

FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING REPORT

Summary of the minutes of the meeting of the National Park Authority held on 28 June 2012

Copies of the papers referred to and the full minutes of the Authority meeting on 28 June are in the 'About Us', 'Meetings and Minutes' page on the Authority's website at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk

Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the New Forest National Park Authority.

Julian Johnson was elected as Chairman and Vicky Myers as Deputy Chairman of the NPA for the ensuing year.

Chairman's announcements.

The Chairman welcomed the new Secretary of State appointed members Marian Spain and Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre.

Appointments to Committees and external representation

Members made appointments to its Committees and external representation for the ensuing year. Full details of these appointments can be found in the minutes of the meeting, available on the NPA's website.

Annual report.

Alison Barnes presented the NPA's Annual Report for 2011-2012 (NFNPA 409/12), together with Steve Avery and Oliver Reichardt. The period covered by the report was the first year of the NPA's four year Business Plan, which ran from 2011-2015. Particular challenges during the year included dealing with reduced funding; Alison Barnes commended staff on the efficiencies that had been achieved. Steve Avery summarised the New Forest catchment pilot project, which would entail wider partnership working; the work towards achieving excellence in development control and planning, including the adoption of two supplementary planning documents; and work with Parishes towards the third Protect programme priority of conserving local distinctiveness. He also commended the activities of the Land Management Advice Service. Oliver Reichardt presented highlights of the 'Enjoy' programme over the 2011-2012 NPA year, including successful work with volunteers, the continuation of the Mosaic work supporting diversity in the area although the nationally funded project had ended, meetings of the RMS working group, and work on the World War II project. Steve Avery presented the 'Prosper' programme highlights, where significant progress had been made, including work towards the local broadband bid and with the M3 Local Development Forum. Improvements to affordable housing provision had been hampered by the challenges that securing contributions to affordable housing entailed, which had not been assisted by changes to national planning policies and guidance, although on the positive side the Commonsers' Housing Scheme review had been concluded and the Scheme reopened. The New Forest Tour had been extended during the year in question, bringing tangible economic benefits to the local area. Oliver Reichardt then explained that these three programmes were all underpinned by the 'Excellence' programme, in recognition of the importance of which a programme lead, Paul Hocking (a Planning Officer with the NPA), had now been recruited. The NPA had conducted a very successful move to Lymington Town Hall; Oliver Reichardt commended the work of the officers involved and in particular work by Sharon Wilcockson, the NPA's Business Support Officer, in ensuring a smooth transition. Members then noted the report.

Adoption of the Hyde Village Design Statement as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Members commended the VDS and resolved to adopt it as a Supplementary Planning document.

Recreation Management Strategy priority actions update

Paula Freeland introduced the report (NFNPA 411/12), explaining that the report comprised an update of progress against the actions that had been identified in connection with the Strategy the NPA had adopted in 2010 for managing recreation in the New Forest. In particular, ongoing work had been conducted on managing cycling, including the Members' day that had taken place earlier in the year, and that work was still ongoing. Alison Barnes explained that it was important that Members be aware of the breadth of work that had been undertaken, which did not relate only to cycling. Following some discussion, Members noted the report.

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Development Plan Document Examination.

David Illsley introduced the report (NFNPA 412/12), which provided Members with an update on the progress of the Hampshire Minerals and Waste draft document, and asked the NPA to endorse the principle of a period of further consultation on proposed amendments to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan following the end of the Examination Hearing sessions.

During discussion, one Member expressed the wish that there should be some NPA oversight of the amendments prior to approving further consultation, and asked that the document be reviewed by officers in consultation with the Chairman of the NPA. If the amendments were found to merit debate by Members prior to the issue of the draft for public consultation, this could then be brought back to the NPA. This was accordingly agreed,

Western Escarpment Conservation Area Action Plan.

Anne-Marie Lomax introduced the report (NFNPA 413/12), explaining that Members were asked to endorse the action plan, together with the guidance notes and procedure detailed in the report. Following some debate on the recommended guidance notes and procedures, Members decided to endorse the action plan but to postpone approval of the guidance notes and procedures for buildings of local interest until the September meeting of the NPA, to allow a thorough consideration by Members.