

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held in the Pine Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2019**

**Those present:** Simon Smith (Forestry England Interim Chairman)  
Jo Murphy (Panel Secretariat)  
Debbie Copping (Panel Secretariat)

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

#### **1 Apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Harry Oram (Chairman)  
Alison Barnes (New Forest National Park Authority)  
Alison Hoare (New Forest District Council)  
Bruce Rothnie (Forestry England)  
Martin Fletcher (Royal Forestry Society)  
Brian Trimmer (Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council)  
Rob Waite (Environment Agency)  
Purgle Linham (Natural England)

#### **1.2 Substitutes**

Petronella Nattrass for Hannah Marsh (British Horse Society)  
Cllr Neal Martin for Robert Clarke (Burley Parish Council)  
Cllr Sylvia Wiggins for Cllr John Goodwin (Copythorne Parish Council)  
Cllr John Goodwin new replacement for Cllr Mike Moriarty

#### **1.3 New Representatives**

Pamela Keen – Norleywood and District Society.

#### **2 Interim Chairman**

- 2.1 Simon Smith introduced himself as Head of Land Management for the South East section of Forestry England and advised that he had been requested by the Panel Chairman to act as interim Chairman for the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and Bruce Rothnie.

#### **3 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 7 March 2019**

- 3.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### **4 New Forest National Park Authority Update – Steve Avery**

- 4.1 Steve Avery advised the Panel that the Local Plan examination process was nearing completion. A hearing took place on 21 March 2019 to consider the Ashurst Hospital site where up to 30 dwellings had been provided for in the Plan. A letter had since been received from the Inspectors advising that they were now in agreement with the Plan, subject to a small number of amendments including deleting one of the site allocations at Calshot (30 dwellings) which would be replaced by the allocation at Ashurst Hospital.
- 4.2 Fifty percent was the target allocation for affordable housing in the Plan but this was not an absolute number. Under the new Plan, an affordable housing levy would be required for developments of three or more houses; there was support for Commoners housing in the Plan and the current 30% rule would be retained. The six week consultation period had ended the previous week.
- 4.3 Mr Avery said that the New Forest District Council's Local Plan examination had now started (6 June) and a significant part of their Plan concerned the Waterside Developments. Two applications had been received, one to NFDC regarding proposed development of the 49 hectare site at Fawley. A second application had been submitted to the NPA concerning a proposed development of 120 houses on property adjacent to the Fawley site.
- 4.4 The above were the most significant applications received in 30 years. A further application had been received in connection with the refinery on the Exxon Mobil site and an application was expected from The Association of British Ports at Dibden Bay to extend the current port facilities.
- NFDC – Totton and Marchwood site allocations
- 4.5 Mr Avery referred to proposals submitted to the NPA by Hampshire County Council for work on Holmsley bridge on the A35. The bridge would be replaced by Hampshire County Council and under a traffic management plan temporary diversions would be put in place.
- 4.6 Referring to the undergrounding of cables at Hale Purlieu, Mr Avery advised that this project had been paused by National Grid and it was unlikely that anything would happen this year.
- 4.7 Mr Avery referred to work being undertaken on the Partnership Plan and advised this was a document providing a future vision for the National Park and fed into documents such as the State of the Park report. The Plan was relevant to all organisations with statutory responsibilities. Partners were working on the Plan which was expected to be launched at the New Forest Show and finalised towards the end of next year. An update on the Plan was a potential agenda item for the Panel.
- 4.8 On the problem of verge parking, Mr Avery advised that an Encroachment Working Party had been established, chaired by the Official Verderer and included the Police and other statutory bodies. Mr Smith advised that two staff

members from the New Forest section of Forestry England were dedicated to preventing verge encroachment.

- 4.9 Mr Avery reported that there were a number of changes to the membership of the National Park - Pat Wyeth and Richard Frampton did not stand for the local government elections and two new members had been appointed by the New Forest District Council. There were also two Secretary of State vacancies on the NPA with 18 applications received. The NPA was working towards these appointments being in place by the Annual Authority meeting on 11 July.
- 4.10 Mr Avery said that work on the Recreation Management Strategy was continuing to be taken forward by the RMS Steering Group and a report would be presented at the Annual Authority meeting of the NPA on 11 July.
- 4.11 Mr Avery updated the Panel regarding a six acre site outside Bransgore – the owner applied for incidental storage for caravans on the site in 2007 through a Certificate of Lawfulness, which was granted. In April of this year, heavy plant had been moved onto the site and trees removed, it was learned that the site had been acquired by a development company with the intention of significantly intensifying the use of the site without further planning permission. The initial usage was for 10 or 15 caravans on the site and an application had been made to the New Forest District Council for 80 permanent residential caravans. This had highlighted a loophole in the current legislation which needed to be addressed at least for National Parks and which was being brought to the attention of the Government.

## **5 Forestry England Update – Simon Smith**

- 5.1 Referring to the New Forest Design Plan, Simon Smith advised that Forestry England was still waiting the determination of the Environment Impact Assessment from Forest Services for the deforestation elements of the Plan for the inclosures of the Forest – this was expected in the next week and the Panel would be updated at the next meeting.
- 5.2 Mr Smith advised that from 1 April 2019, the Forestry Commission was now Forestry England with the devolution of forestry in Scotland to the Scottish Government, the New Forest would continue to remain part of the South East district. Changes on the ground might be quite slow with the rebranding of vehicles and uniforms and replacement of signs. There would be no change to the delivery of services to the public.
- 5.3 Mr Smith reminded members regarding the heightened risk of wild fires and advised that there had already been a few small fires, either deliberate or accidental. Preventative measures included increased signage, banning campfires and providing advice to the public on safe management of BBQs.
- 5.4 He said that Forestry England had received the UK River Award for the FE's work with stakeholders on stream restoration.

**6 Any Other Business**

6.1 There was no further business on this occasion.

**7 Date of the next meeting**

7.1 The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 5 September 2019 at 7.30pm at Lyndhurst Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm