

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 239th Meeting, held in the Main Hall, Brockenhurst Village Hall on THURSDAY, 16 JANUARY 2014**

Those present: Tim Greenwood (In the Chair)  
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)  
Jo Murphy (Panel Secretariat)  
Frances Connolly (Panel Secretariat)  
Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received.

#### **ITEM 1**

##### **1.1 APOLOGIES**

Peter Turner – Braemore Parish Council  
Ian Mason-Smith – Community First New Forest  
Chris Whitlock – NFU Mutual  
Sam Dovey – New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society  
Graham Baker – CPRE  
Peter Roberts – New Forest Association  
Cllr Edward Fleat – Sway Parish Council  
Cllr Christine Ford – Ringwood Town Council  
Cllr Ray Noble – Wellow Parish Council  
Richard Lemon – Natural England

##### **1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Frank Weller would now represent the Ramblers Association in place of John Thackray, however as both panel members were absent from this meeting Peter Dovey was representative.

##### **1.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that he would be standing down as Chairman at the next meeting to be held in March, therefore the panel would now need to give urgent consideration to replacement. It was advised that the position of Chair is open to both panel and non-panel members, however it might be advisable to have an independent Chairman to ensure a balanced debate. The secretariat would be writing to all panel members requesting nominations for Chair by 14 February 2014. A notice would also be added to the NPA website.

#### **ITEM 2**

##### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** (7 November 2013)

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

#### **ITEM 3**

##### **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 There were no matters arising on this occasion.

#### **ITEM 4**

#### **NEW FOREST VISITOR GIFT SCHEME – JULIE MOTTISFONT**

- 4.1 Julie Mottisfont introduced the Visitor gift scheme explaining that it was set up in 2003 and its focus is on the forest and how to protect the forest. The visitor gift scheme raises funds and then gives the money raised to various organisations and projects, these projects can be quite diverse and include things such as reflective pony collars and funds for the Countryside Education Centre at Beaulieu.
- 4.2 The Visitor gift scheme is now known as ‘love the forest’ with the idea being to connect with people’s emotions and the love that they have for the forest. It is supported by all the major organisations in the forest and they help to decide where the money is spent.
- 4.3 Many of the hotels in the forest subscribe to the ‘love the forest’ scheme, some may add £1 to a guest bill, some may donate on behalf of their guests, Julie advised that they are very flexible. Currently Julie works with 39 local businesses and since 2006 they have raised £100,156.10 for the New Forest. Should you like further information on the scheme or would like to donate contact Julie Mottisfont on 01590 646662 [julie.mottisfont@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:julie.mottisfont@newforestnpa.gov.uk) a copy of the presentation is available on the website at [New Forest consultative panel - New Forest National Park Authority](#)

#### **ITEM 5**

#### **UPDATE ON THE CYCLING CODE – NIGEL MATTHEWS**

- 5.1 Nigel Matthews introduced his report on the Cycling Code, advising panel members that in April 2013 it was discussed by NPA Members and that they believed a statement was required by the NPA to give their view on cycling in the forest (this statement can be found in the presentation on the NPA website). It was agreed that cycling is an important way to get around the forest, however cycling events do need managing and this is what the NPA plus other local organisations have been looking at through a ‘task and finish’ Cycling Liaison group.
- 5.2 Nigel commented that the NPA wanted to provide a cycling code that would be achievable, most of the code is common sense. Following this the Cycling Liaison group would now be looking at completing a cycling charter for event organisers. For more information on the cycling code contact Nigel Matthews at [nigel.matthews@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.matthews@newforestnpa.gov.uk) a copy of Nigel’s presentation is available on the NPA website at [New Forest consultative panel - New Forest National Park Authority](#)
- 5.3 Nigel then gave panel members the opportunity for a question and answer session, with the following being the main issues –
- It was asked how events would be policed and marshalled?  
Nigel commented that they are currently talking through the long term strategy for off road events and that on road events do not require permission however marshals are usually situated along the routes
  - It was requested that it would be useful to see the route for the next wobble ride which would be held in April.  
This can be found on their website at [www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk](http://www.ukcyclingevents.co.uk)
  - It was asked if the number of cyclists at events had been agreed to be reduced

Nigel advised the panel that at the moment the charter is in draft form and that they are still in discussions with cycle event organisations, however cycle events had agreed to reduce their numbers by 20%

## **ITEM 6**

### **UPDATE ON FORESTRY COMMISSION CHANGES – MIKE SEDDON**

- 6.1 Mike Seddon introduced his report updating panel members on the Woodland Policy Enabling Programme, commenting that this programme was how the Forestry Commission is taking forward forestry policy and institutional changes which arise from the Government's Forestry and Woodland Policy Statement (January 2013)..
- 6.2 Mike commented that the aim for the Woodland Policy enabling programme is –
- to lead to a sustainable business model for Public Forest Estate and associated new management organisation evolved from Forestry Commission
  - to lead to a resilient expert government forestry body to enable 'protect, improve, expand' in England
  - to ensure current corporate and cross border forestry services (e.g. forestry research) are delivered in an efficient and sustainable way
  - to establish clear governance structures and statutory framework for the above
- 6.3 From July to September 2013, the WPEP Consultation ran, overall 248 responses were received and generally the response was positive and people agreed with the overall direction.
- 6.4 New forestry legislation would be needed to take forward these changes, and given that current forestry legislation is nearly 50 years old, this is a once in a generation opportunity. Parliamentary time to develop this legislation is unlikely until after the next General Election.
- 6.5 For more information on the Forestry Commission changes contact Mike Seddon at [Michael.seddon@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.seddon@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) a copy of the presentation can be found on the website at [New Forest consultative panel - New Forest National Park Authority](#)

## **ITEM 8**

### **PANEL AGENDA SETTINGS**

- 8.1 It was requested that Julie Melin-Stubbs from the New Forest Land Advice Service or one of her team, attend the panel to give a presentation on the recent 'New Forest Wildlife Forums'

## **ITEM 9**

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1 Barry Olorenshaw asked if the NPA would be doing anything to celebrate the centenary of WW1 this year, Alison Barnes replied that she would be speaking to the team and would be ensuring something is put in place to recognise this occasion.
- 9.2 Mike Moriarty commented that the recent flooding had affected local housing and had requested that someone could attend the next North East quadrant meeting. Alison Barnes advised Mike that the Environment agency had been requested to attend the next meeting to advise on local flooding issues however they had advised that no one was available to attend.

- 9.3 Mike Seddon advised panel members that there had sadly been more cases of dog deaths in the forest, these had been in the Sway and Tiptoe area. Following toxicology reports vets believe that it is similar to the cases that were reported last year and advised that if a dog has a wound, lesion or blister on their body following a walk to gets vets advise straight away.
- 9.4 Alison Barnes updated panel members on the recent government grant that the NPA had received, she commented that this had been less than originally thought and that the NPA had been highly successful in attracting over £20m worth of funding from other sources.
- 9.5 Alison Barnes advised the panel that the NPA Management Plan would be looked at this year, the NPA are proposing not to re-write the plan from scratch but to look at the individual actions, how to achieve these and how to meet objections. Nick Evans should have much of this work completed by the spring and the NPA would welcome any views on this.

#### **ITEM 10**

#### **DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING**

- 10.1 Date of the next meeting would be **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 6 MARCH 2014** in the **Main Hall, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Brockenhurst** .

The meeting closed at 21.45 hrs.