with the relevant regulating authorities also setting out their respective positions. Copies of the various presentations can be found on the New Forest District Council's website at

<http://www.newforest.gov.uk/article/17494/Fawley-Power-Station-Partner-Day>

Fawley Waterside anticipate submitting a planning application to both NFDC and the NPA in September.

Dibden Bay

The Association of British Ports published a consultation draft Port Masterplan last autumn confirming their intentions to expand the Port to accommodate the growth in their business. This is likely to include the land at Dibden Bay. Any proposal for Dibden Bay would be determined by the Planning Inspectorate (as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project) with both the NPA and NFDC providing comments. The NPA's response to ABP's draft Masterplan can be found on the NPA website at

http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20016/ou_work/53/consultations

Marchwood Military Port

In October 2016 Solent Gateway Ltd had taken full control of the site and were now looking to develop unused Port capacity for commercial opportunities and job creation.

NFDC Local Plan Review

In its Local Plan Review, NFDC is looking to provide an additional 2,200 homes along the Waterside at Marchwood and Totton. He said that whilst the NPA recognised the need for an increased requirement for additional houses outside the boundaries of the National Park it had concerns about the pressures that further development created and had asked the District Council to consider reducing the number of houses being built, especially on greenfield land. A full response to the consultation can be found on the website at

http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20016/ou_work/53/consultations

HCC Strategic Transport

Hampshire County Council are currently developing a transport strategy for the Waterside in response to the planned developments along the Waterside, which would consider the cumulative impact of planned development. Work was likely to be required on the A326 with possible widening at the northern end which could impact on the National Park.

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)

Mr Avery reported that PUSH proposed an additional 20,000 new homes in the City of Southampton.

- 6.2 In conclusion, Mr Avery explained that planning guidance was very clear and strict considerations must be adhered to for any development in the National Park; which had the highest level of protection. The Authority would also expect to be consulted on any development outside the National Park which could have significant implications for the Park.
- 6.3 Panel Members were then invited to ask questions and raise concerns. The main concerns raised were the impact of traffic on an already busy area and how the increase in dwellings would affect the National Park.

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

7 Forestry Commission Update

- 7.1 Bruce Rothnie advised that the Forestry Commission was currently looking at how it could deliver consultations to ensure it received the correct level of community engagement within its available resources. He reminded the Panel that the FC team based in Lyndhurst now have responsibility for woodlands across 7 counties and covering 192 parish councils.
- 7.2 Mr Rothnie then presented his report highlighting that the Great British Spring Clean was now underway with many events taking place across the Forest this was in addition to the regular litter collections.

He explained that the Forestry Commission contracted out scheduled litter bin collections at around 180 sites across the Forest at a total cost of £70,000 per year. These took place daily during the summer months and once or twice a week in winter. Roadside litter picks are delivered by NFDC under contract and instruction from the FC. Most of the action is reactive to reports of problem areas. NFDC will often erect signage at roadsides to indicate when litter picks have been done. Fly tipping is a particular problem in the Forest and incidents on the Crown Lands are dealt with by contractors working with the FC at an average cost of around £150 per incident - this figure can rise considerably when hazardous waste is involved. There were 314 fly tipping incidents during 2016 which was up from 241 incidents in 2015 – a 30%

increase. He said that the Forestry Commission can deploy surveillance equipment at hot spots and appealed to members to keep vigilant and report incidents of fly tipping to the FC – there had been three prosecutions for fly tipping during the past year.

- 7.3 Mr Rothnie reminded the Panel that the Forestry Commission was currently working with Parish's across the Forest to restore and protect roadside verges which were becoming eroded due to parking, etc.
- 7.4 The next Panel tour would take place on 18 May between 1-5pm starting at Lyndhurst and would include visits to the northwest of the Forest, looking at both FC and National Trust work, more details would follow.

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

8 New Forest Design Plan – John Stride Forestry Commission

- 8.1 A presentation was given by John Stride on the New Forest Design Plan for the period 2017-2026. He explained that the Plan covers the management intentions for the Inclosure woodlands with management over the next 10 years set within the context of the long term 200 year vision for the future structure of those woodlands and habitats.
- 8.2 Mr Stride explained that the Forestry Commission was currently looking at the responses received after the initial phase of consultation and drafting an updated document that would be submitted for formal consultation in the next few months.

The presentation can be found on the website.

9 Any Other Business

- 9.1 Members were briefly updated on the review of the New Forest National Park's Recreation Management Strategy which would commence with a call for views in the summer.

10 Date of the next meeting

- 10.1 1 June 2017, 7.30pm Lyndhurst Community Centre

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm