

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Linden Hall, Lyndhurst Community Centre,
Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY
on THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2022 at 7.30 pm**

Those present: Andrew Gilruth (Chairman)
Steve Avery (NFNPA)
Craig Harrison (FE)
Graham Ferris (Verderers)
Steve Davies (NFDC)
David Stone (Panel Secretariat)
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)

1 Election of Chair

- 1.1 Craig Harrison opened the meeting and oversaw the election of Chair. The two candidates were given three minutes to present their case to the Panel in support of their application for Chair. Following a secret ballot Andrew Gilruth was elected Chair for the ensuing year. Both candidates were thanked for their interest in the role.

2 Apologies for absence

Jenni Tubbs – New Forest Friends of the Earth
David Russell – New Forest District Council
Janet Bache – New Forest Dog Owners
Petronella Natrass – British Horse Society
Patricia Banks – Milford on Sea Parish Council
Rob Waite – Environment Agency
Tim Cook – Netley March Parish Council
Hannah Marsh – British Horse Society
Margaret Bunyard – CPRE
Gordon Bailey – Test Valley Borough Council

3 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 3 June 2021

- 3.1 The minutes of the Panel on 7 October 2021 were approved.

4 Matters Arising

- 4.1 There were no matters arising on this occasion.

5 Matters for Reporting

5.1 Forestry England Update – Craig Harrison

Craig Harrison, Deputy Surveyor, Forestry England, introduced himself and gave a short summary of his background ahead of being appointed as Deputy

Surveyor and said that he was responsible for the South District which spans from Surrey/West Sussex to Dorset, including the New Forest. Forestry England's strategic objectives are set out in "[Growing the Future 2021-2026](#)" focusing on Wildlife, People and the Climate.

Wildlife:

Forestry England's contractors had recently completed a programme of works in some of the inclosures and there was currently work on others. Over 200,000 trees had been replanted across the District, mainly linked to restocking felled areas including woodlands affected by ash dieback

FE's open habitats maintenance programme continued through the last winter with pine regrowth removed at various locations and FE continued to work on supporting ground-nesting birds by working on increased awareness with local communities in the New Forest.

People:

The results and impacts of the New Forest Action plan from 2021 had been reviewed and revised and the results shared. The revised action plan for 2022 remained a coordinated approach with local partners, including the New Forest National Park Authority, New Forest District Council, and Go New Forest with support from The Verderers, Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Service, and Hampshire Constabulary.

Working with partners, old vehicles dumped next to the Open Forest had been removed and the area made safe. This action was taken after an area, near Stoney Cross, had become a hot-spot for illegal activity and anti-social behaviour, including the illegal dumping of car wrecks.

FE continued to work with the Police and local partners to tackle fly-tipping on managed land in the New Forestry including the checking of waste licenses, erecting gates and barriers, and improving visibility of entrances, removing fly-tipped waste quickly and installing cameras in the most frequently affected locations. Speeding measures were also in force with teams carrying out highly visible patrols that focussed on speed checks along Roger Penny Way.

Climate:

FE teams provided an excellent response during the February storms clearing trees and re-opening access, responding to emergencies and dangerous incidents. FE was well prepared for further such extreme weather incidents in the future.

He reported that the Bolderwood site was featured as part of the Ancient Canopy, dedicated to Her Majesty in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee and was also a tribute on behalf of the whole New Forest community.

5.2 NFNPA Update – Steve Avery

Steve Avery began his presentation by updating the Panel on the Partnership Plan which had recently been approved by the Authority at the March

meeting. He explained that the Partnership Plan had been prepared and co-authored with key partner organisations who all share the aims and objectives of the Plan. The Plan would be officially launched at the New Forest Show. For more information please see the website here - [Partnership Plan 2021-2026 - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)

Mr Avery advised that the Authority along with partner organisations were also continuing with joint working to manage visitor pressures and to ensure the New Forest Code was followed. He explained that NFDC and partner organisations were looking at the feasibility of making Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) which if introduced would give more enforcement powers to tackle anti-social behaviours in and around the Forest.

At the Authority meeting in March members confirmed the Article 4 Direction for 'pop-up campsites' which comes into effect from September 2022. This removes permitted development rights for larger and all new temporary '28 day' campsites in the Forest such that planning permission is now required for all temporary 'pop-up' sites established from 1 March 2020 and all existing 'pop-up' sites established prior to 1 March 2020 with more than 50 pitches.

With regards to Planning Mr Avery informed the Panel that the Authority had recently updated the New Forest National Park Design Guide with a renewed focus on conserving local distinctiveness, more information can be found on the website here - [Design guide - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk). At the next Planning Committee members would be considering a report on an updated 'local list' for the National Park, which recognises and records buildings, structures and monuments which play a positive role in contributing to the character, history and distinctiveness of the area.

Finally Mr Avery highlighted the Sustainable Communities Fund, this is for local communities to apply for grants for small projects in their areas, more information can be found on the website here - [Sustainable communities projects - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk)

5.3 NFDC Update – Steve Davies

Steve Davies advised that he was standing in for Russell Webb and was portfolio holder at New Forest District Council for Waste Management, Car Parking and Coastal Protection.

He then elaborated on issues relevant to his portfolio. On coastal paths, Mr Davies advised that in conjunction with its partners the District Council would be approaching the Government to secure funding to assist with coastal protection over the next 5-20 years

6 Statutory Consultations – Steve Avery

Mr Avery advised that there were currently two consultations active both of which were run by Hampshire County Council:

- Local Transport Plan – closes on 26 June 2022
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/localtransportplan/haveyoursay>
- Passenger Transport in connection with the operation of services and the concessionary fares scheme – closes on 24 July 2022
<https://www.hants.gov.uk/passenger-transport-consultation>

7 NFDC Waste Strategy Review - Steve Davies

Steve Davies gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the proposed changes to NFDC's waste and recycling service. He explained why there was a need to change, how the strategy had been developed, the new collection service residents would receive and the next steps for the proposal. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website here - [Agenda's, reports and minutes - 09/06/22 - New Forest National Park Authority \(newforestnpa.gov.uk\)](#)

8 Any other items the Chairman feels urgent

8.1. *Tree Planting on the 'Open Forest' in Burley Village*

Robert Clarke made a presentation to the Panel on the proposed planting of 12 trees by the Burley Parish Council on the open forest in Burley to replace those lost during the recent storms and to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. He outlined where trees had been lost to the storms and where the replacement trees were proposed to be planted in Pound Lane. He advised that no regeneration of trees had taken place in Burley in recent years. However the Verderers Court had refused consent for the planting in the open forest and after initially supporting the plans, Forestry England had taken the Verderers' View. Mr Harrison explained the support that FE have provided to secure suitable planting sites and that woodland expansion is necessary nationally, but only if it's the 'right tree in the right place'. He noted the concerns about insufficient tree regeneration to compensate for loss of veteran trees in Ancient & Ornamental Woodlands; this needs to be better understood to inform what action might be necessary.

Following considerable debate on the matter, it was agreed that tree planting on the forest be brought back to the next meeting of the Panel for further discussion.

9 Dates of next Panel Meetings.

- 9.1 Thursday 1 September 2022
Thursday 1 December 2022