

AM 566-20

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2020

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Summary:

This report covers the period since the Authority meeting on 9 July 2020. 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>Our priorities:</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>Our priorities:</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>Our priorities:</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 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.

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As we move into the seventh month since pandemic restrictions, we continue to provide all our services and deliver across our remit. We are dealing with the challenges thanks to the determination of all our staff, engaging with communities and partners predominantly online and conducting meetings through technology supported by our excellent ICT Team. We have been deploying our team of rangers out in the Forest and responding to unprecedentedly high numbers of enquiries through our Communications Team. We have also played a key role with our partners in the local c19 response and led thinking on green recovery as we move into the recovery phase.

We have seen huge numbers of people visiting the Forest as lockdown restrictions eased and many took summer holidays in the UK. Our response with partners included a combined presence on the ground with Forestry England and the emergency services to deal with anti-social behaviour including wild camping, littering, fires, feeding and petting animals. This was backed by communications campaigns, including the #BBQFreeNewForest campaign which was supported by 50 retailers; the launch of a New Forest Code; national 'respect, care and protect' campaigns with Defra and other National Parks; and the launch of a New Forest Ambassadors scheme which had nearly 300 sign ups in the first few weeks and 500 litter picking kits distributed.

Another notable campaign has been conducted with Go New Forest, Forestry England and New Forest District Council as a result of the closure of the 10 Camping in the Forest sites. The campaign reinforced that the sites were closed, that wild camping is not permitted and signposting alternatives. We have also seen a rise in complaints to our enforcement team as a result of extended licenses for pop-up campsites.

Our Planning, Tree and Enforcement Teams dealt with a high level of cases over the summer. Complaints due to the doubling of permitted development for temporary use of land to 56 days have contributed to this increase. The biggest application for the New Forest District in a generation, Fawley Waterside was considered at the Extraordinary Planning Committee meeting at the end of July and officers continue to dedicate considerable time to this case.

The Planning Policy Team have also been focused on formulating our response to the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper, which proposes fundamental changes to the

planning system. They have also worked with colleagues in National Parks England to lodge a response to further proposals for changes to the existing system. The completion of the Statement of Common Ground through Partnership for South Hampshire, provides for good cooperation on planning issues locally, against this backdrop of change. We submitted a £1.3m expression of interest to Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund with nine different charity partners to sustain the environment and improve people's connection to nature. As well as the New Forest bid, we also joined with other English National Parks, the Youth Hostel Association and outdoor industry to apply for funding for an ambitious programme of green jobs, skills and volunteering. The national bid with YHA is through to next round and whilst not successful in this highly competitive funding stream, the work completed on the New Forest bid to create green jobs and skills for young people will enable us to approach other funders with a strong partnership offer. We have also joined with other English National Parks to apply for the Kickstart fund to support primarily ranger roles for 16-24-year-olds.

To ensure our nature recovery work is anchored in evidence, we are pleased to be engaged with Waterside landowners and the LEP in commissioning Natural Capital Research to deliver a natural capital baseline survey for the New Forest National Park catchments. This is groundbreaking work and we are the first national park to do this in line with the direction set in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. The baseline will enable us to show how our rich natural environment provides a range of benefits, from carbon capture to health and wellbeing to flood amelioration. It will also help us plan for supporting these benefits as part of economic decisions such as for future development, business support and land management.

Work continues on the ground, including the acquisition of Godshill Meadow which the Authority will manage for wildlife; working with the Freshwater Habitats Trust and farms to improve the water quality of Bartley Water and Fletchwood tributary; providing back-up grazing for commoners on a site owned by ExxonMobil at Hardley; working with five farms and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to undertake a Defra Test and Trial of the proposed new Environmental Land Management scheme (ELMs) to replace the Common Agricultural Policy subsidies post-Brexit. All national parks are submitting proposed habitat restoration projects in the National Park so National Park Partnerships can put them forward to businesses who are looking for ways to offset their carbon footprint through funding such projects. So far we have identified a habitat restoration/creation portfolio of potential environmental projects worth about £17 million across several estates.

As well as habitat improvements, our focus on connecting more people to nature and improving people's health and wellbeing has continued and is especially important in the context of the mental and physical health challenges presented by C19. This quarter we worked with Bournemouth University and Public Health England to set up a series of monthly online seminars and establishing a 'Nature Health Network'. Over 50 people joined the first event, with speakers including researchers, practitioners and people who

have benefitted from nature-led health activity. Work has continued with GP surgery clusters to raise awareness of health and wellbeing initiatives and opportunities in the Forest. This work has included a session with five new 'health coaches' (also known as 'social prescribers') and a GP on the Waterside; developing walking interventions and outdoor art therapy with charity Hampshire Art for Recreation and Therapy (hART) for families impacted by lockdown.

Through the Green Halo Partnership we have been championing a green and inclusive recovery; working with partners at the Southern Policy Centre and Future South we have been opening conversations with a wide range of partners about how we can 'build back better' and be a centre of excellence for green skills, jobs and health. We were pleased that partners in the Partnership for South Hampshire and Local Resilience Forum are supporting our proposal to develop a framework for green recovery, a 'green-print' that can be used to enable cooperation and collective leadership.

As we go into what will undoubtedly be a challenging winter, we are focused on delivering our services and engaging with partners and communities to develop a Partnership Plan which will set our direction as a National Park for the next 5 years. This provides the opportunity to come together and align resources for the Forest at a time of immense change and challenge and we look forward to working with everyone concerned to shape this most important of plans.

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.

Nature Recovery - Net Zero with Nature

The opportunities and challenges around nature recovery in the National Park were highlighted in a workshop for members in July. As part of the preparation of the new Partnership Plan members considered the implications of the developing national policies for the environment and agriculture, the opportunities that will be presented by the new Environmental Land Management Scheme and the role of the NPA in developing a Nature Recovery Network.

Our work is being informed by the Wildlife Roundtable, a group convened by the NPA which continues to meet regularly. This group has identified broad areas of opportunity for making more space for people and nature; expanding quality habitats and providing quality green spaces close to where people live. This work will help inform the development of a nature recovery network for the National Park and for areas beyond our boundary that will be a key part of the Partnership Plan.

A further piece of the evidence base for our nature recovery work - a natural capital baseline - is in development. The NPA is part of a consortium that has commissioned Natural Capital Research to develop a natural capital baseline for the National Park and Waterside area. When complete we will be the first National Park to have a natural capital baseline – a recommendation of the Natural Capital Committee and endorsed by the Landscapes Review. The baseline will be an important starting point with which to demonstrate environmental net gain from future development and land management.

We also contributed to the production of the Delivery Plan for Wildlife published by National Parks England in August. Our net zero with nature work will be aligned with this national plan to demonstrate how National Parks can lead the way on nature recovery across the country.

Green Halo Partnership

At a locally strategic level the Green Halo Partnership continues to meet, adding a collective voice to the calls for a Green Recovery and investment that will ensure a more resilient and sustainable economy that benefits the environment and communities. The Green Halo partners have contributed to a proposed set of principles and potential

indicators of success that are being discussed by local leaders involved in the Local Resilience Forum and Partnership for South Hampshire.

Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme

All OPOF projects that are not complete are now working to the new end date of 31 December 2020 with all reporting to National Lottery Heritage Fund finalised by end March 2021.

Work to Restore Lost Landscapes continues to meet the objective to reconnect the core with the surrounding landscape and to build connectivity, however work on some projects slowed down due to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Projects have been extended until the end of December to give more opportunities to complete their activities where possible. The Working Woodlands and Natures Stepping Stones projects have been concentrating on writing management plans for the landowners to follow once the projects end and finalising the remaining practical work needed over the autumn/winter period. The non-native invasive plants project has carried out Himalayan Balsam pulls over the spring and summer, but these have only included the project officer and one or two volunteers at a time to comply with social distancing. These will continue over the autumn. An Assistant Community Archaeologist has been recruited and she started in August. As well as assisting with the NPAs core archaeology work she will also be able to complete work on Heritage on my Doorstep and Rediscovering Our Archaeological Heritage projects.

Opportunities to 'Discover Forest Skills' have slowed due to impacts from Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. The rural skills courses, mentoring scheme and building skills course are complete. The traditional building skills fair event that was planned for May 2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The Apprentice Rangers have been able to continue with their studies remotely and although they have not been able to complete all their placements, they have been able to undertake other work from home and also help out with other areas of work such as New Forest Marque food deliveries, ranger patrols etc, which has still provided them with a breadth of skills and experience. We are now looking into ways of continuing with the Apprentice Ranger scheme for 2020/21 intakes.

Work under the 'Discovering Forest Heritage' theme has been affected due to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Some areas of work will now not take place and other work is on hold or progressing slower because staff were furloughed, events could not take place or work cannot be undertaken by contractors etc. Projects have been extended until the end of December to give more opportunities to complete their activities where possible. Volunteering has been greatly affected and very little has taken place; it's hoped that some activities will be able to resume in October. The volunteer coordinator has helped to progress the New Forest Ambassadors initiative over the summer. We are

now looking to continue and expand our volunteering work, building on work that has been achieved through OPOF and to include other new initiatives.

The Shared Forest project has been able to adapt face to face training that was planned by running Instagram training and engagement training for commoners online with great success.

The 'Through Our Ancestors' Eyes' oral and photographic collection has now been made live on the New Forest Knowledge website (see feature article <https://nfknowledge.org/contributions/new-commoning-archive/>). Work is also now planned to make the Forestry Commission Lease Books and Atlases that were digitised through the project live on New Forest Knowledge (due to GDPR issues we will only publish those over 100 years old). Covid-19 has had a dramatic effect on the number of hits New Forest Knowledge has received with an increase from around 6,000 in May 2020 to over 12,000 hits up to August, so the site seem to be providing a source of information and entertainment to people who are at home and unable to visit reference libraries and museums.

Resources for Change has been interviewing partners, project staff and key stakeholders who have been involved or benefited from the Scheme to gain their feedback. A final report will be produced at the end of the Scheme and a workshop to look at the interim findings was held in September.

New Forest Land Advice Service (NFLAS)

Core NFLAS advisor work

The main focus for this two month period has been on meeting the annual Countryside Stewardship application deadline which was July 31. We submitted seven applications for farms, including one large estate. Bartley Water and Fletchwood Tributary Project

In partnership with the Freshwater Habitats Trust, under the banner of the New Forest Catchment Partnership and funded by the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund, NFLAS is being funded to carry out a project on the Bartley Water and associated tributaries. As part of the same project the Freshwater Habitats Trust (including Gemma Stride who has a part time role with them as well as with NFLAS) has carried out a walk over and water testing of the stream and found it to be heavily polluted with nitrates and a number of other issues. NFLAS is targeting farms in the eastern area of the catchment and has £50,000 to spend, by February 2021, on capital improvements we identify which will have a positive impact on the watercourse. We will aim to spend this money on three farms and to give advice to at least two others during this phase of the project and hope to acquire further funding from EA next year to continue west along the catchment.

Farm/landowner visits

During this two month period we were given the go ahead to get back out on farm and other site visits and have therefore been busy catching up on the several months where

going out was not possible during the pandemic lockdown. Visits have been made to seven woodlands, meadows, hedgerow networks and whole farms to give advice and progress nature conservation enhancements.

Back up grazing

The work with ExxonMobil has gathered pace since lockdown ended and Jules Melin-Stubbs has been coordinating the recruitment process for the grazing of Hardley Halt, the first site which we have been working on as additional back up land for a commoner. An application process and form was drawn up and the land was advertised across the commoning community. We had 11 applications and our panel, including the CDA, Verderers, NFLAS and ExxonMobil have now shortlisted four who we will be meeting at the site during September in order to make our choice. The successful grazier will be someone with a proven commitment to commoning, an understanding of land management and nature conservation and who has a particular need for land in order to develop or sustain their commoning enterprise. Work will then continue to make more of the identified ExxonMobil sites ready for grazing.

Defra Test and Trial

As part of Defra's development of a new Environmental Land Management Scheme (to replace the current scheme which will be phased out now that the UK has left the EU) it is funding hundreds of Tests and Trials across the country. NFLAS is being funded to contribute to one of these projects which is being run by five of the Wildlife Trusts, including Hampshire and IOW across about 50 farms in five counties. This summer we have started to plan this work by approaching five farms in the New Forest which we think represent the wide range of farm types we have in the area. Having found five farmers who are willing to work with us we will now be carrying out this initiative over the next five months and reporting back to Defra in January.

Godshill Meadow

The transfer of the meadow gifted to us by a family (which will be managed by NFLAS), completed this summer. We will run a Discovery Day which will give staff the opportunity to get up to date with this acquisition, explore the meadow (via video and photographs) and hear about our plans for the site.

Net Zero for Nature Portfolio

Jules Melin-Stubbs has continued to work with landowners in the area to work up a portfolio of habitat restorations which could be funded by businesses who are looking for ways to offset their carbon footprint. This is a national initiative across all National Parks being coordinated by National Parks Partnerships. So far we have put together a habitat restoration/creation portfolio worth about £17 million across several estates including RSPB's Franchises Lodge Nature Reserve, Hinton Admiral Estate, Cadland Estate, the Crown Lands and others.

NFLAS OPOF Projects

The current focus for the Working Woodlands, Better Boundaries and Nature's Stepping Stones Projects is to write up management plans for the many project sites before the

projects end in December and the staff leave. We are starting to plan some volunteer task days on some of our sites as NFLAS now have an established volunteer resource and while we still have the project staff until December, we will be able to continue with this work.

New Forest Catchment Partnership

(See Bartley Water and Fletchwood Tributary WEIF Project in NFLAS section above).

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

The Authority's Landscape Officer remains on National Grid's VIP Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), representing National Parks England and has attended one virtual SAG Meeting in July. The Landscape Officer has also returned a response to OFGEM's consultation on the success of the VIP project thus far, also commenting on the proposed funding of the next price control period set by OFGEM (RIIO –2) which would fund further undergrounding of high voltage lines in protected landscapes and also the continuation of the LEI programme.

Two LEI projects continue to be funded in the New Forest National Park, Warren Copse at Holbury Manor, Fawley and Landford Bog. Both projects have been paused during Covid-19 but are now beginning to re-start with some contractors carrying out tasks although volunteer work is yet to re-engage. The LEI funding bid for Franchises Lodge is awaiting confirmation by OFGEM. This has been held up for some months now and it is now urgent that confirmation is given and funds released so that RSPB can start its planned work on site. A fourth project is approaching full application stage and has been given the go ahead to proceed from the Expression of Interest stage. Covid-19 paused the application process but we have now received a revised submission date of early October, so the full application is being progressed. This project contains footpath and habitat improvement in the Marchwood, Tatchbury and Cadland areas, within proximity of the National Grid's High Voltage transmission lines.

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 190 applications in the period 1 June to 28 August and in the same period determined 171 applications with an approval rate of 91%.

During this same period 11 appeal decisions were received; eight were dismissed and three were allowed.

Fawley Waterside planning application was considered at an Extraordinary Planning Committee meeting held on 28 July. Members resolved to approve the scheme subject to conditions and the completion of a legal agreement and landowner agreement. This followed a positive resolution by New Forest District Council at its Planning Committee on 27 July in respect of the concurrent planning application. The Secretary of State has since confirmed that he does not wish to call-in the applications for his own determination.

Katie McIntyre will be leaving the team and we would like to thank her for her contribution to the work of the Authority.

Trees

We have received 214 tree work applications since 1 June and have determined 205 applications which is a significant increase on previous years. Numerous minor infringements to protected trees have taken place which have all been investigated and dealt with appropriately.

During the same period 71 consultations have been provided on planning applications including the major sites such as Fawley Waterside and Lyndhurst Park Hotel.

Work continues making and confirming Tree Preservations Orders and reviewing older TPOs as necessary.

Planning Enforcement

Planning infringements and complaints have continued apace over the summer. Individual numbers have remained constant as with previous years but there are a number of more complex cases which are taking time to resolve.

Notable over the last three months has been complaints arising from extended occupation by exempted camping activities. Earlier in the year, Government doubled the permitted development rights for temporary uses of land to 56 days (for this calendar year only). This has meant temporary uses have been allowed to remain in situ longer than other years.

Two cases relating to an untidy site s215 notice and failure to comply with an enforcement notice relating to an outbuilding are scheduled for court hearings during the next couple of months. Whilst we aim to work with the interested parties to resolve the breach of planning control we have exhausted these avenues and are required to follow this through the Courts for compliance.

Enforcement notices have been served during the recent period relating to an unauthorised extension and use of an outbuilding as a separate unit of accommodation.

As a result of enforcement investigations there has been a number of retrospective planning applications lodged. Whilst retrospective planning applications are not ideal and can be seen by objectors as letting people 'get away with it', they do at least allow for full public scrutiny of the particular development which must ultimately be considered on its own planning merits and where appropriate, allows us to apply suitable planning conditions. Encouragement of /or submission of a retrospective application does not mean the Authority will support the development concerned but ultimately it must be considered against the relevant planning policies of the adopted Local Plan, National Guidance and the planning merits of the case.

Policy

The focus of the Policy team's work since July has primarily been on habitat mitigation measures and considering the proposed reforms to national planning policy set out in the Government's Planning White Paper and the 'Proposed changes to the current planning system consultation' (both published in August 2020). We contributed to the response submitted by National Parks England to the latter of these consultations (the closing date for responses was 1 October); and we will be feeding into the National Parks England response to the Planning White Paper through our representation on the National Park Heads of Planning Group and the Policy Officers Group. We have also engaged our own members of the proposals set out in the Planning White Paper and more details are set out in the separate report being considered at this meeting. The proposed changes to the planning system are wide ranging and through our representations we will be highlighting the continued importance of the planning system in delivering the two statutory National Park purposes and related socio-economic duty.

Following the publication of the Footprint Ecology research reports into the profile of visitors to the internationally protected habitats of the New Forest in Spring 2020, we are working with the Steering Group¹ on the next phase of the project. This will focus on the catchment area within which the majority of new visitors to the protected habitats come from and further consider the approach to mitigation measures across local authority boundaries. In the meantime, we will be applying the Authority's revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme (adopted July 2020) to ensure the recreational impacts of new development in the National Park are fully mitigated.

We continue to work closely with colleagues at New Forest District Council on addressing the requirement for development to be 'nitrate neutral' to protect the integrity of the Solent's internationally protected sites. This requirement is challenging planning authorities along the Solent and work is on-going to identify solutions that enable planned development to proceed, while ensuring compliance with the Habitats Regulations. This will include measures that deliver wider benefits in terms of biodiversity net gain.

¹ Comprising Eastleigh Borough Council, Forestry England, Natural England, New Forest District Council, the National Park Authority, Southampton City Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Wiltshire Council

The team continues to respond to consultations from neighbouring local planning authorities on proposals close to the National Park boundary which could potentially impact on the adjacent National Park. Since July this has included proposals for major residential development in surrounding districts/boroughs; and responding to the emerging planning policy framework for Test Valley Borough Council.

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

Archaeology

Work has continued to be delivered on time and to the required standard even with the reduced levels of staff over a prolonged period. This has included the Forestry England SLA deliverables, NFDC and NFNPA planning requirements and New Forest HLS, all of which continued as normal, if not to an increased level, during lock down. The appointment of Hilde van de Heul as the new Assistant Community Archaeologist will help to ease this and she has already started to assist the team with a number of items of work. Discussions are also taking place with other historic environment leads across the UK National Parks family to assess the potential to deliver cross parks projects around climate change, re-wilding and the historic environment.

Community led projects

The arrival of Hilde van de Heul has meant that a number of community led heritage projects will be able to start again. With a target of October 2020, Hilde will be reconnecting with local groups and volunteers to develop projects, as well as aid in the delivery of monument management programs with the volunteer coordinator for sites found on Forestry England land in the New Forest. Until now, it has not been possible to deliver community led projects due to reduced staffing numbers and Covid-19.

Building Design & Conservation

The Building Design & Conservation team continues to progress two important projects agreed at the February 2020 Planning Committee meeting. These relate to non-designated heritage assets and an update of our adopted Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document. National planning policy continues to emphasise the importance of good design and this is proposed to be strengthened in the Government's Planning White Paper. The work on non-designated heritage assets and the revised Design Guide will help deliver these objectives and both areas of work will include further engagement with members and local stakeholders in the New Forest at the appropriate point.

Planning applications and pre-application enquiries on building design and conservation matters have remained high over the lockdown period since the spring. These range from proposals relating to individual non-designated cottages to planning applications for

prominent sites in Conservation Areas, and the team has continued to provide specialist advice in support of the delivery of our development control function.

2 Enjoy

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

Education

Due to Covid-19 restrictions there were no school group visits with the Education team this summer. We have now put risk assessments and procedures in place in line with advice from Government on the reopening of schools with Forestry England guidelines. We successfully met with groups at Bolderwood and Hurst Spit at the end of September. There is evidence nationally to show that lockdown has had an impact of both pupil progression in learning and on their mental health with reduced access to the outdoors, so we really want to help those young people enjoy a positive and meaningful return to learning.

The support of partner organisations in the New Forest Educator's Forum has been invaluable. We hosted virtual Forum meetings in July and September, which were well received. Many colleagues have been in touch regularly to share good practice, inventive strategies on how we can all support school visits, and to offer support to those organisations with staff furloughed, centres unable to deliver residentials at present, and those facing financial uncertainty.

We launched the New Forest Travel Grant Scheme in September (instead of April), to help reduce travel costs to schools visiting any of the New Forest Educator's Forum venues. Since funds were not spent during the summer, we are making additional efforts to spread the word to eligible schools.

A survey of local schools in June on how they would most like support on outdoor learning has resulted in several bespoke teacher training courses and consultations run with school staff in their own grounds.

Significant preparations have been made for a new venture, a New Forest-inspired John Muir Award, which families can complete together and share their experiences safely online. We hope this method will motivate and inspire them. This will be launched October 2020 to a targeted audience and managed by the education team.

Following the retirement of Sue Palma, the role of lead officer was initially left unfilled. We are especially grateful to Amy Moore for sustaining the role of Seasonal Education Officer for so long. New roles have been created to reflect our aspiration to significantly develop youth engagement across the whole Authority. The new team comprises three part time roles:

- Lead Education and Youth Officer, Helen Robinson
- Education and Youth Officer, Amy Moore
- Education Ranger, Chris Marshall

Public and community events / rangers

As the increased number of visitors continued throughout the summer, there have been at least two teams of two NPA Rangers on patrol each day, including weekends, working alongside FE staff, Police and Fire service to deal with issues including fly tipping, barbecues, pony/donkey petting and feeding, watercraft and swimming in ponds and rivers to name but a few. Although visitor numbers have risen during the summer holidays, the weekends have continued to be the busiest times with overspill from car parks and verge parking occurring at the hotspot sites as standard and an increase in issues as mentioned above. The excellent Forest-wide partnership working has continued, facilitated by daily morning briefings to all patrol staff at weekends and a Forest-wide WhatsApp group allowing issues to be raised and reacted to as well as information shared to all ground staff.

As more leisure establishments and accommodation providers opened up after lockdown, rangers have been visiting many of them to re-engage with owners and staff, promoting the New Forest Code leaflets and providing a point of contact. This has been especially beneficial in ensuring our key messages are shared with any new temporary campsites created in response to increased visitors on 'staycations'.

Rangers have started the ambitious task of auditing all the rights of way in the National Park; more information is given in the Access and RoW section.

In order to understand the impact of Covid-19 on the type and impact of visitors, rangers have been using questionnaires. This should help evidence anecdotal observations that there has been an increase in first time visitors.

Seasonal rangers have undertaken training with other members of the RML team to start cycle patrols, engaging with cyclists to find out what existing knowledge they have of the cycle network and what are their wants and needs from it in the future. We hope to get a meaningful amount of data in the next couple of months which can be used for future recreation management work.

After a record breaking 252 applications for the North Ranger position, days of shortlisting and two days of interviews, we are pleased to be welcoming Hayden Bridgeman back to the team. Hayden undertook her apprenticeship with us in 2018/19 and has been working for HCC as an Assistant Ranger at Lepe Country Park since. Having Hayden achieve her 'dream job' as a national park ranger and Jake Barnes (Apprentice 2018/19) currently with us as one of the seasonal rangers has been a fantastic outcome for the OPOF Apprentice Ranger project. It provides an added incentive (not that any are needed!) to

continue exploring funding opportunities for apprentices to enable the scheme to continue as OPOF comes to an end.

Communications

As lockdown restrictions were lifted and the weather improved, we saw more people coming to the New Forest and like other countryside areas, a large increase in anti-social behaviour. This resulted in huge numbers of messages, reports, complaints, and queries by the public both by email and on social media and numerous requests by the media. Issues have included fly tipping, fire risks, verge parking, wild camping, littering, feeding and petting livestock.

In July and August alone, social media impressions were 2.3 million with 170,000 engagements (likes, shares, comments, retweets etc.) and 5,700 social messages.

We produced online advertising campaigns targeting people in areas around the National Park with respect and care messages. We launched the New Forest Code of nine key ways people can help care for the Forest, which has been backed by partner organisations including tourism body Go New Forest. This was promoted online by all partners and 10,000 printed copies are being handed out and distributed.

When it was announced that the 10 Camping in the Forest campsites would not be opening this season, we worked with Go New Forest, Forestry England, NFDC and others to promote the fact that they were closed, that wild camping is not allowed, other campsites were open and that people should plan ahead and book in advance.

Following an extreme fire alert and wild fires nearby in Dorset, we launched our #BBQFreeNewForest campaign with Forestry England and Hampshire Fire and Rescue. Over 50 retailers supported the campaign, removing disposable barbecues from sale. The campaign received widespread coverage including a live segment on national BBC Breakfast, BBC Radio Solent, Heart FM, BBC South Today, Metro and the issue was raised in Parliament.

We have supported national campaigns with other NPAs, promoting #BeKindOutside messages and National Parks produce, as well as Defra's #RespectProtectEnjoy countryside campaign. We joined in marking World Ranger Day and celebrated the reopening of the New Forest Heritage Centre.

As part of the ongoing wildlife campaign, we issued a press release about the effects of the lockdown on wildlife and in particular the rare ground-nesting birds of the New Forest. Our ground-nesting bird campaign with Forestry England during the critical nesting season saw a reach of 770,000 people on social media alone, with 1,500 video views. Ranger Rhianne worked with a number of experts and ourselves to put together content for a website section on moths which we promoted on National Moth Night. Social media posts have included the rare species found at Hatchet Pond, wetland restoration at Wootton and its benefits for wildlife, beetles, tips for wildlife-friendly gardening, heathland

birds, the importance of freshwater habitats and encouraging people to join in the Big Butterfly Count.

As part of the OPOF scheme, we promoted the Through Our Ancestor's Eyes project of commoning photos and stories going back through the years. We also wrote and designed an infographic and OPOF newsletter which will show the scheme's achievements over the four-year programme. Social media support was provided for the Commoners Defence Association and we promoted the work of the Young Commoners group. A wild play podcast was produced and ideas for family wild play promoted.

We published an update leaflet on the Partnership Plan and our Authority annual review. The annual review is a great way to demonstrate what the Authority achieves with its partners and members are encouraged to please share with their contacts. The annual review is available online: www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/documents/discover/annual-review/. Print copies have been sent to all members and more are available by contacting communications@newforestnpa.gov.uk.

The citizen science project to record ancient tree graffiti was covered by a number of national media including Mail Online, Guardian, BBC News, Radio 4, as well as regional media such as BBC South Today and the Daily Echo. A video promoting online heritage resources was promoted to mark the Festival of Archaeology's digital week and two podcasts were produced

Press releases included announcing three new Authority members; the Chairman's term coming to an end; live committee meetings and Fawley Waterside outline planning application approved.

We have also improved the website to work towards meeting new accessibility regulations and marketed the New Forest Tour throughout the season.

2.2 Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park

Interpretation projects (including Historic Routes)

Six interpretation panels about wildlife and heritage of the site have now been installed at Avon Tyrrell Outdoor Centre as part of the OPOF scheme. The East Boldre oral history and interpretation project is in the final design stage with listening stations to be installed at the Village Hall and Turfcutters Arms. The project is devising ways for the equipment to be used in a Covid-secure way and we have been assisting with this discussion.



Avon Tyrrell wildlife panel

The Historic Routes and Past Pathways project is now entering the final phase of producing interpretation for the trails. These will be primarily on the website, on the New Forest Walking App and in leaflets. Waymakers for the trails are being designed and volunteers continue to help the project from home with fact checking and content writing. We are now editing content for the various issues. The New Forest Walking App has been updated to allow us to record usage of the app on the walking routes which will give valuable data both to see how people use the walks and in what numbers. We have increased the number of 'points of interest' that can be shown so that we can add more about what makes the Forest special. To further develop interesting content, Gareth Owen has been working with artists, Coda Music Charity, local songwriters, musicians and storytellers to enable some of the rich content to come to life via the website and app. Stories include riots in Stuckton, Anglo-Saxon battles near Marchwood, commoning in Rockford, hillforts at Tatchbury and stories and memories about historic farming and estate management.

Health and Wellbeing

Following the postponement of the Health and Wellbeing and National Parks Conference, we worked with Bournemouth University and Public Health England to set up a series of monthly online seminars under the title the Nature Health Network. The first was in August and over 50 people joined to hear from a wide range of speakers including researcher, practitioners and people who have benefitted from nature-led health activity.

The second monthly seminar was held on 22 September - details of the network are available on the following link: www.bournemouth.ac.uk/nature-health-network.

We have been working with the local Primary Care Networks (GP surgery clusters) to develop the interest and awareness of the health and wellbeing opportunities in the Forest. We have run an introductory session with five new health coaches and a GP at the Waterside PCN, as well as visiting key sites such as the Holbury Manor Woods Wild Play site and the sensory garden at Lepe Country Park. We have worked with two other PCNs developing their walking offer, and are working with Hampshire Art for Recreation and Therapy to trial some nature connection sessions with families following lockdown easing.

We have continued to be active leading on health for national parks in England, working on the response to the 25-year environment plan with National Parks England and the UK National Parks partnerships offer.

Claire Pearce has continued to work on the OPOF Wild Play project developing a new relationship with Bransgore Parish Council and a possible future wild play site there, as well as recording a wild play podcast with Gareth Owen and promoting this with the Communications team.

PEDALL

July and August were spent developing the procedures, terms and conditions and risk assessments to enable PEDALL to resume riding in a Covid-19 secure way. Rosalind Alderman helped with legal advice and this resulted in some other changes to terms and conditions and booking procedure which have been implemented. Throughout lockdown we have had requests daily from our riders wanting to get back out riding, which we did on 1 September. We are now talking with the National Lottery Community Fund about both extending the project until the end of the year and how we can rework the bid that was put on hold in April for submission over the winter.

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

Alongside the day to day work led by rangers, responding to the unprecedented numbers of people visiting the New Forest between mid-May and September, work continues on longer term recreation management solutions. One of the biggest potential 'gamechangers' is the work to achieve a coordinated approach to habitat mitigation strategies across all Local Planning Authorities, which is covered in Section 1.1 Policy of this report.

The Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group met in July and September and the RMS Advisory Group met in August and October. Both groups are keen to find stronger mechanisms to reduce verge and gateway parking, linked with a review of where parking is best provided and hence where people are effectively encouraged to go. The feasibility of using a Local Development Order to enable any agreed changes to parking provision is still being pursued by the RMS Steering Group. There are also discussions about how the various organisations involved respond to other illegal recreation-related activities.

One of the agreed strategic actions for managing recreation is to 'increase the number of staff, volunteers and ambassadors 'on the ground' who can encourage people to enjoy recreation responsibly'. We were therefore pleased to launch the New Forest Ambassadors scheme in July, with an initial focus on litter picking. This scheme is being developed with town and parish councils, and with the support of NFDC; the 'I look out for our Forest' artwork on the back of the litter picking tabards came from NFDC's research on littering and was well received at a presentation last year. We also liaised with existing litter picking groups in advance of launching the scheme. 500 litter picking kits have been put together, over 300 have been collected so far, prompting some 1,500 individual litter picking sessions – and the public response to the scheme has been very positive.

We have updated our 'report a problem' webpage to help people notify the right organisation, so that issues can be dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Educational campaigns

The simplified New Forest Code usefully lists nine key topics where we want to see people change their behaviour: not feeding and petting livestock, keeping dogs under control, cycling only on permitted routes, taking litter and dog waste home, parking only in car parks, driving with care, no fires or barbecues, no wild camping and sticking to main tracks to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds. Multiple organisations work together on each of these topics.

Most have been affected by Covid-19 restrictions, for example:

- ground nesting birds had less disturbance than usual in spring, but more since May – and our ability to engage with people on the ground has also varied
- the annual Spring Clean had to be cancelled but as described above, Ambassadors have 'sprung' into action since lockdown eased
- many of the people visiting the Forest since May are new to the area and are therefore (despite numerous signs) less aware of reasons why petting ponies and donkeys can be harmful
- increased numbers of family groups and very warm weather during the summer combined to make barbecues both an attractive way of providing a meal and a very real risk of causing damaging wildfires.

We are retaining one of our summer seasonal rangers through the autumn and winter to continue our engagement with local people (hence funded by the NPA's habitat mitigation fund) to protect wildlife habitats and species. By retaining a second for two months we have been able to talk with more cyclists and find out more about their knowledge of the Forest, where they are allowed to go and how the management of cycling can be improved.

We had a very positive discussion with the new owner of UK Cycling Events (the company that used to run cycle sportive events in the New Forest with 2,000 participants in a day). They are now allowing only up to 1,000 participants and will continue to provide rear identification numbers and the very high standards of communication that recent UKCE staff have adopted. This should make their events fully compliant with the New Forest Cycle Event Organisers' Charter.

The Animal Accident Reduction Group met in September to review recent accident rates (reduced markedly during lockdown but inevitably more since restrictions were eased) and agree plans for a winter campaign (working with young commoners to add a personal touch to communications and thereby emphasise that the animals are all individually owned).

At the time of writing there are meetings planned with partner organisations to review the joint working by rangers through the summer and to progress the Special by Design project (to develop a more coordinated approach to conveying the New Forest's special sense of place through signage and other communications).

Access and Rights of Way

Adam Vasey walked the England Coast Path course with Natural England staff along the two-mile section just north of Calshot of the CCG (Calshot to Gosport) section, to identify any extra infrastructure or other works needed. It is hoped that this section will be approved for establishment in early 2021 and that we can open it in the following few months.



The longer section of the England Coast Path, HCS (Highcliffe to Calshot), is currently undergoing habitat surveys and establishment due to start in July/August 2021. We will then have 18 months to complete establishment and must maintain all infrastructure to a high standard for at least five years to satisfy the funding.

We have been invited to submit a full bid for the Landscape Enhancement Initiative which is an excellent indication that our bid will be accepted. The £150,000 will be spent in five locations and focus on landscape improvements, rights of way improvements and conservation work.

Rangers are conducting a path survey to assess the state of the rights of way network and better identify how we can work with local highway authorities to upgrade the network. A standard survey covers 20% of the network but we are aiming to survey every right of way in the National Park by the end of the year.

3 Prosper

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

Sustainable Tourism / business

The easing of lockdown measures has helped a number of the New Forest Marke members to return to pre-Covid trading levels for August, with some benefitting from a renewed interest in local food and the popularity of the New Forest as a “staycation” destination. We have continued to “signpost” businesses to the various sources of grant support that have been administered by New Forest District Council.

We continued to work alongside the DMO, Go New Forest, to promote supporting local businesses and to encourage sustainable transport and travel as a positive way to experience and learn about the NFNP. An example is the upcoming Walking & Cycling Festival.

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

Sustainable Transport

New Forest Tour - there were various challenges to reinstating the Tour, not least the Government's advice around avoiding public transport unless necessary. Drivers were returned from furlough and the fleet made service-ready.

Working alongside the operator, we were quickly in a position to deliver all three routes. Some modifications to usual practice were introduced. These included a shorter season (six rather than nine weeks); Covid-secure measures such as mandatory face coverings for customers; absence of leaflets, guidebooks, pre-season marketing campaign and Sustainable Travel Ambassador presence at Brockenhurst. As well as providing a visitor welcome, the latter usually account for 15% of ticket sales.

Comparison with the equivalent period in 2019 shows that overall patronage was down 25%. All things considered, this represents a success, especially given that usage on the general bus network was below 50% of normal during this period.

Lepe extension bus – unfortunately the ‘Lepe extension’ Monday-Saturday service had to be suspended due to an unprecedentedly high volume of vehicle traffic accessing Lepe Country Park, which impacted on adherence to the timetable for the remainder of the service along the Waterside into Southampton route. The Sunday service continued, however, and we await the patronage report.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – we are working alongside HCC and NFDC to develop local cycle and walking networks and to identify preferred routes and infrastructure improvements. It is part of the government's objective to make walking the travel mode of choice and to make cycling safer and healthier (by 2025).

Bike racks - Brockenhurst Parish Council applied for developer contributions to fund three sets of wooden 'parklets' in Brookley Road. 'Keep Right' signs will be added to ensure their integrity. Within a few minutes of installation, the bike racks proved popular (see photo below of one such set):



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

Affordable Housing

Officers have dealt with a small number of pre-apps for rural exception sites, with some of them expected to be forthcoming.

The NPA is a permanent member of the 'Hampshire Homes Hub', launched in March 2020. This new group is funded by Homes England and is the successor of the 'Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing'.

Sustainable Communities Fund

Funds of £2,000 have been approved to support the setting up of a new community shop in Minstead. The shop is managed and staffed entirely by volunteers and provides work experience opportunities for Minstead Trust. The local community contributed over £35,000 through shares and fundraising and the shop is registered as a Community Benefit Society. A range of local produce is available and there is a café service and local information point.

A grant of £1,500 has also been approved for an energy audit to be carried out on Bramshaw Scout Hut to improve the building's energy efficiency and reduce its carbon emissions. The hut is a timber building constructed in 1982 and has been in continual use since that time. The fabric of the hut has been regularly maintained over the years and is basically sound, but improvements are required to ensure its future sustainability. This may involve changes to the lighting, heating, and hot water systems whilst improving the structural insulation and installing new windows. The audit will be carried out by a specialist providing independent professional advice.

4 Achieving Excellence

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

Human Resources

As at 4 September 2020 the total staff headcount was 86 or 75.04 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

	Headcount	Variation from previous report	Full Time Equivalents	Variation from previous report
Core funded	65*	+ 1	56.61	+ 0.60
Funded by external projects	21	+ 1	18.43	+ 0.59
Total	86	+ 2	75.04	+ 1.19

*Of the core funded roles, one staff member (1 FTE) is working in shared services, 26 are part-time and five are on a fixed-term contract.

In the last three months we recruited to the following roles:

Role	Contract type	How funded
Member Services Administrator	Permanent	Core funded
Assistant Community Archaeologist	Fixed-term, one year	Project funded
Lead Education and Youth Officer	Permanent	Core funded
Seasonal Assistant Ranger (Winter)	Seasonal	Project funded

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

Team New Forest / Updating the Partnership Plan

An update about the Partnership Plan review was provided to members at the last Authority meeting in July. Since then, the remaining workshops 'connecting people to nature' and 'nature recovery' were successfully held via Microsoft Teams. Recordings of

the workshops were shared with members and staff and transcripts of all four workshops were sent to members.

The workshops are not the only chance to feed into the Partnership Plan review and there will be more opportunities over the coming months to provide input. However, workshop participants identified several important topics that will be reflected in the next Plan. The outcomes of all four workshops will now be discussed further by the Partnership Plan steering group and with other groups and forums where partners attend.

As per the last Authority report, further liaison meetings with other stakeholder organisations, charities and interest groups are happening over the coming weeks and months and our intention is to hold a single period of public consultation on the draft Partnership Plan in early 2021, depending on how far current Covid-19 restrictions will be relaxed over the coming months. We are also looking into the feasibility of establishing a new Partnership Board to oversee the implementation of the new Plan and this is the subject of a separate agenda report.

Subject to the timing of the public consultation, a draft Partnership Plan will be presented for formal approval by the Authority and partner organisations by the end of March 2021.

This year's annual Partnership Plan progress report has been [published on the website](#) and hard copies have been sent to partners. This is the last report under the current Plan and like previous reports it highlights some key successes as well as case studies that show how people are involved in making a difference for the Forest.

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

ICT Services

Much of the team's work continues to be focussed around the new working environment, with a lot of time is taken up each month setting up the virtual planning meetings and producing the meetings on the day. Member services are being trained to take over the administration of the meetings with ICT providing the technical support. New laptops have been handed out with the returned ones being refurbished and re-allocated and some staff now have desktops at home. A new system has been acquired to allow remote access onto PCs to enable the team to assist with issues remotely more easily. We are working on setting this up and on the larger project of managing the PCs when they are permanently off site. Big changes had to be made at the start of lockdown to behind the scenes IT processes to enable systems to continue functioning with access being remote rather than on site, this requires continual balancing to allow for any changes to how and where staff work.

We have held five successful Teams workshops which were all well attended, either live or via viewing of the recording. Following this success, we have now commenced

SharePoint workshops and re-instigated the Champions programme to help facilitate the roll out and move across to SharePoint which needs to be completed by March 2021.

Security always remains a high priority for us, even more so now that cyber threats are on the increase. There has been a recent ransomware attack on a National Park that highlights, despite having good security in place, all users must also be alert. We have just released some new security training for staff, 'how to recognise a phishing email' and spent 2 days onsite in August running critical security updates on all the PCs.

The ICT Technical Officer dealt with a critical situation in August where the virtual server infrastructure was inaccessible, requiring the initial disaster recovery step being taken of alerting ELT. Fortunately, the situation was successfully resolved following a very fraught weekend. The very final migration from 2008 servers has taken place with the media library and the time management systems being moved to new servers.

We are now looking at the urgent renewal of the IT infrastructure, which needs to be completed by end June 2021. In addition to this we are also looking at options for a phone system compatible with remote working and a replacement planning system.

Legal and Information management

In addition to providing legal advice on various projects and planning matters as they arise, the changes to the way we work and make decisions in light of the Covid-19 restrictions have also necessitated administrative changes to our Statutory Documents and processes. In order to appoint a new Chairman at the Annual Authority Meeting, we needed to investigate and test the various online polls which are available, to enable us to conduct ballots remotely in the event that any vacancies are contested.

We are continuing to receive many more formal requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations than in previous years. To date this financial year (Q1 and Q2) we have received more than double that of last year; 41 requests compared to only 19 last year. The requests cover a broad range of subjects such as ticks, litter and anti-social behaviour, the RMS, adders, postal services, cost of security and our IT arrangements, with the majority, just over half, being related to our planning and enforcement work.

Alongside responding to information requests within the statutory deadlines, work continues on reviewing and updating our records management policies and procedures, although this prolonged period of higher than usual information requests has at times impacted on this work. The period in lockdown has brought into much sharper focus the need to adopt new and smarter ways of working. Remote working led to a much greater use of collaborative applications, such as Microsoft Teams for video conferencing and instant messaging and OneDrive for Business for file sharing. In tandem, the significant task of moving our data onto the new SharePoint sites has continued to progress. This enhances the ability of our staff to access information when out of office.

SharePoint represents a completely new way of working and we have continued to support individual officers with this transition throughout the lockdown period. As officers become increasingly familiar with the new SharePoint sites, our network drives can be retired. Over half of the more than 100 new SharePoint team sites are now operational. Representing a cultural shift in how we access our data, this programme facilitates our ability to operate through a prolonged lockdown.

Ensuring that we meet our obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) remains a high priority and we are constantly reviewing and updating our website, documents and privacy notices to improve transparency and compliance. The Covid-19 restrictions have meant changes to our working arrangements and we continue to review and update our processes to encompass our new ways of working, such as working from home and holding remote meetings.

The number of formal complaints received in Q1 and Q2 is marginally ahead of last year (14 this year versus 12 last year). As in previous years, the majority of complaints received relate to specific planning applications and this year we have had four sites which have generated multiple complaints and account for 11 of the 14 complaints. We also have one outstanding complaint from last year with the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman which was delayed when the Ombudsman paused their work during the early lockdown. We have recently received the Ombudsman draft decision for our comments and hope to be able to report the final outcome in the next update.

5 Members

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

- 21 July – Planning Committee
- 18 August – Planning Committee
- 3 September – Consultative Panel
- 7 September – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 7 September – New Forest Access Forum
- 15 September – Planning Committee

5.2 Forthcoming activities include:

- 2 November – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 17 November – Planning Committee
- 2 December – Members Day (TBC)
- 3 December – Consultative Panel
- 7 December – New Forest Access Forum
- 15 December – Planning Committee

5.3 Chief Executive's engagements

- 10 July – Health & Wellbeing Steering Group
- 10 July – Green Recovery discussion with Portsmouth University & Southern Policy Centre
- 10 July – LRF and Comms meeting
- 13 July – Landscapes Review Response Contact Group
- 13 July – SE FWAC meeting
- 13 July – Hampshire LRF
- 15 July – Members workshop – connecting people to nature
- 15 July – Meeting with Chief Executive, South Downs NPA
- 15 July – World Parks Academy Webinar
- 16 July – Meeting with Chief Executive, Surrey Wildlife Trust
- 20 July – Green Recovery discussion with Portsmouth University & Southern Policy Centre
- 21 July – Green recovery discussion with Portsmouth City Council
- 21 July – Hampshire 2050 sustainable recovery event
- 21 July – Southampton Green City event
- 23 July – Green Recovery discussion with Portsmouth University & Southern Policy Centre
- 24 July – Members workshop – nature recovery
- 24 July – Telephone discussion with Chief Executive, Lake District NPA
- 28 July – National Park City interactive sessions
- 30 July – Green Recovery discussion with Portsmouth University & Southern Policy Centre
- 30 July – Green Recovery Framework discussion with Portsmouth City Council
- 3 August – Green Halo Steering Group
- 3 August – NPO Video call
- 4 August – Meeting with ARUP
- 5 August – Meeting with Portsmouth City Council
- 6 August – National Park City international celebrations
- 10 August – HIOW Local Resilience Forum
- 11 August – Green Recovery discussion with Portsmouth University & Southern Policy Centre
- 12 August – Meeting with Hampshire County Council
- 12 August – NPUK meeting
- 12 August – Solent LEP Recovery Plan meeting
- 12 August – Business South Board meeting
- 13 August – Senior Leadership Team Awayday
- 14 August – Wildlife Roundtable
- 14 August – Meeting with Defra
- 2 September – meeting with the Broads Authority
- 3 September – Landscapes Review Response Contact Group

- 4 September – HIOW Chief Executives meeting
- 7 September – Health & Wellbeing Steering Group
- 8 September – Partnership for South Hampshire Chief Executives meeting
- 8 September – Green Recovery Framework discussion with Portsmouth City Council
- 9 September – Green Recovery discussion with Portsmouth University & Southern Policy Centre
- 9 September – Forest Farming Group
- 10 September – Solent Leaders Forum
- 10 September – New Forest Voices
- 10 September – meeting with ex Authority Chairman
- 14 September – meeting with Southampton University – UK Business & Green Recovery
- 14 September – Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group
- 14 September – NPO Video call
- 15 September – Meeting with East Hampshire District Council
- 16 September – Meeting with Hampshire County Council
- 17 September – Introductory meeting with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust
- 17 September – National Park City Foundation Trustee meeting
- 18 September – HIOWLGA Annual meeting
- 23 September – Special by Design meeting
- 23 September – Wildplay site visit
- 24 September – Natural Capital Project Board meeting
- 24 September – Landscapes Review Reference Group meeting with Defra
- 28 September – Green Halo Steering Group
- 28 September – Green Recovery meeting with Portsmouth City Council
- 28 September – Wildlife Roundtable
- 30 September – Meeting with Radian
- 30 September – National Parks Partnership AGM
- 1 October – NPE Board meeting
- 7 October – HLS Board meeting
- 13 October – Landscapes For Life virtual conference

5.4 Chairman's engagements

- 23 July – Chief Executive's Performance Panel
- 14 August – Meeting with Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman of the NFNPA

6 Recommendation

To note the report.