

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 219th Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 3 September 2009

Those present: Tim Greenwood (Chairman)
David Stone (Panel Support Officer)
Rosalind Alderman (Panel Clerk/Secretary)
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

1.1 APOLOGIES

Mark Abbott, Lyndhurst Parish Council
Olive Collins, New Forest Access for All
Phil Dupres, Bransgore Parish Council
Ian Mason-Smith, Hampshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Ray Miles and John Thackray, Ramblers Association
Simon Moody, Environment Agency
Lord Montagu, English Heritage
Jo Russell, Denny Lodge Parish Council
Jacquie Shaw, Totton Town Council
Peter Turner, Breamore Parish Council
James Young, Commoners Defence Association

1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

Bill Dunn, Redlynch Parish Council
Barrie Foley, New Forest National Park Authority
Chris Lemon, New Forest Dog Owners Group
Stephen Lorton, New Forest Tourism Association
Jackie Kelly, Natural England

1.3 NEW REPRESENTATIVE

The Chairman welcomed Ros Cooper, who had replaced Mary Barnes as the representative for the Hampshire County Federation of Women's Institute.

ITEM 2

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (2 July 2009)

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.

3.2 Before formally opening the meeting Tim Greenwood (Chairman) commented that he believed the new layout was an improvement on the previous meeting and that he hoped the Panel agreed.

3.3 Alan Shotter (Marchwood Parish Council) asked whose decision it had been to change the venue. He believed that the Council Chamber was a better forum

because it was easier to see other panel members and he had concerns over the limited parking arrangements.

- 3.4 Tim Greenwood (Chairman) explained to the Panel that the reasons for moving included costs but were primarily health and safety which had been of concern for some time. He added that the delay in receiving the microphone was a disadvantage.
- 3.5 David Stone (Panel Support Officer) explained that his main concern was being able to safely evacuate 80 plus people from the Chamber which had only one exit, particularly given that there were no District Council Officers available to assist due to the meeting being held out of hours. He acknowledged that the caretaker was on site but not necessarily in the vicinity of the room.
- 3.6 Edward Heron (New Forest District Council) offered to assist with any cost negotiations going forward and suggested that any health and safety concerns should be raised with New Forest District Council as they may be relevant to other meetings held in the room.
- 3.7 Barrie Foley (New Forest National Park Authority) offered to review both the cost and health and safety issues and advised that a response with findings would be forwarded to Panel Members before the next meeting.
- 3.8 Tim Greenwood (Chairman) formally opened the meeting following the above debate.

Action: Barrie Foley to review the venue for future meetings and David Stone to write to Panel Members before the next meeting to clarify the issues and confirm the location of the next meeting.

ITEM 4

FORESTRY COMMISSION

- 4.1 **Community Waterside ranger**
Mike Seddon (Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission) introduced Sandy Phillips, the Forestry Commission's Community Waterside Ranger. Sandy then gave an interesting presentation on her work in the Southampton waterside communities.
- 4.2 Sandy explained that one of the key projects she had been involved in was "Child of the Wild" which had tackled anti social behaviour through education and activities. Sandy pointed out that her work with the local Fire Brigade had dramatically reduced the number of fires on the forest edge.
- 4.3 Mike Seddon confirmed that Sandy's position had now been made permanent but stressed that she worked as part of a team and that many volunteers were involved in taking the project forward.
- 4.4 **Open habitats policy**
Mike Seddon drew the Panel's attention to the consultation carried out during the late spring and early summer. He explained that over 220 responses had been received and that they expressed varying views; some felt woodland should be maintained to combat climate change whilst others felt that open habitats should be restored to provide more suitable environments for wildlife. He explained that all the responses and further information could be found on the Forestry Commission website.

- 4.5 Mike Seddon reminded Panel Members to let the Forestry Commission know if they intended to attend the Panel tour on 16 September.
- 4.6 He also distributed copies of the winter car park closure maps, and drew members' attention to a freepost questionnaire that had been tabled regarding the current consultation on the public forest estate.

ITEM 5

NON NATIVE SPECIES PROJECT

- 5.1 Catherine Chatters, New Forest Non-native Plants Officer at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, gave a presentation on the impact of non-native plant species in the New Forest and what could be done to eliminate them.
- 5.2 Catherine explained to the Panel that the project would focus on 5 species; Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, American Skunk cabbage and New Zealand Pygmy Weed, all of which are prolific and thrive in rivers and wetland areas. She explained that one of the early aims of the project was to raise awareness of the problem with landowners to prevent people inadvertently planting or spreading the problem species.
- 5.3 Catherine advised the panel that she would welcome the opportunity to talk to the community in general and for example, would be happy to address Parish Council meetings. If Panel Members wished to organise a talk in their local community they can contact Catherine directly. Further details of the project can be found at <http://www.hwt.org.uk/pages/new-forest-non-native-plants-project.html>

ITEM 6

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.1 There was no other business on this occasion.

ITEM 7

DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING

- 71 The next Consultative Panel meeting would be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2009** in the **Louisa Suite at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst.**

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm.