

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

**Minutes of the 213<sup>th</sup> Meeting, held in the Council Chamber, New Forest District  
Council offices, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst, on  
THURSDAY, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

Those present:

Tim Greenwood (Chairman)

David Stone (Panel Support Officer)

Rosalind Alderman/Jo Murphy (Panel Clerk/Secretary)

Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received.

### **ITEM 1**

#### **APOLOGIES**

##### **1 APOLOGIES**

Peter Turner (Breamore Parish Council)

Rachel Green (Natural England)

Ian Taylor (newforce)

Edward Heron (New Forest District Council)

Steve Clarke (New Milton Town Council)

Mike Womersley (Redlynch Parish Council)

Richard Roberts (RSPCA)

Peter Brown (Camping and Caravan Club)

Lord Montagu (English Heritage)

Mary Lewis (New Forest Access for All)

#### **SUBSTITUTIONS**

Bruce Rothnie for the Forestry Commission

John Thackray for Ramblers' Association

Stephen Lorton for New Forest Tourism Association

Andrew Gordon for Natural England

#### **SPECIAL NOTE**

The Chairman welcomed the following new Panel representative:

Ms Sheila Campbell for Whiteparish Parish Council (not present)

### **ITEM 2**

#### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** (10 July 2008)

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

### **ITEM 3**

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

##### **a) Natural England Presentation**

3.1 Tim Greenwood announced that the Environment Agency had requested to attend the next Panel meeting regarding the fly tipping item circulated with this meeting's agenda.

**b) Update on BT Phone Boxes (min 7.2)**

3.2 Steve Trotter informed the Panel that the NPA had written to BT. The response from BT was that they have a scheme where local communities could adopt a kiosk. He invited members who were interested in the scheme to contact him for further details.

3.3 Alan Shotter (Marchwood Parish Council) told of his local school who had tried to purchase a phone box under such a scheme but without success. Steve Trotter agreed to furnish him with details of the scheme.

**c) Update on seasonal camping (min 7.4)**

3.4 Bruce Rothnie confirmed that Mike Seddon had written to Forest Holidays to ensure that Site Managers were updating the register of seasonal pitches. Forest Holidays would respond directly to Cllr Russell.

**d) Any Other Business (Item raised by Fawley Parish Council) (Min. 3.4)**

3.4 Eddie Holtham (Fawley Parish Council) raised the need for new parking facility nearer the main road as the existing ones were too small and the public were driving further into the Forest to park. Bruce Rothnie suggested a meeting with local Forestry Commission staff to investigate the issues further and undertook to liaise with Eddie Holtham after the meeting.

**e) Any Other Business (Item raised by Commoners' Defence Association)**

3.5 Several Panel members raised concerns with regards to repairing potholes which were encroaching onto the verges. Kevin Fuller (HCC – Highways) confirmed that they had a programme of pothole repair. Cllr. Bennison (Bramshaw PC) raised a specific issue at Pipers Wait. Kevin Fuller undertook to discuss the matter with Cllr. Bennison outside of the meeting.

**f) Any Other Business (Item raised by Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council)**

3.6 Several Panel members raised concerns about the amount of ragwort this year and the inconsistent approach to clearance on neighbouring areas of land. Tim Greenwood (Chairman) commented that it was a multi agency issue and suggested that the National Park Authority could coordinate the clearance effort in future years. Kevin Fuller (HCC – Highways) agreed that it had been a bumper year for ragwort and said that he had six crews out for most of the season.

**ITEM 4 AND ITEM 5**

Tim Greenwood advised that Items 4 and 5 on the agenda would be taken as one item and that questions would be taken after both presentations had been completed.

**ITEM 4**

**NATIONAL PARK PLAN**

4.1 Nick Evans (Senior Planner, New Forest National Park Authority) presented an overview of the National Park Plan which had been circulated to all Panel Members which was out for Public Consultation until 31 October 2008.

- 4.2 The draft National Park Plan set out the long-term vision and objectives for the National Park, together with the policies and actions for the next 5 years and beyond. It combined two important statutory documents in a single integrated plan. These were the National Park Management Plan and the Local Development Framework Core Strategy including Development Control policies.
- 4.3 He confirmed that in response to public concerns regarding the proposed policy on Recreational Horse Keeping the National Park Authority had produced an Explanatory Note and urged Panel members to read this in conjunction with the National Park plan.

## **ITEM 5**

### **RECREATION MANGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NATIONAL PARK**

- 5.1 Steve Trotter (Director of Conservation, Recreation and Sustainable Development, New Forest National Park Authority) presented an overview of the Recreation Management Strategy.
- 5.2 The draft Recreation Management Strategy set out the strategic direction for the management of outdoor recreation in the New Forest National Park over the coming 20 years. It sought to guide and influence recreation and spatial planning policy and implementation across the whole of the National Park and adjoining areas (insofar as the latter influences recreation within the National Park). The translation of policies into practical activity would be outlined in an action plan which would be developed with key partners over the next six months.
- 5.3 Panel members then raised various questions and comments including the following:
- Peter Roberts (New Forest Association) welcomed the documents as a serious attempt to address the issues facing the National Park and acknowledged there were areas for debate, specifically the Recreational Horse Keeping Policy. He confirmed that the NFA would be making a formal response which would be published on their website. He was more critical of the Recreation Management Plan and said it was good on ideas but weak on actions.
  - Cllr. French (Boldre PC) asked if the NPA could confirm that large areas of salt marshes were included in the Plan. Steve Trotter confirmed the park boundary extended to the low water mark and therefore it was included.
  - In response to a query Nick Evans advised that the Plan did not name specific areas but that the NPA was working on a Shoreline Management Plan to address coastal erosion issues.
  - Chris Aldhous (New Forest Equestrian Association) reported that the Association would produce a formal response to the documents and he hoped they could work with the NPA to produce an equitable outcome. He said that the policies should be based on valid data and gave detailed statistics regarding current horse ownership.
  - Peter Whapham (East Boldre Parish Council) raised concerns of access to the foreshore being denied by land owners.
  - Professor Evans (Institute of Chartered Foresters) suggested that the consultation date for both documents should be extended until after the next Panel meeting to give time for more discussion after individual groups had consulted with their members and to formulate a panel view on the documents. However, members subsequently agreed that this approach would not be practical due to the diverse range of bodies represented on the Panel and individual organisations were encouraged to submit their responses before the deadline.

- Mr Olorenshaw (New Forest Business Partnership) commented that care needed to be taken not to put too much emphasis on the Recreational Horse Keeping policy as there was a lot more to the Plan than that. He felt it was deficient in its regard for the local economy.
- Cllr. Bennison (Bramshaw PC) confirmed that she had raised the issue of pony paddocks with the panel previously and felt that the Recreational Horse Keeping Policy was a tool for planners and enforcement officers to take action against the minority of people who spoil the landscape.

5.4 Tim Greenwood thanked the Panel for the challenging debate.

#### **ITEM 6**

#### **NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETING**

6.1 There was nothing to add to the item circulated with agenda.

#### **ITEM 7**

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 Cllr. Clarke (Ringwood Town Council) said it would be known by mid October if SEERA had accepted the Mineral Plan. If not accepted he warned that the debate would re-emerge.

#### **ITEM 8**

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

8.1 The next Consultative Panel meeting will be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 6 November 2008** in the Council Chamber, New Forest District Council offices, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst.

The meeting closed at 21.20 hours.