

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held in the Lyndon Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2020**

**Those present:** Harry Oram (Chairman)  
Denise Allen (Panel Secretariat)  
Frances Connolly (Panel Secretariat)

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

#### **1 Election of Chairman**

- 1.1 The Secretariat thanked Harry Oram for his hard work and commitment as Chairman over the previous year. The Secretariat advised Panel members that no other nominations for Panel Chairman had been received. No further nominations were received from the room and Harry Oram was duly re-elected as Chairman until the Panel meeting in March 2021.

#### **2 Apologies for absence**

Alison Barnes (New Forest National Park Authority)  
Nick Clark (NewForce)  
Barry Olorenshaw (Hampshire Chamber of Commerce)  
Lynne Aggas (Breamore Parish Council)  
Jane Wright (Melchet Park & Plaitford Parish Council)  
Gerald Lewis (Sopley Parish Council)  
Patricia Banks (Milford on Sea Parish Council)  
Melissa Sheppard (Bransgore Parish Council)  
Mark Carter (Institute of Chartered Foresters)  
Russell Webb (CPRE)

- 2.1 The Chairman expressed disappointment that there was no representative from Natural England at the meeting. It was suggested that, in their absence, Diana Westerhoff (Natural England Verderer) would deal with any queries on their behalf.

#### **3 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 5 December 2019**

- 3.1 The minutes from the last meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.
- 3.2 Robert Clarke (Burley Parish Council) requested that Bruce Rothnie provide the summary to members regarding the EIA process and the Forest Design Plan further to minute item 4.3 of the meeting of 5 September 2019.

#### **4 Climate and Nature Emergency – Andy Brennan, Sustainability Officer, NFNPA**

- 4.1 Andy Brennan presented a summary of projected climate change in the New Forest over the next 100 years, pointing to the greatest drivers of decreasing biodiversity in the UK, and outlining the potential impacts of hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, and more extreme weather events, on both the natural and built environments, and particularly in relation to ancient trees.
- 4.2 Mr Brennan reported that the Committee on Climate Change, having reviewed a special report on global warming by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, concluded that net-zero by 2050 (where the amount of emissions emitted are equal to that being removed) was both necessary and feasible in the UK.
- 4.3 He noted that the New Forest represents an excellent existing carbon store and that the NFNPA has committed both to acting as a community leader in addressing climate change and nature recovery, as well as to becoming a 'net-zero' organisation by 2030. The NFNPA will look to working with partner organisations towards restoring and creating new habitats as well as increasing carbon storage through targeted land management (where there are opportunities) with the objective of making the New Forest National Park and its surrounding area 'net zero with nature' by 2050. Mr Brennan advised that he is happy to meet with local community organisations to help to develop local action plans.

A copy of the presentation can be found on our website.

#### **5 Climate Change and its impact on the New Forest – Mark Broadmeadow**

- 5.1 Mark Broadmeadow focussed his presentation on climate change and what it meant for woodlands in the UK. In particular, he spoke about how trees could be made more resilient to the threat of pests and warmer temperatures as our climate changes, and how we could measure our carbon sequestration rate for our woodlands.

A copy of the presentation can be found on our website.

#### **6 Findings of the Brockenhurst Flood Action Group (BFAG) and Action on Climate Change – Peter Hebard**

- 6.1 Mr Hebard presented a series of local case histories relating to flooding in the Brockenhurst area to illustrate how the local knowledge, observation and insights of parish councils and local communities can provide evidence and support to local authorities in finding pragmatic and cost-effective solutions to issues such as localised flooding.
- 6.2 Mr Hebard highlighted Met Office predictions for future increased drought combined with intensive individual rainstorms in the Southern England and New Forest areas. He suggested a range of benign and cost-effective water management techniques using natural materials which are freely available in

the Forest to hold up storm water in river catchments so as to replenish wetlands and lawns, protect tracks and ground nesting birds, and manage recreation. Mr Hebbard pointed to the UK Centre for Hydrology & Ecology's flood estimation handbook web service <https://fehweb.ceh.ac.uk> as an excellent tool for determining the key areas to target.

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

- 7.1 Steve Avery advised the Committee that the Fawley Waterside application was due to go to the March Planning Committee, but this would no longer be happening as he was still waiting for a revised package for the major scheme. It was now expected to go to planning committee in either June or July.
- 7.2 He informed members that nitrates remained an issue and there was currently an embargo on new housing developments until a way of mitigating nitrates entering the Solent had been sorted.
- 7.3 Mr Avery said that the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) had been consulting on updating the habitat mitigation scheme which required developers, mainly housing, to provide financial contributions to offset recreational impacts on new development. After six weeks there currently had been twenty-five responses to the consultation considered for a report to go to the Authority meeting on 26 March.
- 7.4 Steve Avery said they were looking at updating the planning documents to make sure new development was constructed as sustainably as possible, and they had already started to update the Design Guide.
- 7.5 A concern was raised about the consultations log which had been provided by the NFNPA and it was agreed that this would be addressed before the next Consultative Panel meeting.

## **8 Forestry England Update – Bruce Rothnie**

- 8.1 It was pre-agreed that, on this occasion rather than giving a verbal update at the meeting, Bruce Rothnie's report would be circulated with the minutes. Mr Rothnie then took general questions about the Forest from members. He was asked his position about the felling of Scot's Pine at Slap Bottom Wood, Burley. Mr Rothnie advised that the Defra Secretary of State had asked for a briefing which had been sent and was still awaiting a reply.

## **9 Any Other Business**

- 9.1 The Chairman was advised that the Friends of the New Forest talk on 'Climate Change & the New Forest' by Mike Clarke (formerly of the RSPB) and originally scheduled for 4 April was likely to be postponed due to the developing Coronavirus situation.

**10 Date of the next meeting.**

- 10.1 The Panel noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 4 June 2020 at 7.30pm at Lyndhurst Community Centre.