

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 233rd Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 3 May 2012**

Those present: Tim Greenwood (In the Chair)  
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)  
Debbie Copping (Panel Secretariat)  
Jo Murphy (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**

Cllr Peter Turner, Breamore Parish Council  
Mrs Val Thorpe, Burley Parish Council  
Cllr Roly Errington, Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council  
Ron Pearson, NFD OG  
Cllr Edward Heron, NFDC  
John Thackray, Ramblers Association  
Alan Bollom, Hordle Parish Council  
Alison Barnes, New Forest National Park Authority  
Christine Ames, New Forest Tourism Association  
Robert Lintonbon, Godshill Parish Council

##### **1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS**

Mr Graham Baker, CPRE and New Forest Association  
Mark Larter, Natural England  
Mr Julian Johnson, New Forest National Park Authority  
Stephen Lorton, New Forest Tourism Association  
Bill Dunn, Redlynch Parish Council

##### **1.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Ian Taylor has decided to stand down as the Panel representative for Newforce. The organisation will advise in due course as to a replacement.
- Reminded Panel members to announce their name and organisation before speaking.

#### **ITEM 2**

##### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (1 March 2012)**

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

### **ITEM 3** **MATTERS ARISING**

- 3.1 Minute item 4.3 (Park Life Distribution): NFNPA to liaise with Copythorne Parish Council to arrange for more copies to be made available in future and to liaise with Wellow Post Office as a possible site. ***The Secretariat have forwarded additional copies to the Copythorne Parish Clerk and have requested the NPA's Communications Officer to contact West Wellow Post Office in the above regard.***
- 3.2 Cllr Moriarty (Copythorne Parish Council) reiterated that the issue was that as a consequence of many residents not receiving the Forest Post they do not receive a copy of Park Life. It was agreed that the Secretariat would ask the NPA Communications Team to liaise directly with Cllr Moriarty to better understand his concerns and to try to find a solution.

Action: Communications Team to liaise directly with Cllr Moriarty (Copythorne PC) with regard to his concerns relating to distribution of Park Life.

- 3.3 Minute item 8.1 (NPA Operational Plan): Julian Johnson (National Park Authority) explained that the NPA's Operational Plan was a one year plan based on the more detailed 4 year Business Plan (2011-2015). He confirmed that it had been reviewed in detail by the NPA's Scrutiny Panel and had then been approved by Members' of the Authority at the March Authority Meeting. More details could be found on the NPA's website [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/about-us/minutes\\_and\\_meetings](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/about-us/minutes_and_meetings)

### **ITEM 4** **NEW FOREST AWARD**

- 4.1 Richard Manley (Chairman of the New Forest Trust) explained to the panel that the New Forest Trust had created an award as part of the 2012 celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. He advised that the purpose for addressing the panel was to encourage its members to nominate individuals for the award who had made a significant contribution to the conservation of the New Forest. He stated that there was a £1000 cash prize and that the closing date was 31 May 2012.
- 4.2 Further details could be found on the New Forest Trust's website or by following the link <http://www.newforesttrust.org.uk/new-forest-award>

### **ITEM 5** **FORESTRY COMMISSION ITEMS**

- 5.1 Kevin Penfold (Acting Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission) updated the panel on the programme of works at Latchmore Brook. He drew the panel's attention to the Q&A section on the New Forest HLS website which was being updated regularly to address any concerns as they were raised. He explained that the Forestry commission were engaged in an ongoing dialogue with Hyde Parish Council and other interested groups in an attempt to understand local concerns and follow up any outstanding issues.
- 5.2 Ailsa Farrand (New Forest Equestrian Association) raised concern about access to the area owing to the wet ground and the effect the works would have on the paddocks downstream, since the water flow can vary considerably and gravel could wash down. She further commented that their members perceived that there was a

danger to both ridden horses and commoning stock from the string used to secure the heather bales.

- 5.3 Several other panel members agreed that there was a perception that the string from heather bales was hazardous to stock, however Kevin Penfold stressed that there was no evidence that strings had ever caused injury in the past. He invited members to suggest alternatives to string as a method of securing the heather. He further explained that the gravel used would be sourced from the Avon Valley and would therefore be from an area of similar geology. Additionally the majority of materials would be transported through the Sloden enclosure which would relieve pressure on the surrounding ground and the Forestry Commission would liaise with the Parish Council and HCC on vehicle movements.
- 5.4 Mr Penfold explained that Mike Seddon would be returning to the Forestry Commission in August, following his secondment to the Independent Forestry Panel and therefore would attend the meeting in September. He anticipated the Independent Forestry Panel's report would be published on or around 4 July 2012.
- 5.5 Mr Penfold indicated that the Forestry Commission had now published a new cycle map aimed at helping cyclists to keep to the way marked routes and that copies were available for panel members to take away after the meeting, along with the latest edition of the Forest Essential publication.

## **ITEM 6**

### **NEW FOREST CATCHMENT PILOT PROJECT**

- 6.1 Ian Barker (Ecologist, New Forest NPA) gave a short presentation on the ways that individuals can get involved with the Catchment Pilot Project and on how they can give their views on the water environment. He explained it was a DEFRA funded partnership project involving the Environment Agency and Pond Conservation which the NPA were facilitating. He explained that it had a relatively short timescale running from March to December 2012.
- 6.2 Further details and the presentation slides can be found on the New Forest National Park Authority's website at [http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/about-us/meetings\\_and\\_minutes/new\\_forest\\_consultative\\_panel](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/about-us/meetings_and_minutes/new_forest_consultative_panel) or by contacting Ian Barker directly at [ian.barker@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:ian.barker@newforestnpa.gov.uk).

## **ITEM 7**

### **NEW FOREST HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME - LiDAR**

- 7.1 Frank Green (Archaeologist, New forest NPA) gave a presentation on the laser mapping of the New Forest. He explained how LiDAR works and that the NPA now had images for the entire New Forest area including some outside the park boundary. He informed members that the project had been made possible by funding from the HLS Scheme and the World War II Project.
- 7.2 He explained that the images allowed officers to identify and locate sites of archaeology so they could be logged and assessed for future use. He stated that changes in vegetation and topography could also be detected. When asked whether the information was available to the public yet he explained that the New Forest History and Archaeology Group had a complete copy of the maps. Longer term, Mr Green stated the maps would be available at the Christopher Tower Library and also on the NPA's website.

**ITEM 8**  
**NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETINGS**

- 8.1 Julian Johnson (New Forest NPA) stated that a note regarding the Authority Meeting on 28 March 2012 had been circulated with the agenda. There were no questions from the Panel.

**ITEM 9**  
**STANDING OF THE PANEL**

- 9.1 David Stone (Panel Support Officer) explained that as described in the agenda the New Forest National Park Authority had offered to compile a comprehensive log of all the consultations it received to enable the Panel members to identify which were of interest and on which they would like to comment via the NPA.
- 9.2 There was some concern that there may be occasions when deadlines for comments could be missed owing to the infrequency of the Panel meetings. Mr Stone reassured members that in addition to an updated list being attached to every agenda, extra mailings would be provided between agendas if necessary.

**ITEM 10**  
**PANEL AGENDA SETTING**

- 10.1 Eddie Holtham (Denny Lodge Parish Council) explained that he had recently been to a very interesting talk by Naomi Ewald of Pond Conservation and he recommended that this would be an interesting topic for the Panel. It is believed that there could be some overlap with the New Forest Catchment Pilot Project (agenda item 6) so it was agreed that the Secretariat would liaise with Ian Barker (NPA Ecologist) to take this forward.

Action: Panel Secretariat to liaise with Ian Barker regarding the possibility of Naomi Ewald of Pond Conservation addressing the Panel.

**ITEM 11**  
**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 11.1 Sue Bennison (Bramshaw Parish Council) showed the Panel several photographs of the verge at Blackhill Road, Bramshaw. She explained that the tarmac edge of the road was being eroded and the verge had become boggy and churned up by the cattle. She believed that the land was in the ownership of the National Trust and that Hampshire County Council and Natural England had been involved in some restoration to the area approximately 18 months previously but that it had already returned to the very poor condition seen in the pictures. Mark Larter (Natural England) agreed to take the matter back to Natural England and to liaise directly with Sue Bennison on any actions agreed.

Action: Mark Larter to follow up with Jenny Thomas at Natural England to seek to restore the SSSI and to report back to Sue Bennison on any actions agreed.

- 11.2 Ken Hubbard (New Forest Access For All) advised the Panel he had recently downloaded a useful New Forest App onto his iPad. He explained it was quite general but provided good publicity for the area.

- 11.3 Ros cooper (Hampshire County Federation of Women's Institutes) asked whether there would be a Consultative Panel Tour this year. The Panel agreed Wednesday 19 September 2012 as a provisional date and Kevin Penfold invited members to email suggestions on subjects of particular interest to them which could be included in the tour itinerary.

Action: Panel members to email Kevin Penfold suggestions for the Consultative Panel Tour to [Kevin.penfold@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.penfold@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) .

- 11.4 Mike Moriarty (Copythorne Parish Council) advised the panel he had recently purchased the new edition of the New Forest Ordnance Survey map and was disappointed to discover that it had not been updated with the Forestry Commission's recent changes. Kevin Penfold stated that the Forestry Commission had supplied the information to the Ordnance Survey department that deal with amendments.
- 11.5 Tim Greenwood (Chairman) thanked Kevin for supporting the Consultative Panel whilst Mike Seddon was on secondment and wished him well for the future in his role as Head of Land Management.

## **ITEM 12**

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

- 10.1 Members supported the cancellation of the July meeting of the Panel and noted that the next Consultative Panel meeting would be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 6 September 2012** in the **Louisa Suite at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst.**

The meeting closed at 21.10 hrs.