



PLANNING and TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

reply to:

5 March 2019

For the attention of Chris Banks

New Forest Local Plan Programme Officer  
c/o Banks Solutions  
64 Lavinia Way  
East Preston  
West Sussex  
BN16 1EF

By email: [bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com](mailto:bankssolutionsuk@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Banks

**New Forest National Park Local Plan Examination – potential site allocation at Ashurst Hospital**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter, our view is that the site should be returned to open forest and we are working with the Verderers to establish the exact legal position.

Historically this site was part of the New Forest and in Crown ownership at the time of enclosure. This occurred in two phases, the first with a grant of 1836 and the second one of 1848. In each case the land was granted to the 'Guardians of the Poor of the New Forest Union' for the specific purposes of building a Workhouse (1836) and land for agricultural training (1848).

There was a proviso that in the event of the land no longer being required for that purpose that it should revert to the Crown. In 1988 part of that land taken by the grant of 1848 reverted to the New Forest and is part of the open grazing thereby setting a precedent.

The grant of 1836 may be seen locally in the Wood Lease Books held by the Forestry Commission at Queens House (vol. 4, pp. 279-85). The original documents are held by the National Archive under the title 'Grants of Land for Workhouse 1836-1915' and in F10/52 with the number 4079/1.

Notwithstanding this position, if the land is not returned to open forest then we would be minded to consider a small scheme for social housing as defined by SP28 in the emerging policy for rural exception sites with a footprint not exceeding the existing developed land.

We shall be pleased if you will take this information into account when considering your decision.

Chairman Friends of the New Forest Planning and Transport Committee

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