

NF Consultative Panel 7 July 2011

FC Update

Since the panel last met on 12 May the internal consultation exercise on the future structure of the FC has concluded. On 23 May 2011 staff were presented with a position to which the organisation will work by March 2015.

This structure shows that the New Forest District will merge with parts of South East England and retain Queen's House as the main office for this new management area. The new district will be named South Forest District and form one of 6 units in England. The geographic boundaries of the South will reach from Dorset in the West, to West Sussex in the East. It will cover all of Hampshire and Surrey and will extend to South Wiltshire and South Berkshire in the North and the Isle of Wight in the South. Current staff contingent is approximately 149 and this will reduce to 125 by 2015. Due to the recruitment freeze of the last 12 months and following a number of resignations/retirements approximately 1/3 of the 24 losses have already occurred.

A voluntary exit scheme is currently running and decisions will be given to staff by the middle of August with successful staff expected to leave by 31 March 2012.

A focus on beats/walks and Estates is retained and it is expected that this structure will be up and running by 1 April 2012. Assimilation of staff and posts has commenced at a national level and it is anticipated that the majority of staff will be identified to posts by the end of the autumn.

Certain areas of work remain under review, for example Administration, Wildlife and Learning and locally we are reviewing options on the future of recreation infrastructure which will directly affect Burley Workshops. Nick Tucker is leading this review and the group is expected to report by September 2011.