

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
AUTHORITY MEETING – 11 JULY 2019**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Summary:

This report covers the period since the Authority meeting on 28 March 2019. The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper and Achieving Excellence' themes from the 2018-21 Business Plan, summarised below:

Protect	Enjoy	Prosper
<p><i>Our priorities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Protecting and growing the natural capital across the National park Landscape, connecting with surrounding areas to ensure habitats and wildlife are sustainable. * Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park, promoting high quality design and environmental net gain. * Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning. 	<p><i>Our priorities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Helping more people to understand and value the things that make the New Forest National Park unique and special. * Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park. * Facilitating a partnership approach to managing recreation to achieve a net gain for both the working and natural landscape as well as for the recreational experience. 	<p><i>Our priorities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Supporting a distinctive and prosperous local economy where natural capital is an integral component of doing business. * Promoting connectivity across the National Park through sustainable transport and information and communication technologies. * Supporting the social wellbeing and sustainability of New Forest Communities.
Achieving Excellence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Maintaining and enhancing a capable, motivated team that delivers high quality service. * Championing the National Park and brokering partnership to achieve collaboration for the benefit of the New Forest and its communities * Identifying new resources and using them alongside our existing resources, effectively and efficiently. 		

Recommendation:
To note the report

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Equality & Diversity Implications:

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.

NFNPA 574/19

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

My report for the final quarter of the 2018/19 financial year shows important progress across our themes of Protect, Enjoy and Prosper.

Under 'Protect' our planning team determined 117 planning applications (with 85% approval), saw an uplift in enforcement cases and received the application for the Fawley Power Station site area within the National Park. The main modifications for our Local Plan have also been consulted upon and we are expecting the final report from the Inspector in the next few weeks, after which our Local Plan will come to Full Authority for adoption.

As well as delivering on budget and exceeding many of its targets such as for volunteer hours, the Our Past Our Future (OPOF) Lottery Heritage Fund Scheme received good news that 12 projects are extended for another year, including Working Woodlands, New Forest Invasive Non-Native Plants, Natures Stepping Stones, Heritage on my Doorstep, Shared Forest, Wild Play and Monitoring Biodiversity. Key OPOF events in this period included 'Dig Burley', with Burley Local History Society and Burley Parish Council and a new exhibition at St Barbe Museum: 'Command of the Seas: The Navy and the New Forest against Napoleon', which tells the story of the New Forest's use for Navy timber planting and ship building.

Our proactive wildlife campaign to increase understanding of why the Forest is so important for species and habitats has been gathering pace at a time when nationally and internationally we are seeing worrying trends for our biodiversity. A special bumper-sized edition wildlife issue of Park Life was published featuring how we and partners work together to protect wildlife and what people can do as part of Year of Green Action (YOGA). The New Forest Show stand theme is 'Be inspired by New Forest Nature' to mark YOGA and 70 years of National Parks. Meanwhile, our special YOGA microgrant scheme aimed at young people has had great uptake – over £6,000 has been awarded to 43 schools and groups for a range of projects including establishing wildlife gardens and composting areas, building bug hotels and raised beds and purchasing tools and litter-picking equipment.

This spring, the New Forest Land Advice service helped 86 commoners submit their claims for rural payment for farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy. This is a very complicated process each year as commoning – which sustains the New Forest's

protected habitats – does not fit the usual application process for farmers. For the second year we asked for voluntary donations for the service raising £2,700, up from £1,800 last year.

A major milestone for us and Open Forest partners was the final AGM of the Verderer's Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Scheme. Over 150 people of a wide range of ages and interests attended the event at Minstead Village Hall to celebrate the achievements of the 10-year scheme. We were delighted that the wetland work, which has restored over 20 miles of streams over the scheme's lifetime, won the UK River Prize. On presenting the prize, the managing director of the River Restoration Centre said: 'It was impossible to ignore the huge amount of work that this partnership has undertaken over the nine years leading to the improvement and protection of rare wetland habitat.' Considerable work is also underway, including through briefing officials, MPs and Ministers, to ensure we can secure a successor scheme for the HLS in 2020 as we move towards EU-Exit. This is crucial to maintaining the Forest's unique natural and cultural environment.

In conjunction with the Freshwater Habitats Trust we were very pleased to win Defra funding to continue our Catchment Partnership work for another year. Work includes helping with practical improvements to the catchment areas following a series of site visits and opportunities to meet with local landowners and managers who have helped deliver improvements to the water environment. We are also looking forward to working with the Beaulieu Estate at the New Forest Show to promote greater appreciation of the high quality of the New Forest's water environment and water reliant habitats.

Under our 'Enjoy' theme, we welcomed our seasonal rangers and travel ambassadors as our events and outreach programme entered its busiest time. We have had nearly 9,000 face to face contacts at ranger events this quarter, including at Tiptoe May Fayre, Bransgore Fun Day, Wild Wednesdays at the Reptile Centre, Beaulieu Road pony sales and Roydon Woodfair.

We greatly increased coverage of the need to protect ground-nesting birds and how people can help, communications have had a reach so far of nearly 300,000 people, video views of over 68,000 and social media engagement of 22,000. We supported the launch of the all-important 'Keep Your Distance' campaign to discourage pony feeding and petting and joined forces with Forestry England rangers to present 'Wild About Ponies' sessions and engage with members of the public at hotspots such as Bolton's Bench and Hatchet Pond. The annual 'Spring Clean' campaign, with our partners including NFDC, FE and community volunteers, engaged 1,200 people with 1,200 bags of rubbish collected; the accompanying litter assemblies reaching 11,000 children from 46 schools since January 2019.

Much of our work under 'Prosper' this quarter has been focussed on engaging partners in the Green Halo Partnership, in which we play a lead role. We are working through the partnership to champion a 'natural capital approach', where the benefits that nature gives us are at the heart of decisions about our communities and environment. We were

delighted to secure an opportunity for the Chairman of the Government's Natural Capital Committee, Professor Dieter Helm, to host a business roundtable in early April. Following this event, we have been able to engage with the Local Enterprise Partnerships and help them include Natural Capital considerations in the Local Industrial Strategies they are currently preparing. This is a big step forward, with more key partners and businesses acknowledging the importance of maintaining and enhancing our natural assets for the prosperity of our area.

I was pleased to be asked to talk at the AGM of Friends of the New Forest in May. This provided an opportunity to reflect with important Forest partners on the challenges ahead for the New Forest National Park; very timely as we await the findings of the Glover Review of protected landscapes (due in the Autumn) and as we start work on updating our Partnership Plan over the coming months. Never has there been a more important time to redouble our efforts to work together as the context in which the Forest sits changes ever rapidly; we need to give greater clarity on what we can do together to protect our wildlife and heritage, to keep our focus on achieving sympathetic land-use through planning and land management schemes and to ensure we devote our attention to engaging more people in caring for what is special about the National Park. Today we are pleased to be joined by our partners working together on 'Future Forest'; this represents an important moment where we can come together to act to secure the Forest for generations to come.

DELIVERY OF NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper' objectives from the 2018-21 Business Plan, a summary of which is set out on the first page. In addition, a fourth section, 'Achieving Excellence', summarises those activities that support and contribute overall to all our work, and the final section lists Members' activities and events.

1 Protect

Protecting and growing the natural capital across the National Park landscape, connecting with surrounding areas to ensure habitats and wildlife are sustainable.

Our Past, Our Future (OPOF) Landscape Partnership Scheme

Patrick Heneghan, Secretary of State appointed member of the NFNPA, has joined as the new Chairman of the OPOF LPS. His primary focus will be the legacy of the scheme along with maintaining its momentum and good work.

A year three review of projects, progress and budgets has been completed and was reported to the OPOF Board and Heritage Fund in May. The main findings were as follows:

- Three-and-a-half years through the five years of the scheme (70% through). 73.3% of the overall budget has been spent, across capital, activity and other budget codes.
- Many scheme-wide targets have already been met and surpassed. It is anticipated that, Scheme wide, all targets will be met by the end of the project.
- In most cases the targets for the individual projects will be met or exceeded by the end of the Scheme, however there are a couple of exceptions, which will either be within acceptable limits or can be justified.
- All 'cash' matched funding has been secured. The value of volunteer time and non-cash contributions across the Scheme is likely to exceed the value included in the original bid (although some projects are under and some are over).
- Predicted underspend/overspends have been assessed across the Scheme and options for reallocation identified which have been agreed by the Board and by the Heritage Fund. This includes extensions to 12 projects to spring/summer 2020. This is still within the current Scheme timescale as the grant expiry date is end of November 2020. Projects include Working Woodlands, New Forest Invasive Non-Native Plants, Natures Stepping Stones, Rediscovering Our Archaeological Heritage, Historic Routes, Rural Skills, Heritage on my Doorstep,

New Forest Connects, Shared Forest, Through our Ancestors Eyes, Wild play and Monitoring Biodiversity. This will include extensions to project officers' contracts to allow them to undertake further work.

Work on some OPOF projects is reported elsewhere in this report but some key highlights are reported below:

- Burley Local History Society and Burley Parish Council took part in 'Dig Burley' as part of the Heritage on My Doorstep project. 50 test pits were excavated across Burley and three workshops were delivered by experts on pottery, flint and bone. An evening talk by Tim Taylor producer of Time Team at Burley Manor was attended by 130. Work is now progressing on writing up the results.
- We are working with St Barbe Museum and Milford on Sea Historical Records Society on an exhibition: 'Command of the Seas: The Navy and the New Forest against Napoleon'. It will tell the story of the New Forest's use for Navy Timber planting and ship building. The exhibition will start in June 2019.
- Jack Brown from Bournemouth University has been on a placement with the archaeologists and has undertaken a research project which looked to record excavations across Roman pottery kilns found in the north of the National Park. Using geophysics and help from volunteers the research has found new features, as well as pinning down the locations of scheduled monuments that were excavated nearly 100 years ago. Read his blog here:
<https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/blog/my-placement-discovering-the-new-forest/>
- The 'Commoning Voices' exhibition has been to SPUDWorks in Sway and will go on to the New Forest Show, Ringwood, Moors Valley and other locations providing multiple engagement opportunities to raise awareness and understanding about commoning in the New Forest.
- 18,000 items from the Christopher Tower Library have now been digitised by volunteers through the Ecademy project. Volunteer Patrick Keane made a chance exciting discovery about his family history while volunteering with the Ecademy project. He wrote an article about it which can be read here:
<https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/an-accidental-discovery/#map=10/-1.58/50.87/0/22:0:0.6|37:1:1|38:1:1>
- The 2019 New Forest Knowledge Conference will be on 1 November in Lyndhurst and the focus this year will be on the built environment in the New Forest in response to the revised Pevsner Architectural Guide that was released in 2018

- A volunteer celebration event was attended by over 60 people in Brockenhurst on 5 April in order to thank the volunteers for their work on all the OPOF projects over the past three years.
- Volunteer work parties started the Himalayan Balsam pulls in May as part of the HIWWT's Non Native Invasive Plants project. These will continue over the summer months.

New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS)

The NFLAS advisors assisted 86 farmers and landowners with their Basic Payment Scheme applications over a six-week period to the 15 May. This has proved a welcome and valuable service for many New Forest land managers and over £2,700 was given to NFLAS in donations in recognition of the support the advisors provide.

The Freshwater Habitats Trust published a report on water quality in the Avon Valley in May. NFLAS were commissioned to help deliver the survey work which has identified a number of areas where water quality could be improved through improved management of septic tanks, equine paddocks and campsites in the Avon water catchment.

New Forest Catchment Partnership

The Partnership has successfully secured funding from the National Defra Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) network to assist facilitation of the partnership this financial year. This in combination with successful bids to the Environment Agency for capital funding has enabled a programme of work to be planned for this year, led by our partner the Freshwater Habitats Trust.

We recently reviewed achievements and plans for the future with partners in the catchment by means of a series of site visits and opportunities to meet with local landowners and managers who have helped deliver improvements to the water environment. Work in the next quarter will focus on delivering public engagement opportunities in partnership with the Beaulieu Estate at the New Forest Show to promote greater appreciation of the high quality of the New Forest's water environment and water reliant habitats.

We attended the catchment partnership meeting of the Test and Itchen Partnership whose work includes areas such as the River Blackwater in the north of the National Park. We are hoping to collaborate more closely with the catchments on the edges of the National Park to facilitate more resources for project delivery in partnership with landowners, this will build on the successful work they are already starting to deliver.

National Grid - Visual Impact Provision (VIP) Project and Landscape Enhancement Initiative (LEI) programmes

National Grid and their Stakeholder Advisory Group made the decision to pause the VIP project to potentially underground the high voltage line that crosses Hale Purlieu. National Grid explained in a press release that complex legal processes involved in the preparation of the planning application would extend the timeline of the project beyond Ofgem's current price control period that ends in 2021. If Ofgem decides to continue the VIP project into the next price control period (2021 to 2026) then the Hale Purlieu project may be reconsidered to be progressed to the planning application stage.

We still await a response from Ofgem on the LEI application for Landford Bog and we are in contact with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to update them on any news.

The Expression of Interest submitted to the LEI programme for Franchises Lodge was successful and National Grid invited the NPA to make a full application by the deadline of 10 May. NPA officers worked closely with RSPB and an application was successfully submitted by the deadline. The maximum funding of £200,000 was applied for to fund rhododendron removal, footpath improvement, renovation of 3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and removal of fly-tipped building rubble.

1.1 Ensuring new development is sympathetic and in keeping with the National Park, promoting high quality design and environmental net gain.

Development Management

We received 127 applications in the period 18 April to 18 June and in the same period determined 117 applications with an approval rate of 85%.

We have received a major outline application relating to land adjacent to Fawley power station in Fawley for 120 new homes, 300 square metres of new civic space, 200 square metres of drinking establishments, a two form entry primary school, early years provision, public open space and habitat enhancement of existing land, hard and soft landscaping, Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), a saline lagoon, tidal creek, reconfiguration of the existing access and creation of a new access from the B3053 and access road through the site, associated infrastructure and engineering works. The application has been submitted concurrently with an outline application to New Forest District Council for the comprehensive redevelopment of the former power station site for 1,380 new homes, 102,600 square metres of new commercial, civic and employment space, enlargement of the dock and creation of a canal within part of the turbine hall basement, refurbishment of the remainder of the turbine hall basement to create a 2,100 space car park, a boat stack, public open space, SANG, primary access road through the site, flood defences / sea wall, raising site level, hard and soft landscaping, associated infrastructure and engineering works. The applications are currently being assessed by the relevant Authorities.

Nine appeal decisions have been received. Four were dismissed and five allowed.

We are pleased to welcome Claire Woolf to the Development Management Team as a Planning Officer.

Ecology

The period has seen requests for ecological input into over 32 development control cases in the National Park area, and as part of the Authority providing advice to the District Council over 52 consultation requests have been received. In addition, there has been significant input into the Fawley Waterside application and other major development within the District. During the period we helped to facilitate a workshop on streamlining approaches to great crested newt protection as part of development with Natural England and ecological advisers to planning authorities in Hampshire.

Trees

Trees play a vital part in the New Forest's character and communities. Our tree team offers advice and support on arboricultural matters meeting the requisite deadlines for the determination of tree work applications, making Tree Preservation Orders and consultation responses on planning applications.

Since 1 April 2019 and the end of the NFDC Service Level Agreement, we have completed the following statutory functions along with advice to the general public, internally and other external bodies:

- 113 tree work applications received
- Three Tree Preservation Orders were made where it was considered that premature removal or extensive pruning of the trees would result in the loss of an amenity to the local environment
- 43 responses to Development Management consultations provided

Biosecurity

We are working to promote best practice with biosecurity. This refers to a set of precautions that aim to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. These include non-native tree pests, such as insects, and disease-causing organisms, called pathogens, such as some bacteria and fungi. Tree pests and diseases can be transported between or within countries via a number of pathways, and there has been a significant increase in the number of non-native tree pests and diseases being introduced to the United Kingdom since the early 2000s. This demonstrates the need for us all to take action to provide our trees, woods and forests with greater protection. By implementing appropriate biosecurity measures, we can significantly reduce the risk of introducing and spreading tree pests and diseases. We have acquired a biosecurity kit to encourage staff to clean and disinfect their shoes, paws and wheels. The link below

provides guidance on what can be done to prevent tree pests and diseases from getting established, or prevent or slow their spread and the damage they do:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-introduction-and-spread-of-tree-pests-and-diseases#public>

Planning Enforcement

The Planning Enforcement team currently has around 144 live enforcement cases being investigated at various stages of investigation and monitoring. The significant uplift over the year continues, also reflecting the complexities of some cases and the investigations necessary particularly when trying to review the history and established lawful uses. A total of 180 new enforcement cases have been opened in the first six months of 2019.

Continuing types of complaints resolve around the use of outbuildings for habitable rooms / dwellings, encroachment of gardens into agricultural land, mobile homes, earth and rubble tipped ground level changes, short term licensed caravan/camping sites and extensions not in accordance with approved plans.

The newly created Planning Compliance and Legal Support officer was operational from 1 July. With the internal redistribution of other work this enables greater priority to be given to compliance checking of planning related conditions and legal agreements.

Policy

Following the conclusion of the final Local Plan Examination hearing session on 21 March 2019, the Inspectors wrote to us regarding the schedule of proposed main modifications that are considered necessary to the Submission draft Local Plan. These main modifications were subject to a final six-week consultation which closed at the end of May 2019. Representations were received from 18 individuals and organisations and all of the comments received have been submitted to the Inspectors for their consideration as they prepare their final report. It is anticipated that the final Inspectors' Report will be received shortly and the New Forest National Park Local Plan 2016 – 2036 will then be presented at a full Authority meeting for formal adoption.

Planning Officers have also represented the National Park Authority at the Examination hearing sessions into the draft New Forest District Local Plan 2016 – 2036, which have been taking place in Lyndhurst over June and July. We have participated in the hearing sessions relating to the duty to co-operate, the spatial strategy, the site of the former Fawley Power Station and protecting the environment.

The Policy team has been liaising with officers at New Forest District Council as part of the independent examination into the draft Hythe & Dibden Neighbourhood Plan (as the parish includes land within both the National Park and District for planning purposes). As well as supporting the administration of the examination, we made representations on the

content of the draft Neighbourhood Plan itself and the recently received Examiner's Report has endorsed several of the key points raised by the Authority. The team will continue to liaise with the District Council as the draft Neighbourhood Plan moves forward towards a local referendum.

The research commissioned from the specialist consultants Footprint Ecology into the impacts of new development on the internationally protected habitats of the New Forest continues to progress well. Footprint Ecology held a workshop in Brockenhurst on 27 June to share the emerging findings of the research and the final phase of evidence gathering is due to be completed by the end of Summer 2019.

1.2 Conserving the historic and built heritage; supporting local culture with continued focus on commoning.

Archaeology

Recent restoration work at Home Farm, Matley Heath, has helped to restore and protect a nationally important monument. As part of this work a small excavation was undertaken which revealed a Neolithic date from the bottom of a ditch. This increases the significance of the site and work continues between FE, HE and the NFNPA to conserve and enhance the nationally important site.

The LocATE project, which looks to provide access to local interest groups to training and equipment associated with advanced archaeological survey, has been short listed for the Campaign for National Parks, Park Protector Award. The results will be announced at a parliamentary reception in July and if successful the project could receive £2,000 to acquire more equipment and software.

Support by the Community Archaeologist has helped deliver a new exhibition at St Barbe Museum, Command of the Seas. This includes the development of an interactive smart table and a large 3D ship puzzle that allows visitors to try their hand and building their own vessel.

Community led projects

The Western Escarpment Conservation Area Steering Group met in Hyde on 20 June. The meeting included discussion on the potential use of Article 4 Direction planning powers to help conserve the character of the Conservation Area; recent physical measures put in place to protect the verges of the area from vehicle over-running and parking; and work on redundant signage in the Conservation Area.

2 Enjoy

2.1 Helping more people to understand and value the things that make the New Forest National Park unique and special.

Education

In April, the Education team welcomed Amy Moore, our newly appointed Seasonal Education Officer. Amy's arrival coincided with our busiest quarter; within three days she was assisting with a school group out in the National Park.

The last of our 'What if...' Litter Assemblies was delivered in June; the assembly story imagines what the world would be like if the Forest animals created litter too, and asks the children to help by changing one small thing in their own lives. 3,455 children from 11 schools have taken part in the assembly since April, bringing the total since January 2019 to 11,000 children from 46 schools.

The 2019-2020 New Forest Educators Forum Travel Grant is again proving to be invaluable to schools; 49 schools have already applied for the grant of up to £150 to help with the cost of transport to the National Park. The cost of a coach is often in excess of £400, so the grant makes the visits affordable for more families.

The response from local schools to the Our Green Action mini grants offer has been very good; 24 schools successfully applied for funding to assist with projects which enhance the environment and connect young people to the natural world; the plans devised by the young people include the planting of wildflower meadows, building minibeast homes and eco greenhouses, and the creation of vegetable gardens.

This quarter has seen the team teaching 642 pupils from 11 schools out in the National Park, with the special qualities of the Park once again the most requested session.

We were fortunate to have assistance from the Seasonal Assistant Rangers on three occasions when the visiting schools were large groups. Observing their interaction with children who had never visited the national park before, in spite of living within a short distance, showed that for some children, their day exploring the wonders of the Forest can be life changing. It is very rewarding to see both the children and the teachers grow quieter and more contented as the day goes on and they relax into the tranquility. The quote of the season so far comes from a teacher who said to us at the end of the day: 'This is what education should be like all the time.'

Public and community events / rangers

The busy events season has well and truly got under way, with already 8,698 face to face contacts in this period at events including Tiptoe May Fayre, Bransgore Fun Day, Wild Wednesdays at the Reptile Centre, Beaulieu Road pony sales and Roydon Woodfair.

Rangers have been working with local Pennington residents to set up the Friends of Priestlands Pond to improve the area around the Priestlands site. In April they spent a morning with the New Forest Paddlesports Company cleaning out the pond as part of the New Forest Spring Clean campaign. Six general sacks of waste were collected including a massive 223 plastic bottles, 105 tin cans (mainly Fosters!) and 54 glass bottles. Rangers supported and led additional New Forest Spring Clean litter picking events around Forest.

The team have continued the campaign against pony feeding and petting by joining forces with Forestry England rangers to present Wild About Ponies sessions and engage with members of the public at hotspots such as Bolton's Bench and Hatchet Pond. Rangers represented the NPA at 2019 launch of Keep Your Distance campaign at Hatchet Pond.

Seasonal rangers took the mobile info unit to Open Farm Sunday event on Bisterne Estate and engaged with over 2,000 people about the importance of using the National Park responsibly with an emphasis on 'keep your distance' from livestock and environmental sustainability.

Dogstival was held at Pylewell Park in May at which over 10,000 visitors plus their dogs attended. Rangers engaged with at least 2,000 people over the weekend promoting responsible dog ownership across the New Forest. It was a real New Forest Ranger partnership approach with the team sharing a stand with Forestry England and supporting stands by Hampshire County Council and Bird Aware Solent.

Communications

The communications team has worked with colleagues and partner organisations to shape and promote renewed efforts on behaviour change campaigns, encouraging people to care for the Forest. This included:

- the Great British Spring Clean in March
- screenings of the film 'Our Plastic Planet'
- the Keep Your Distance campaign to encourage people not to touch or feed commoners' animals which attracted widespread coverage on social channels and in the media
- awareness of ticks and Lyme disease during national Lyme Awareness Month with Brockenhurst-based charity Make Time for Lyme.

Working with our seasonal rangers and partners, the team has greatly increased coverage of the need to protect ground-nesting birds and how people can help. This has included promoting Wild Wednesday events, the Date with Nature project at the reptile centre and webcams of breeding goshawks, newspaper articles, videos and social posts about Curlew Day, Earth Day and a National Planning Award won by Bird Aware Solent, of which we are members. The New Forest Film Festival also featured an event with the production company Big Wave and a showing of the BBC Four documentary they produced with us 'A Year in the Wild Wood' which was broadcast in January. The event included questions and answers about New Forest wildlife, commoning and how it was filmed, and was very well attended. Ground nesting bird communications have had a reach so far of nearly 300,000 people, video views of over 68,000 and social media engagement of 22,000.

In our efforts to increase understanding of why the Forest is so important for species and habitats, we produced a special wildlife issue of our residents' newspaper Park Life which, thanks to support from our advertisers, is twice the normal size. The issue was a longer read and included features on partner organisations working for wildlife. The newspaper is circulated within the Lymington Times (approx. 17,000 copies are distributed) and a further 10,000 are circulated by us at events and in community outlets. The issue has proved popular with many copies being picked up and we are considering ordering additional copies. The content is also being used online throughout the year as blog posts and social content.

The final AGM of the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Scheme was held at Minstead Village Hall. Promotion of the event included posters, email invitations, adverts and social media. 'Stalls' advertising the achievements of each of the projects with exhibition panels were produced, including an infographic showing highlights of the scheme which was also used on social media. The panels will also form a display at the New Forest Show. Over 150 people attended the annual meeting, with a wide range of ages and interests represented. Lord Manners gave a speech and cut a specially-designed cake to celebrate the 10-year scheme.

The HLS wetland restoration scheme, which has restored over 20 miles of streams during the scheme, won the UK River Prize, which received widespread coverage. On presenting the prize, the managing director of the River Restoration Centre said: 'It was impossible to ignore the huge amount of work that this partnership has undertaken over the nine years leading to the improvement and protection of rare wetland habitat.'

We worked with the archaeology and interpretation scheme to mark D-Day in the New Forest. This included filming and photography of the re-dedication of the Canadian War Memorial attended by the Canadian Embassy representatives. Our Outreach Project Officer Gareth Owen was interviewed on BBC Radio Solent about the New Forest Remembers WWII project and the Forest's role in D-Day and the commemoration event at Lepe was also promoted.

The 70th anniversary of national parks and Year of Green Action was further celebrated with Discover National Parks fortnight in April. This included widespread national media coverage which we contributed content to, videos and content on social media. In the New Forest we marked the fortnight with a wild play event and a Dig Burley community archaeology event – 50 sites across the village taking part with several hundred people joining in archaeological excavations.

Meanwhile BBC Countryfile dedicated a whole programme to the 70th anniversary. We pitched a story to them about the future of national parks and the balance between recreation and conservation. We arranged for them to film with Chief Executive Alison Barnes and Commoners Defence Association Chairman Tony Hockley and they also interviewed colleagues from the South Downs. We have also assisted in compiling joint responses to a number of national media requests from outlets including the Guardian and Sunday Times on issues varying from off-road vehicles to the state of British wildlife in national parks.

A new corporate partnership with energy bar company Clif Bar was launched nationwide with National Parks Partnerships Ltd and other UK National Parks. We are one of the five parks benefiting from funding for a specific project, with our Working Woodlands project receiving £10,000 this year to help manage woodlands for wildlife. We have also been promoting the Columbia partnership online with content for the launch of their new Covent Garden store and their latest consumer campaign fronted by TV presenter Gabby Roslin.

Following the local elections, an email was sent to all new councillors in and around the National Park, introducing them to the Authority and inviting them to learn more about our purposes and work through web links and other materials.

Planning media enquiries have included queries about the commoners dwelling scheme, Fawley Waterside, Silver Hind planning appeal, mobile homes policies and the Local Plan.

The Partnership Plan is being reviewed and we have produced an updated leaflet of the 2018/19 successes, a Partnership Plan 'primer' document for partner organisations, setting out the reasons for the review and how it will take place, accompanied by web pages. We are also providing an exhibition on the Partnership Plan for the New Forest Show.

Other print materials this quarter have included an annual report for the New Forest Access Forum, an archaeology toolkit for the Dig Burley event, new designs for animal accident hotline cards, responsible dog walking materials and preparing a draft of the Authority annual review.

A marketing plan for the new season of the New Forest Tour, which starts on 6 July, is currently being implemented. This has included new adverts on the rear of the buses warning people about the dangers of animal accidents.

We provided PR support to the Big Pedall Rideout and took photographs and video on the day which the charity can use to raise awareness and support fundraising.

Our Past, Our Future scheme communications are in a 'celebrations phase', marking the achievements of schemes in the final year. Web pages for all 21 projects have been updated to reflect the outcomes. Our two new apprentices held an 'Instagram takeover' for a week, posting about their work and encouraging others to get involved in apprenticeships and the National Park. Meanwhile the Arts Festival project overseen by the communications team and funding officer Fiona Wynne has entered another phase, with the arts organisations forming an umbrella group 'Folio' which has received Arts Council England funding of £23,000 to conduct research into audiences in the New Forest and developing a strategy for arts and culture in the district. We were also part of a £1.2 million bid for Creative People and Places Arts Council Funding and will hear in the next few weeks if we are through to the next stage. The Arts Council England Chief Executive visited the New Forest to find out more about the district and the bid, and he met with our officers at the official launch of the new arts hub - SPUD at ArtSway in June.

2.2 Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park

Interpretation projects

Avon Tyrrell

Work continues to deliver new onsite interpretation at Avon Tyrrell, as part of the Natures Stepping Stones project. Six locations across the site have been identified as suitable for new panels. These will be mounted in wooden frames or lectern style units.

Drafting the panels has been a joint approach and though progress is being made it has taken a lot longer than planned.

We have been drafting panels for Pennington Common, in partnership with St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery and Lymington and Pennington Town Council.

We have been working on the New Forest Show stand for 2019, which is on the theme of 'Be inspired by New Forest Nature' as part of the Year of Green Action and 70 years of National Parks.

Historic Routes project

We now have 10 shortlisted suggested trails. From these the final five will be selected by the Steering Group.

Volunteer researchers are looking into the history or 'back stories' to these trail areas and will produce historical summaries for each of them. Rights of way surveying is 72% complete, with the remaining routes to survey mostly in the Fawley area.

Current volunteer numbers are positive with 42 fully signed up (21 listed as Volunteer Surveyor, 16 as Researcher). There are also eight new people awaiting completion of paperwork.

We have contacted all parishes that have suggested trails within their area. Most have nominated someone to act as parish liaison to facilitate communication but only a few have engaged further: giving feedback on their suggested trail/s, some constructive feedback, suggestions and amendments. In most cases the suggestions and amendments have been incorporated into the draft trail routes.

Land owners are now being identified and where possible, will be contacted to gain their input into the final selection process and development of the five successful trails.

Health and Wellbeing

We led the health and wellbeing submission to the Glover review road map, coordinating a response from English National Parks. Following this, we have put together a 'Task and Finish' group of National Park officers and members to investigate the opportunity provided by the new NHS focus on social prescribing. This will meet in July.

We are working with the other southern National Parks and Public Health England regions on planning a major conference on National Parks and Wellbeing for summer 2020, likely to be in Bournemouth.

We attended three of the four local Primary Care Network introductory meetings in the National Park to hear more about local plans to better utilise social prescribing.

On 25 April, we attended the 'Beating Inactivity' workshop, delivered by Energise Me, to support activity providers in reaching out to increase the number of people within their sessions and groups. There are benefits to being physically active and studies show there are still many people who are not being active enough or who are leading inactive lives. The workshop focused on the local insight, shared some specific knowledge on different groups, and explored new ways of attracting new participants.

Pedall

For the period April until now we have run 74 sessions with 377 participants with 188 staff / carers. We have only had four cancellations which is good considering the recent bad weather we have had. We still have around eight sessions to take place in June. During this period we have recorded 93 volunteer days.

We had a great turn out for our "Pass the Pedal" Event on 15 May with around 100 people attending, either taking part or helping with the day. A great day was had and the feedback from the groups has been really positive. The event was to promote us moving into our new base at Burley Yard which we did in October. We had five teams from Minstead Trust, Brockenhurst College and Southlands School, with Paralympian Darren Kenny OBE leading them out and riding the route with the groups. Each team raised sponsorship and along with many business sponsors raised approximately £3,000.

The base has proven a great success as it has really helped in making the delivery of the sessions more efficient as we no longer have to load and reload the van anymore. This has also brought a reduction in mechanical problems with the bikes caused by being crammed in the van. The fact that we can now do maintenance easily in the workshop space has meant there is less delay in getting the bikes back in action.

One of the big developments in the last three months has been Colton Care booking onto rides with us; seven homes from the group have been out on a regular basis. The participants are elderly, some with dementia; our oldest rider so far was Dorothy who was 105. We have also had Hartwood House from Lyndhurst, again a care home for the elderly riding with us on a monthly basis, even braving the heavy rain recently. This has certainly added a new dynamic to our rides.

Volunteering

At the beginning of April, the New Forest Land Advice Service completed its practical conservation season with volunteers by putting up stock proof fencing around an area of coppiced woodland in Walhampton and by putting up over 200m of stock proof fencing at a 'Better Boundaries' project site in Blissford.

A community test pitting project 'Dig Burley' took place in April, when local residents were encouraged to dig 1m square archaeological test pits in their gardens and revealed local buried secrets. The event was successful and plans are to replicate this in other villages. The Historic Routes and Past Pathways project has trained more volunteers in this period and whittled down their shortlist of rights of way to 10 routes.

The archaeology team has also been involved in the Lepe into History Festival which took place in early June as well as the opening of the new exhibition 'Command of the Seas' at St Barbe Museum.

The practical conservation volunteers had a summer volunteer day at Foxhills School, where we continued our restoration of the wildflower meadow and repaired fencing in preparation of the introduction of sheep. A volunteer picnic and site visit day has been planned for August.

Staff have been encouraged to use up to one working day to volunteer for a suitable cause to recognise their contribution to the Year of Green Action 2019. Both Lucy Saunders (Assistant Tree Officer) and Nik Gruber (Senior Tree Officer) have signed up for volunteer work this year. Lucy is taking part in Ash die back disease survey led by Somerset County Council and Nik is volunteering in his own time with Pets as Therapy and hopes to be making regular visits to retirement homes in Lymington.

2.3 Facilitating a partnership approach to managing recreation to achieve a net gain for both the working and natural landscape as well as for the recreational experience

Recreation Management

The work on updating the actions in the Recreation Management Strategy 2010-2030 has reached a significant milestone: 22 strategic actions have now been proposed by the RMS Steering Group.

As well as boosting education about the New Forest's special qualities, there are initiatives to address the most serious and widespread issues – and projects aimed at encouraging greater involvement by people who stand to benefit most from outdoor recreation. Other actions address the need for additional funds, further research and greater coordination between local authorities as they plan housing developments.

Perhaps the most important proposal is designed to ensure facilities such as car parks, walking, cycle tracks and community green spaces are in the right places to both protect rare wildlife and the working Forest and provide a better experience for people. To take this forward, the Steering Group has asked the NPA to consult the public and other bodies to help design a Local Development Order which would establish a rationale and criteria for where and how much car parking should be provided.

See agenda item for further details.

We have instigated a review of signage and associated infrastructure in the National Park. The work, entitled 'New Forest: Special by Design' is steered by a partnership of Forest organisations including the NPA, Forestry England, CDA, Verderers and Hampshire County Council. Design and landscape companies have been invited to quote to appraise and cost options for future design, taking into account how different landowners and messages can be incorporated into a sensitive and authentic approach to signage and infrastructure. The work will be completed in the autumn.

Educational campaigns

With the arrival of spring, we worked with other organisations (especially Forestry England) to raise awareness of the risks of disturbing ground nesting birds. The joint campaign uses printed materials including signs, news releases and social media (see 'communications' above) and four externally funded seasonal rangers who have talked with some three thousand people at car parks selected by Keepers and bird surveyors.

The 2019 Spring Clean was a success, with some 1,200 people collecting about 1,200 bags of litter, and 94 miles of roadsides litter picked by contractors. We are grateful to the individual volunteers and community groups that continue to pick up litter throughout the year. We are inputting to the work NFDC has commissioned to better understand people who throw litter from vehicles – much of the litter in the Forest is along roadsides so it will be good to gain an insight into how we can deal with this behaviour.

Through our rangers (see above) and through wider communications work, we continue to work with the Verderers, CDA, Forestry England and other landowners to develop the best methods to reduce the feeding and petting of commoners' animals.

Cycle sportive events have attracted fewer complaints than in previous years. We continue to liaise with event organisers and the Safety Advisory Group to encourage high standards of event management, including the provision of information well in advance, the use of rear identification numbers, keeping the number participants below 1,000 and their rate of flow at no more than 10 per minute.

Access and Rights of Way

The New Forest Local Access Forum has conducted its annual meeting and elected Ruth Crocker as Chairman and Ann Sevier as Deputy Chairman. A new sub group has formed to work on improving accessibility within the New Forest. A new 2019 Annual Report has been produced with a more modern and engaging format.

The Rural Communities Fund has helped to replace a broken kissing gate and made surface improvements to a well-used public footpath in Brockenhurst. Future improvements are planned at Pondhead and Bransgore.

England Coast Path preparations are underway for the Calshot to Gosport section. The works have been costed and the planning grant for 2019/2020 is being finalised.

Preparation for the 2019 Walking Festival is underway. The festival will be a week longer this year to help celebrate the Year of Green Action. The third week (during half term) will focus on walks for young people.

New signposts have been installed along the wildplay trail at Holbury Manor. The signs are made from wood felled on site and chainsaw carved into owls (small trail) and acorns (long trail).

The New Forest will host the annual meeting of the NPA Access Officers. This will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase our work and gain new ideas and advice from 14 other National Parks.

We have instigated a project with Open Sight Hampshire inviting a group of partially sighted people to visit the National Park and report back on how the visitor experience and related information can be improved.

3 Prosper

3.1 Supporting a distinctive and prosperous local economy where natural capital is an integral component of doing business.

Green Halo Partnership

As a result of the work that is being done on natural capital through the Green Halo Partnership we were able to convene a meeting with local business interests and Professor Dieter Helm, Chair of the Natural Capital Committee. He described the shared project of the Green Halo Partnership as “one of the great natural capital projects” and urged businesses and agencies to fully engage with the natural capital agenda. As a follow up we have convened a meeting of the four Local Enterprise Partnerships local to the National Park with the aim of developing a consistent approach to natural capital in the development of their Local Industrial Strategies.

Sustainable Tourism / business

We continue to support the work of the New Forest Business Partnership (NFBP), attending the ‘Developing the Visitor Economy’ workshop and contributing to the development of the local economic strategy for the New Forest District through the NFBP Implementation Group. In May, Paul Walton presented a “thought leadership piece” on the theme of natural capital to the Local Industrial Strategy workshop organised by the Solent LEP.

The New Forest Marque Discovery Day at Hockey’s Farm on 23 May welcomed 25 guests, along with representatives from NFNPA, Go New Forest and New Forest Marque, including newly appointed Chair Dan Parsons. Guests included accommodation owners and local businesses. Presentation given by Jonny Burrell of Hockey’s Farm who described the journey from derelict small holding to thriving family-run farm shop offering their own and other New Forest Marque produce, along with the coffee shop featuring local produce on their menu. Tour of the farm included a visit to Fluffets Eggs to see the egg grading in process, New Forest Shepherds huts, and a demonstration on sausage making by Hockey’s butchers before enjoying a local produce lunch from the farm itself. Hockey’s has been a Marque member for over seven years and announced plans to expand the farm shop and butchery due to popular demand. The aim of the event was to raise the profile of the New Forest Marque and to shine a light on local producers and businesses working together.

3.2 Promoting connectivity across the National Park through sustainable transport and information and communication technologies.

Sustainable Transport

We met with Go South Coast to finalise marketing and operational plans for the New Forest Tour and the 'Lepe Beach extension' bus. We also discussed aspirations for new Tour fleet for next year; unfortunately, due to capital expenditure elsewhere in the Go-Ahead group (the parent company), the Tour fleet will not be replaced next year. However, hopes are high for a new fleet in 2021. A refurbishment of the existing fleet is underway, including a gratis replacement Animal Safety vinyl, in preparation for the upcoming season. Operating dates for the Tour are 6 July – 8 September, and 21 July – 21 August for the Lepe bus.

Two Sustainable Travel Ambassador posts were advertised and have successfully been filled. Agnes and Katie joined the team on 24 June. Once trained, they will be based at Brockenhurst Train Station with the cargo bike and in a 'roving' role around the New Forest. Their contract ends on 13 September.

3.3 Supporting the social wellbeing and sustainability of New Forest communities.

Affordable Housing

Both East Boldre and Copythorne parish councils have expressed their support in principle for affordable housing in their parish and conversations to proceed with the schemes are conducted by the Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing (HARAH), the NFNPA, English Rural Housing Association and NFDC. Once initial sketches of the layout have been drawn up there will be community events to involve local residents in the process.

Sustainable Communities Fund

As part of this year's Year of Green Action, we invited schools and youth groups across the National Park to apply for funds for green actions that benefit young people. Just over £6,000 was awarded to 43 schools and groups. The grants could be used for any green activity and have been used to develop a range of projects including establishing wildlife gardens and composting areas, building bug hotels and raised beds, and purchasing tools and litter picking equipment.

Funds of £2,000 have been awarded to New Milton Town Council working in partnership with Milton Heritage Society to provide a new heritage centre within the derelict Station Master's House in the town. The centre will raise awareness of the parish's local history, including a third of the parish that sits within the National Park boundary, and bring together local history information, maps, censuses, media articles and photographs for

residents and visitors to view and study. An education space will be available for local schools and groups to book and use, and local history volunteers will be on hand to help as and when required.

Reducing plastics

The film 'A Plastic Ocean' has continued to generate wide interest, reaching a further 155 residents from across the New Forest National Park, prompting important discussions within local communities about the reduction of single use plastics. Event organisers, such as the Hythe Pier Heritage Association, are now looking for suitable alternatives to disposable cups and plates, and following a Discovery Day event for NFNPA staff, led by the coastal ranger, teams are working towards a pledge to reduce plastic waste within the workplace.

4 Achieving Excellence

4.1 Maintaining and enhancing a capable, motivated staff team that delivers high quality services.

Human Resources

As at 30 June 2019 the total staff headcount was 86 or 74.89 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

	Headcount	Variation from previous report	FTE	Variation from previous report
Core funded	64*	- 4	54.86*	- 3.69
Funded by external projects	22	+ 1	20.03	+ 0.50
Total	86	- 3	74.89	- 3.19

*Of the core funded roles, 1 staff member (1 FTE) is working in shared services, 27 are part-time and one is on a fixed-term contract.

In the last two months we welcomed the following new staff:

Name	Job title	Contract type	How funded
Amy Moore	Seasonal Education Officer	Temporary	Core funded
Claire Woolf	Planning Officer	Permanent	Core funded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agnes Kalauz • Katie Finimore 	Sustainable Travel Ambassadors	Seasonal	Project funded

Recently we said goodbye to Matt Stroud (Communications Officer), Lynette Fawkes (Conservation Officer) and to Leo Brooke (Seasonal Assistant Ranger). We wish them well in their future ventures. We also said goodbye to Louise Robertson (Planning Assistant) and wish her well in her retirement.

Recruitment is currently underway for:

Job title	Contract type	How funded
Communications Officer	Fixed-term	Core funded
Seasonal Assistant Ranger	Fixed-term	Jointly funded by the Authority, Camping in the Forest, the Forestry Commission and NFD OG
Senior Building Design and Conservation Officer	Permanent	Core funded
Building Design and Conservation Officer	Permanent	Core funded
Planning Assistant	Permanent	Core funded

A successful programme of six 'Discovery Days' for staff have been run, led by staff from the NPA and from partner organisations. The Discovery Days included a visit to Franchises Lodge, Marchwood Energy Recovery Facility, West Solent Solar Farm, Pondhead, PEDALL and taking part in The Big Microplastic Survey in association with Portsmouth University to record and identify nurdles and microplastics in the sand. A total of 67 staff attended these days and feedback has been very good on how they build organisation-wide understanding of our work and how we work in partnership to deliver for the New Forest.

Information Management

We received 58 requests for information between 1 April 2018 and 30 March 2019, which is 11 more than the same period last year (23%). This increase was partly down to the work on the draft Local Plan. All but two were responded to within the statutory deadline, with the average response time being 14.6 working days.

In 38% of requests the information that was held was disclosed fully, with a further 19% of requests being disclosed with only minor redactions. The most common reason for withholding information was because the information was or contained the personal data of a third party. 24% of requests were for information which was not held by the NPA and the requester was redirected to the relevant public authority. Only seven requests (12%) were withheld in full, all of them because the information was the personal data of third parties.

As in previous years the majority of requests (64%) related to the planning function including enforcement, trees and policy. We continue to receive a significant number of requests relating to how the Authority is managed in areas such as procurement, ICT, policies, finance etc.

Complaints

We received 17 complaints versus 25 last year. All of the stage 2 complaints were responded to within our target of 20 working days, with the average response time being 13.1 working days. 10 complaints were related to our planning work, including trees, enforcement and Planning Committee, with the remainder related primarily to data protection and Freedom of Information related issues.

Only one of the complaints was partially upheld. A written apology was sent to the complainant.

Six complaints were referred to the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO), of which none were upheld.

In addition to handling formal complaints Corporate Services also collate and record compliments, feedback and thanks received from our customers and the public. We have logged 11 compliments this year.

4.2 Championing the National Park and brokering partnership to achieve collaboration for the benefit of the New Forest communities.

Team New Forest

Following last year's successful Partnership Plan coach tour around Beaulieu, Lepe and Holbury, planning for this year's tour in the north of the New Forest Forest is underway. The event will take place on 3 September and will incorporate visits to RSPB's Franchises Lodge reserve and National Trust's Foxbury site. The detailed itinerary and agenda are currently being worked up and agreed by the Partnership Plan consortium. The event is aimed at members, councillors and senior representatives from the partner organisations and it is expected that a similar number to last year's total of 50 participants will attend again.

Preparations for the Partnership Plan's revised version for 2020-2025 are progressing well and the review will officially launch with the publication of a 'primer' leaflet in the coming weeks. The purpose of this document is to emphasise the importance of the Partnership Plan and is aimed at those who want to become involved in shaping the vision for the New Forest National Park. We will distribute the primer amongst the Partnership Plan statutory partners so that they can start internal conversations on how their organisation can participate in shaping the new Partnership Plan.

The Partnership Plan's 2019 progress report is about to be finalised and will be available at this year's New Forest Show. It includes many examples of successful projects and case studies of partners working together for the National Park over the past year.

A review of the State of the Park report, which was last published in 2016, is also underway and expected to be finalised later this year. The revised report will give an update on the headline indicators and identify trends and gaps in data. This will be an invaluable source of evidence for the review of the Partnership Plan.

4.3 Identifying new resources and using them alongside our existing resources, effectively and efficiently.

ICT Services

This has been a busy period with upgrades and server migrations taking place on the email server, GIS map server and both phone servers. Out of hours work to upgrade both the SAN firmware and software was successfully carried out.

The tree pages are now being hosted on the website via Publisher which has replaced the de-supported WAM. The tree map has been upgraded to the latest version and moved to a new server which will offer a better internal GIS map and also allow work to continue on the planning map. In addition to the installation of Publisher, Idox have also installed Consultee Access, the system set up of this has been added to the ICT work plan.

Whilst conversations are still taking place with Idox regarding a new planning database, there has been a delay in proceedings due to high level changes in structure and personnel within Idox. This does unfortunately mean we will be unable to move to a new planning database before the end of the year, so arrangements are being put in place to migrate the current database and Acolaid server onto new 2016 servers which has to be completed by year end to ensure all our systems are compliant and secure.

Corporate Services are now using Microsoft 365, with their old drive being converted to read only. The ICT team are currently working very closely with members of RML and hope to move this team across shortly. A number of very successful well attended OneDrive workshops were held.

The team has been working with the Business Support Officer, looking at replacement printers. Following discussions with a number of companies, detailed quotes have been received. The next stage is to view the shortlisted printers in a working environment before a final decision is made.

By early July we will have decommissioned and replaced nine servers this year, with two more due to be replaced in the next six weeks.

5 Members

Following the local government elections on 2 May, Sue Bennison and Caroline Rackham were appointed as new members on the NPA by New Forest District Council. Parish Quadrant elections were held following the local elections and all four existing parish members on the NPA have been re-elected. The recruitment process by Defra to fill the two Secretary of State vacancies on the NPA is nearing completion and we will be advised of the two successful appointees once they have been approved by the Secretary of State.

5.1 Some Members were involved in some or all of the following meetings and events

- Planning Committee – 16 April
- Planning Committee – 21 May
- Resource, Audit and Performance Committee – 3 June
- Consultative Panel – 6 June
- New Forest Access Forum – 10 June
- RMS Members Day – 14 June
- Planning Committee – 18 June

5.2 Forthcoming activities include:

- Planning Committee – 20 August
- New Forest Access Forum – 2 September
- Consultative Panel – 5 September
- Resource, Audit and Performance Committee – 9 September
- Planning Committee – 17 September
- Standards Committee – 7 October (TBC)
- Members Day – 9 October (TBC)

5.3 Chief Executive's engagements

- Coaching session – 29 March
- Senior Leadership Team Awayday – 1 April
- Meet with Regional Director, RSPB – 4 April
- Meeting with Chair, Natural Capital Committee – 4 April
- Meeting with Chair, CDA – 5 April
- HLS Board – 10 April
- Introductory meeting with new NF Heritage Centre Manager – 10 April
- Waterside Partnership meeting – 17 April
- Enterprise First Board meeting – 29 April

- Partnership Plan Group meeting – 1 May
- Meet with Defra Commons Policy Team visit to New Forest – 2 May
- Meet with Chief Executive, Natural England – 2 May
- Meeting with Executive Trustee, CET – 7 May
- London Gatsby Foundation Roundtable – 8 May
- Day visit to South Downs National Park Authority – 9 May
- Speaker at Friends of the New Forest AGM – 11 May
- Attend 'Pass the Pedal' sponsored relay ride ceremony – 15 May
- Workforce South Conference – 16 May
- St Georges Annual Lecture – 16 May
- Coaching session – 17 May
- Opening of spudWORKS studio – 17 May
- Natural Capital conference panel member – 22 May
- HLS celebratory event – 22 May
- Local landowner meeting – 23 May
- HIOW CX meeting – 24 May
- National Park Health Leads video conference – 24 May
- Waterside Steering Group teleconference – 12 June
- RMS Members day – 14 June
- Performance Panel – 14 June
- Judge at SPUD film festival – 16 June
- Solent Leaders meeting – 17 June
- Business South meeting with MPs – 18 June
- Business South / Enterprise First Board meeting – 19 June
- Meeting with NFA – 20 June
- Meeting with Strategic Development Manager, OS – 21 June
- Meeting with Jonathan Cox Associates – 21 June
- Meeting with Chief Executive, Celador – 24 June
- Interviewee for Solent LEP vision 2050 – 26 June
- Meeting Chief Executive, Red Funnel – 26 June
- Meeting with Chief Executive, Surrey Wildlife Trust – 27 June
- Meeting with Solent LEP Executive Director – 27 June
- Business South Directors Dinner – 27 June
- Green Halo Steering Group – 28 June
- Forest Farming Group – 2 July
- HLS Board – 3 July
- E-NPOG – 4 July
- Nature Discussion with stakeholders – 5 July
- SE FWAC – 9-10 July

5.4 Chairman's engagements

- Meeting with the Official Verderer – 8 April
- NPE meeting with Julian Glover – 30 April
- Friends of New Forest AGM – 11 May
- RMS Steering Group – 20 May
- NPE Board meeting – 6 June
- Meeting with Solent LEP – 17 June
- Defra Secretary of State member interviews – 18 June
- Verderers Court – 19 June
- Forest Farming Group – 2 July

6 Recommendation

To note the report.