

## Independent Panel on Forestry

Area 5E, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
LONDON  
SW1P 3JR

**Date:** 16 December 2011

Tim Greenwood  
Chairman, New Forest Consultative Panel  
C/o New Forest National Park Authority  
Lymington Town Hall  
Avenue Road  
Lymington  
SO41 9ZG

Dear Tim,

Thank you for your kind offer of help with our Forestry Panel visit to the New Forest on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. We would be grateful, subject to the agreement of the New Forest Consultative Panel members, if you would take the lead in co-ordinating the local arrangements for the visit. We envisage this involving you pulling together a small group of representatives from key New Forest organisations and stakeholders who can work together to agree on what our Panel members attending on the day will visit and who they meet on the day.

The Forestry Panel will actively consider forestry in the round when they visit, but we are increasingly looking to focus on specific topics for every visit. In the New Forest we would like to examine the interplay between the historic cultural protected landscape and society's use today, including community interaction and landscape scale partnerships.

The format of visits, although not set in stone, generally consists of 2 site visits and a discussion session (itineraries from Nottingham and Yorkshire are attached as a guide). Experience from previous sub Panel visits is that a group discussion focussing on the topic/s with 6-8 invited "expert" guests (drawn from both national and local perspectives, public and private) works really well. The visit needs to fit within a circa 10.30am to 3.30pm timetable and be relatively close to transport links. Where possible we aim to use partner or low cost venues in order to minimise costs.

Advice as to levels of wider community interest in the visit would be really welcome in order to gauge the need to engage more widely while in the New Forest. Wider informal discussions with community representatives have proved to be less effective on previous visits and we chose not to have one our last visit to Yorkshire.

But we need to be guided by you on this as we appreciate the significant interest and involvement of communities in forests and woods in the New Forest area.

If possible we would like a draft itinerary in place by week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> January in order to ensure the invited stakeholders can attend.

I am happy to call and discuss when convenient.

Yours sincerely,

*Paul*

Paul Hill-Gibbins - 0207 238 4441

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