

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 220th Meeting, held in the Louisa Suite, Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst, on THURSDAY, 5 November 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

Peter Turner, Breamore Parish Council
Mike Chilcott, Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
Peter Brown, Caravan and Camping Club
Tony Barnett, Caravan Club
Lord Montagu, English Heritage
Peter Whapham, East Boldre Parish Council
Eddie Holtham, Fawley Parish Council
Ros Cooper, Hampshire Federation of Women's Institutes
John Durnell, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Professor Evans, Institute of Chartered Foresters
Sandra Pearce, Redlynch Parish Council
Richard Roberts, RSPCA
Wendy Simpson, Wellow Parish Council
Stewart Hall, Woodgreen Parish Council

1.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

Bridget Taylor, Burley Parish Council
Geraint James, Copythorne Parish Council
Helen Corvus, Friends of the Earth
David Richardson, Hampshire County Council Highways
Jackie Kelly, Natural England
Ron Pearson, New Forest Dog Owners' Group
Barrie Foley, New Forest National Park Authority
Stephen Lorton, New Forest Tourism Association

1.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Panel were advised that John Gardiner, Agricultural and Allied Workers National Trade Group, had retired from the Panel. The Chairman recalled that Mr Gardiner was one of the original members of the Consultative Panel and suggested that he should write to Mr Gardiner, on behalf of the Panel, to thank him for his contribution over the years. This suggestion was supported by members.

ITEM 2

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (3 September 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.

ITEM 4 **FORESTRY COMMISSION**

4.1 Study of the Public Estate - update

Mike Seddon (Deputy Surveyor, Forestry Commission) explained that over 2000 organisations had responded to the recent consultation and thanked those representatives present who had been involved. He pointed out that there had also been a significant response from members of the public and that post code analysis showed that a high number came from individuals in the New Forest area.

4.2 Roly Errington (Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley Parish Council) enquired whether the high level local interest would warrant a more local consultation. Mike Seddon explained that at this stage there were no plans but that the next one was planned for 2010.

4.3 Forestry Commission Study Tour

The Chairman thanked Mike Seddon for organising the Study Tour and commented that he had received a great deal of positive feedback.

ITEM 5 **SSSI RESTORATION WORKS**

5.1 Simon Weymouth (Ecologist) gave a presentation on the SSSI restoration works undertaken by the Forestry Commission since the Life3 project finished in 2006. He explained that the New Forest was one of the largest SSSI areas in the UK and that about 6000 hectares of this habitat had been deemed to be in an unsatisfactory condition. Following work carried out over the last 2 years this had been reduced to 4000 hectares.

5.2 He explained that much of the work involved replacing meanders in streams that had been artificially straightened and restoring drainage ditches with imported local material. Mr Weymouth highlighted the benefits of using tramways to transport material and explained that this had reduced the amount of damage caused by machinery to the ground and enabled the teams to work on larger sites.

5.3 Several Panel members advised that they were familiar with sites that had undergone work and they were generally supportive of the project and congratulated the team on the results that had been achieved.

ITEM 6 **UPDATE ON THE REVISED DRAFT OF THE NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

6.1 Barrie Foley (New Forest National Park Authority) explained that the original document had been sub-divided into two sections; firstly the Management Plan containing the 20 year vision which had recently been published, and secondly the Core Strategy, containing the planning policies which would be available in December. The Recreation Management Strategy would be the final document due for publication in February.

- 6.2 Mr Foley outlined some of the main changes to the Management Plan, explaining that the tone was now more supportive. He informed the Panel that there had been far fewer responses to this latest version than to the initial consultation. He acknowledged that the New Forest Association had raised concerns as they felt the latest version did not go far enough in protecting the Forest and supporting conservation issues.
- 6.2 Peter Roberts (New Forest Association) observed that the NFA could recommend much of the plan but not all and commented that they felt it lacked strategic aim.
- 6.3 Chris Aldhous (New Forest Equestrian Association) considered that the latest draft represented the general consensus of the workshops he had attended, whilst Rob Dewing (New Forest Business Partnership) confirmed that the business community were delighted with the reworked plan.
- 6.4 Peter Frost expressed concern that if everyone was content then the Plan had gone too far the other way to the detriment of conservation, and that he had preferred the stronger stance set out in the original draft.

ITEM 7

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEETINGS

- 7.1 A report from the NPA meeting on 24 September 2009 was circulated with the agenda and Barrie Foley (NPA) updated the Panel on some of the topics discussed at the Authority meeting on 29 October 2009. He highlighted some of the projects that had been supported by the Sustainable Development Fund and explained that Lymington Town Hall was being investigated as a site for the NPA's permanent base.
- 7.2 Alan Shotter (Marchwood Parish Council) commented that he was delighted to see the NPA, NFDC and HCC all objecting to the ABP Masterplan and the potential expansion of Southampton Port into Dibden Bay and that this support was valuable to Marchwood Parish Council.

ITEM 8

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Geraint James (Copythorne Parish Council) enquired as to whether there was a web page to promote the Panel. David Stone (Panel Support Officer) advised that the agendas and minutes are available on the New Forest National Park website and can be found by following the link below:
http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/aboutus/meetings_and_minutes/new_forest_consultative_panel.htm
- 8.2 Geraint James also asked which agencies in the New Forest were responsible for fly tipping issues and to whom should incidents be reported. Edward Heron (New Forest District Council) advised that incidents should be reported to "101", the non emergency police telephone number. Mike Seddon explained that the issue of fly tipping was being tackled across Hampshire with a multi agency approach managed by the Environment Agency.

ITEM 9

DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING

- 9.1 The next Consultative Panel meeting would be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 7 JANUARY 2010** in the **Louisa Suite at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, Lyndhurst.**

The meeting closed at 8.36 pm.