The Future Forest consultation was run by all the main organisations with a remit for caring for the Forest and helping people enjoy it. The eight week ‘call for views’ asked people to complete an online survey in which they suggested which of the topics identified in 2010 should be prioritised in the future – and explained why. There was also an opportunity to say what new things should be done. In total over 7,000 comments were made, many of these touching on multiple subjects.

A series of drop-in sessions were also held in New Forest towns and villages, and part of the National Park Authority stand at the New Forest Show was dedicated to the consultation. The Forestry Commission, Natural England, Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council and the Verderers asked the National Park Authority to conduct the Future Forest consultation on behalf of the statutory bodies.

The aim of the Future Forest process is to:
- provide the best recreational experience for local people and visitors
- protect the very thing people come to see – the spectacular, yet fragile landscape which is a haven for many rare wildlife species
- ensure limited resources are spent wisely.

Now that all the consultation responses have been received the next steps are:

Autumn/Winter 2017/18: Complete a full analysis of the comments and use these to inform a draft update to the Recreation Management Strategy.

2018: Public consultation on the draft update.

Over 1,500 individuals and organisations had their say on managing outdoor recreation in and around the New Forest National Park.

Championing the health benefits of National Parks

The New Forest and England’s nine other national parks have teamed up with Public Health England to create a ‘natural health service’.

The new accord will build on work already being carried out to encourage people to experience the many health benefits of getting out and active in National Parks. For many people, quiet time spent in National Parks is the key to their mental and physical wellbeing. Whether it is a long walk, leisurely bike ride, bird spotting or any number of other pursuits, spending time in the great outdoors is officially good for us.

But recent research showed that six million people in the country are not even managing to take a 10 minute brisk walk once a month. As Public Health Minister Steve Brine said at the recent launch of the National Parks and PHE accord: ‘Physical activity helps to prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions, including heart disease, type two diabetes, some cancers and mental health problems.’

There are already several examples in the New Forest of the ‘natural health service’ at work. This includes doctors at Fordingbridge Surgery referring patients to a local healthy walk group to help them alleviate stress, recover from illness, improve physical fitness or overcome mental health problems.

Over 1,500 give views on Forest recreation

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www.newforestwildlifepark.co.uk

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Find out more...
Visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/futureforest to stay up to date with the latest news.
News in brief

Ensuring water works
A campaign to help protect homes, businesses and watercourses in the Forest from flooding and pollution is asking for your help.

Southern Water is working with the National Park Authority to raise awareness of simple changes in disposing of fat, oil and grease and items like wet wipes to reduce blockages in pipes.

Town and parish councils, community groups, clubs and other organisations are being asked to get involved to help spread its important messages.

Contact communications@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

New members
The National Park Authority has 22 members with overall responsibility for making decisions, and has appointed several new members this year.

- Minstead Parish Councillor Richard Taylor
- Itchen Valley District Councillor Mike Kendall
- Itchen Valley District Councillor Verity Parson
- Whitchurch Parochial Council Treasurer
- Patrick Haining
- Prof. Gavin Parker

Chairman Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre welcomed the new members. He also paid tribute to member Sally Arnold who passed away and thanked those who stood down: former Chairman Julian Johnson, John Pemberton, Andy Moore, Judith Webb and Ken Thornber.

National Parks partnership
Columbia Sportswear and the UK's National Parks have announced a five-year partnership, with Columbia kitting out over 2,000 National Park staff for five years, including 300 rangers.

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Litter heroes
Around 10,000 pupils at more than 40 schools have been encouraged to be ‘litter heroes’ and not drop litter thanks to assemblies held by the National Park Authority education team.

New in brief

Litter heroes

News in brief

Protecting the Park together
All National Parks have a Partnership Plan for their area, to help guide the work of partners with a remit and interest in the protected landscape. In 2015, over 50 partner organisations in the National Park came together and helped shape the New Forest's Partnership Plan. It contains 90 actions across the themes of 'protect, enjoy and prosper'. The first progress report and this infographic show some of the achievements so far and recognise there is still much to do to help the Forest thrive.

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National Parks partnership

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Six figure boost for New Forest inclusive cycling scheme

Hundreds of young people will be able to enjoy the New Forest using specialist bikes thanks to £300,000 of National Lottery funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

The PEDALL – Happy, Healthy, Active project is a partnership between the New Forest National Park Authority, Hampshire County Council, Schools, Disability Opportunities and Support Services Partnership for Hampshire, Hampshire County Council, and the New Forest Disability Association, that will create an inclusive cycling scheme. The scheme includes a range of initiatives to encourage people to go cycling in the New Forest.

The project will help tackle the lack of exercise and associated health problems among young people with disabilities. This can include poor physical fitness, poor mental wellbeing and social isolation, which all contribute to a reduced quality of life.

The project aims to achieve this by providing a range of initiatives that will help this group of people to cycle safely and enjoy the benefits of cycling in the New Forest.

The project will include:

- A range of activities for people with disabilities and their families using a fleet of specially adapted cycles.
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Since the scheme was established in 2011 more than 100 families have attended sessions across the New Forest.

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Amy Galpin, right, takes part in an inclusive cycling session at Boulesdale Heath, New Forest National Park Authority, will provide opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy the health benefits of cycling in the New Forest.

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Preserving the Forest’s past

Donated items shed light on WWI in the Forest

Fascinating items from World War One have been donated to the National Park’s online wartime archive. The items donated to the New Forest Remembers project included photograph albums, medals and a training manual. They were gifted by Paul Simmons, grandson of Arthur George Simmons who served with the Royal Flying Corps in 1917. The items donated included photographs, postcards, training manuals and a WWI scorecard. They were gifted by Paul Simmons, grandson of Arthur George Simmons who served with the Royal Flying Corps in 1917.

Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of hunter that lived some of the earliest inhabitants of New Forest towns. An archaeological survey at Buckland Rings iron age hillfort in springtime has revealed a new insight into the early life of the forest. The survey has brought to light a 2,000-year old roundhouse within the fort’s ramparts. The geophysical survey was led by the New Forest National Park Authority with local volunteers and students from Bournemouth University.

Survey unearths ancient origins of New Forest town

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Piecing together the past

Newspapers written at a German prisoner of war camp in the New Forest have been translated for the first time thanks to a crowdsourcing website.

The newspapers, written by World War Two soldiers, include hand-written stories and match reports, cartoons, puzzles and songs. They were brought to light through the MicroPasts project, run by University College London’s crowdsourcing project.

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Find out more...

The next newsletter will soon be available on the MicroPasts site for translation. To help translate the German newspapers visit crowdsourced.micropasts.org

To view all the original documents from this collection visit newforestremembers.org
Inspirining the next generation to love the Forest

National Park rangers welcomed more than 500 teenagers to the New Forest as part of the National Citizenship Service (NCS).

The young people, aged between 15 and 17 came to find out more about the National Park and its inhabitants. Rangers used fun and challenging activities to help the participants understand how the New Forest is managed and why it is such an important place for nature.

Craig Daters, New Forest National Park Authority ranger, said: ‘We used lots of analogies to explain about aspects of the Forest, such as having a gamekeeper rounder, they were able to appreciate the gauntlet fi rst-hand how diffi cult it was for players to gain a licence to stay in the Forest and the fi elders acted as the threats. By seeing the successful breeding of a ground nesting bird such as Hazel Grouse, and the woodpigeon, we were able to see what they might protect the New Forest and other woodland places in the future.’

The NCS teenagers came from across Hampshire and took part in activities such as a walk up Holm Hill to try to see if there were any owls in the trees and time spent at Ober Water to refl ect upon the day and create their own mini National Parks.

Danni Doran, a lecturer at Brockenhurst College, said: ‘We had some great weeks out in the Forest and even when the weather wasn’t kind they all got stuck in and enjoyed it. One of my highlights was the afternoons walking and hearing their positive responses about enjoying the peace and tranquillity.’

NCS is a national programme that looks to develop the skills that employers increasingly value: confi dence, leadership and independence. It is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and is introduced in schools across the country. It is a fully inclusive programme and is open to any child aged 10-14.

Why not come and help make a difference? You can fi nd out more about volunteering opportunities with the New Forest National Park through talks from local groups. As well as browsing the display stands, visitors can gain further insight into volunteering in the New Forest National Park, helping them to inspire youngsters, record wildlife, restore landscapes and help communities. And don’t forget all the benefi ts volunteering brings to the volunteer too — it’s great fun, ideal for making new friends and proven to be good for you!

Visitors of all ages are welcome at the free fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre. People of all ages will be welcomed at the free event. Find out more... newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteerfair

Walking Festival
14 - 29 October 2017

D-day remains, wild play activities and fascinating wildlife are just some of the treats awaiting walkers in the fi fth New Forest Walking Festival.

Around 80 walks will reveal the history, heritage and wildlife of the Forest during the festival, which includes half term week.

The festival has proved popular with residents and visitors since it began in 2013. More than 2,400 people attended last year’s event to gain behind the scenes knowledge of the Forest.

The National Park is a wonderful place to walk during the autumn, with fiat, accessible routes that allow walkers of all ages and abilities to enjoy the forest’s many vistas.

Find out more... newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks

Volunteer Fair
28 January 2018

The New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair will be full to bunting with volunteer opportunities to suit all tastes when it returns this January.

Visitors old and young will have the chance to join more than 40 organisations working in and around the National Park, helping them to inspire youngsters, record wildlife, restore landscapes and help communities. And don’t forget all the benefi ts volunteering brings to the volunteer too — it’s great fun, ideal for making new friends and proven to be good for you!

People of all ages are welcome at the free fair at Lyndhurst Community Centre. As well as browsing the display stands, visitors can gain further insight into volunteering in the New Forest National Park through talks from local groups.

Find out more... newforestnpa.gov.uk/volunteerfair

Family Trees
2 December 2017

Families are invited to celebrate a birth, marriage or life of a relative this year with the planting of a community wildlife space in the New Forest.

Anybody looking to celebrate a family member or life event can take part in the family Trees event.

Registration is free and open to all, with the tree and hedge planting event taking place in Brockenhurst. Anyone who registers will receive a free personalised certifi cate as a memento, even if they cannot attend the tree planting day.

Find out more... newforestnpa.gov.uk/familytrees

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Planning for the future

Hundreds of people have commented on proposed planning policies which will shape the future of the National Park.

There have been significant changes in national planning policy since the existing Local Plan for the National Park was adopted in 2010. So the National Park Authority is updating its Local Plan to ensure the New Forest continues to be covered by an up to date, effective plan.

During public consultation on the initial draft plan, at the end of 2016, responses were received from over 400 individuals, interest groups, and parish councils in the National Park. Following consideration of these initial comments, a formal consultation was held in summer 2017 on a number of alternative housing sites in the National Park to help meet some of the identified housing need.

A final six-week period of consultation will take place in early 2018 before the draft plan is submitted to the Government for independent examination in Spring 2018.

The New Forest has a long and proud history of commoning: even today certain people have the right to release animals onto the open forest and collect firewood. It has given the Forest its mosaic of grazed habitats and influences many aspects of the local communities.

The New Forest is a living landscape highly valued by the communities which shape it. It provides a focal point for local identity and an important part of our cultural heritage.

The business charter was launched this summer by a partnership of major Forest organisations.

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A year of celebration reaches its climax

This year the 800th anniversary of a pivotal moment in the New Forest’s past is being celebrated across the National Park.

The ‘Carta de Foresta’, or Charter of the Forest, was issued in 1217 by the then nine-year-old King Henry III and enshrined key rights to many Forest citizens.

This charter removed some harsh punishments for breaking Forest law and gave new rights to ‘free men’.

Many consider it to be the first written environmental law, recognition that the land (and its resources) should be held in common, protecting the environment and providing for sustainable land use by local communities. If you live in the New Forest or further afield, you have the Charter of the Forest to thank for rights that nowadays we all take for granted.

The anniversary falls on 6 November and will be marked by the planting of a ‘legacy tree’ in the New Forest and the national launch of a new Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

The National Park Authority is one of 50 organisations working with the Woodland Trust across the UK to collect people’s tree stories to form the new Tree Charter (treecharter.uk) and reconnect us with our woodlands and forests.

In the New Forest a number of events are taking place this year to mark the anniversary:

- **Exhibition at the New Forest Show and the New Forest Centre**
  After a successful time at the New Forest Show, the Charter of the Forest exhibition will be running from 14 October to 15 January at the New Forest Centre in Lyndhurst. This family-friendly exhibition reveals the story of the Charter and how its impacts are still felt today. On 25 November there will be a special ‘Trees and People’ event with additional hands-on family activities and a chance to see live performances.

  - **Family Trees**
    Families will come together on 2 December 2017 to celebrate a birth, marriage or life of a relative by helping to plant a community wildlife space in the New Forest (see page nine).

  - **Tree of the Year competition**
    Thousands of votes were cast for the New Forest Tree of the Year online and at the New Forest Show to celebrate trees and their importance in people’s lives.
    The Woodgreen Oak (pictured) was crowned the people’s favourite.

  - **Arts Festival**
    More than 5,000 people enjoyed 60 artistic events on the theme of ‘trees’ for two weeks in June. (see page nine)

  - **Walking Festival**
    The fifth annual autumn Walking Festival on 14 to 29 October features a number of tree-themed walks in the company of experts. Book at newforestnpa.gov.uk/festivalwalks

To find out more about the Tree Charter visit newforestnpa.gov.uk/treecharter

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