

AM 638/23

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING – 26 JANUARY 2023

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Report by: Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Summary:

This report covers the period since the Authority meeting on 20 October 2022. The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper and Achieving Excellence' themes from the 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

The Equality Act 2010 provides protection from discrimination in respect of certain protected characteristics and places us under a duty to have due regard to the advancement of equality in the exercise of our functions. We aim to eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity throughout all aspects of our work. More details regarding our projects and initiatives, such as PEDALL, are set out in the relevant reports and Equality Impact Assessments.

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As we move into the New Year we are seeing some major schemes transforming the National Park landscape for the better.

The open heathland south and west of Burley has seen a remarkable transformation thanks to the undergrounding of 6.6km of overhead power cables by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN). The work, completed this autumn, took two years including a pause for the ground nesting bird season and has brought the landscape back to its natural state, last seen many decades ago. Natural England, Forestry England and ourselves worked together with SSEN to remove the timber telegraph poles and wires from the landscape and re-route the power cables underground by the side of roads and under existing gravel footpaths.

The three-year Farming in Protected Landscapes programme has reached its half-way mark with over £157,000 in grants spent last financial year, £156,000 committed so far this year and a further £100,000 to allocate to projects which positively address climate and nature priorities, provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage and protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape before the programme ends in March 2024. Most of the support for landowners this quarter is going towards planting trees and hedgerows and harvesting rainwater to alleviate flooding issues. We await to hear from Defra if this programme will continue after March 2024.

A further 2km of hedgerows have been planted this autumn as part of the Green and Blue Horizons Programme which is entering its final few months. Volunteers supported by the Land Advice Service have carried out much of this work around the Beaulieu area.

Invasive rhododendron, pine trees and gorse are being removed from Bronze Age Barrows at the RSPB Franchises Lodge nature reserve at Hamptworth, thanks to support from our archaeologists and volunteers and plus the £200,000 funding we have allocated through the National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative.

Our tree team works closely with contractors, parish councils and applicants, promoting the best practice for tree works and protecting and maintaining our important trees in National Park communities with 100% decisions issued within eight weeks this period. Recent examples include negotiations with applicants who wanted to fell a mature oak in

East Boldre and nine oaks in Norley Wood led to their applications being withdrawn after advice to carry out some pruning as an alternative.

Our planning team have a 93% approval rate on the 106 applications determined this quarter and have dealt with several large and complex cases, all despite the major challenges that have come with a move to a new ICT system. We continue to address these issues with urgency with Agile (the provider of the system) and are grateful for the understanding of all interfacing with it as we resolve matters.

The Historic England grant for the Local Listing project to record heritage assets and Helen Walbridge's work on it has come to an end. In total 2,351 assets have been listed, varying from places of worship and schools to military remains and iconic K6 red phone boxes. Local listing ensures that the architectural or historic interest of these buildings and assets are recognised and protected and has been enthusiastically received by communities. The list can be viewed on our website.

Partnership campaigns to help protect the National Park included sharing an infographic showing the impact of the joint campaigns across the year. Highlights included:

- 63 retailers taking disposable BBQs off sale (up from 50 last year)
- 85,000 engagements on social media (up from 55,000 in 2021)
- fly-tips reduced by 50% compared to last year
- 7,000 hours of ranger patrols
- 950 New Forest Ambassadors (up 30% on last year)
- 122km of forest roads litter picked, collecting over 100 bags of waste.

Rangers have attended police-led initiatives Operation Mountie (tackling animal accidents) and Operation Wolf (to reduce fly-tipping) with a number of other partners with impressive results, backed by communications support from the NPA and partners to raise awareness of the issues. The animal accident reduction campaign has also seen new eco-friendly car window stickers and cards containing emergency numbers printed, which will be distributed over the coming three years.

We have also helped promote the public consultation on two draft Public Space Protection Orders proposed by New Forest District Council with partners focussed on the lighting fires and using BBQs principally on the Crown Lands and feeding and petting commoners' animals in the National Park. The consultation ends on 27 January.

The 732 responses to a visits survey are being analysed, to help us understand behaviour and impacts on the National Park of visits by both local people and those from outside the National Park. The survey was mainly distributed online, backed up by some ranger survey sessions. Questions included asking what activities people were doing, where they had come from, and awareness of the New Forest Code. This will help guide our communications and interactions with visitors. A short 'visitor welcome' film has been produced in partnership with Go New Forest, Forestry England and Love the Forest (New Forest Trust) and will be launched in the coming months. The 2023 visitor publications including 250,000 copies of the Pocket Guide and the joint Essential Guide with Forestry

England are currently being finalised. The film and print materials provide basic visitor information and encourages people to help care for the National Park.

More than 700 people took part in 96 guided events across three weeks in the Walking and Cycling Festival. Celebrating its 10th year, the festival was a chance for people to discover more about the National Park.

We were back face-to-face for the first time since the pandemic at the annual Green Halo Conference at Ordnance Survey in December. With the focus on 'investing in our future', we were joined by over 70 delegates representing more than 40 organisations with the keynote speech given by Lord Bob Kerslake, former Head of the Civil Service and newly appointed Chair of FuturePlaces, the regeneration organisation that is part of Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council. Speakers from a range of sectors highlighted the opportunities for maintaining and enhancing our natural capital through investments offered by emerging green finance facilities, the value of investing in the natural environment for business and the health and wellbeing of our communities.

We set out our concerns on the Investment Zone proposals as discussed at the October Authority meeting in a letter to the Secretary of State and it was subsequently decided by the Chancellor in the Autumn Statement not to take them forward. The Solent Freeport was finally launched in December and we are maintaining contact with its Board to ensure an ongoing focus on the green pledges contained within the bid and to secure benefits for the Forest and its communities.

Our Chair also wrote with the other English National Park Chairs to the Times expressing concern about diminishing resources (almost 50% reduction in real terms since 2010) and inflationary pressures rendering our delivery on government and community priorities for climate, nature, people and place at risk. We have a balanced budget for the current financial year and our recently launched our latest Partnership Plan for the New Forest is the focus of our work with a wide range of partner organisations to ensure that together we have sufficient resources to deliver the Plan's agreed outcomes. Given the financial pressures we will all be facing in the coming years, this partnership approach to delivering positive outcomes for the New Forest will be more important than ever.

We learnt of the sad passing of our former Chair Julian Johnson at New Year. Julian's steadfast leadership of the Authority between 2010-2014 came at an important time in the life of a new National Park. Julian was a member of the Authority for 12 years until he stood down as a Wiltshire Councillor in 2017. It was a great pleasure and privilege to work with him and many of us have fond memories of his time as member and our Chair, roles which he conducted with care, integrity and wisdom.

DELIVERY OF NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

The report has been formatted to accord with the 'Protect, Enjoy, Prosper' objectives from the 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.

Farming in protected landscapes

The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is halfway through its three-year programme. Over £20,000 in grants has been committed by the Local Assessment Panel this quarter and the programme is on track to distribute the grant budget for the year 22/23. The national programme has been reviewed by Defra and we await a decision on whether the programme will be extended beyond March 2024. Tree and hedgerow planting and rainwater harvesting to alleviate flooding issues remain the key areas for grant support.

Green and Blue Horizons project

Hedgerow planting is a key element of the Green and Blue Horizons Programme which enters its final quarter in January. Almost 2km of hedgerows have been planted this autumn, much of this work involving volunteers, supported by the work of the Land Advice Service in the south-east of the National Park around the Beaulieu area.

We have continued to explore opportunities for projects to enhance habitats in the National Park working with partners and stakeholders across the national park and a project portfolio is being developed. This will form the basis of future funding bids to help deliver our ambition for nature set out in the National Park Partnership Plan.

National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative Funding (LEI)

The LEI-funded projects at Franchises Lodge, Hamptworth, continues on the ground, with removal of rhododendron, clearance of pine trees and gorse from the Schedule Ancient Monuments (Bronze Age Barrows) and preparation of improved footpaths.

Funding for the first year of the LEI project improvement of footpaths in Marchwood, Tatchbury and Cadland has now been received after a delay, and preparation for the spending of these first-year funds are being made between Authority officers and the respective landowners.

Undergrounding of electricity line south and west of Burley.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has undergrounded 6.6km of its overhead network to the south and west of Burley. The project has taken several years to come to fruition with Natural England, Forestry England and the National Park Authority working together with SSEN to remove the timber telegraph poles and wires from the landscape and re-route the power cables underground by the side of roads and under existing gravel footpaths. The improvement of the landscape and views across the Open Heathland is a remarkable transformation, returning the landscape to its former natural state, last seen many decades ago. SSEN invested £750,000 in the project and is happy to consider other lines for undergrounding within the National Park. The undergrounding work took nearly two years to complete and was paused to allow for the ground nesting bird season to take place in 2022, completing in Autumn 2022.

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

Development Management

The move to using new planning ICT software and Citizen Portal has proved frustrating, time-consuming and complex. The team is working with the provider and the Authority's ICT team to seek resolutions to ongoing issues which have been outside the Authority's control. This has resulted in a backlog of planning applications being registered and determined which the team is seeking to reduce as quickly as it is able. We are doing what we can to keep people informed about the new system and this has included writing to all the parish and town councils earlier this month and publishing an online Guide to Using the Citizen Portal. A meeting with local planning agents is to take place on 24 January.

We estimate that we received 129 applications in the period 1 October to 31 December and in the same period determined 106 applications with an approval rate of 93%. This data is still the subject of cross checking for accuracy due to the move to the new planning software.

During this same period, four appeal decisions were received (three comprised linked appeals for one site); all were dismissed.

A major planning application has been received for the site allocation at Ashurst Hospital for a two-storey extension to the Snowden Centre building, up to a 70-bed care home; associated car parking and landscaping. This is currently under consideration.

Trees

The Tree Team has continued processing a constant, high volume of tree work applications and issued 100% of decisions within eight weeks. We are regularly involved in successful negotiations with both parish councils and tree work applicants promoting the best practice for tree works and protecting and maintaining our important amenity trees in the National Park. Recent good examples of this followed negotiations with two separate applicants to withdraw their Conservation Area notifications to fell a mature oak in East Boldre, and to fell a group of nine oaks in Norley Wood, and to carry out some reasonable pruning as an alternative.

We also work closely with many tree work contractors and a mature oak in Sway, protected by a Tree Preservation Order was subject to a tree work application. There is a good example of a consent issued for a crown reduction and reshaping of a large tree. It is often necessary to contain size and prevent nuisance or future damage when in close proximity to buildings, highways, or services. The contractor has maintained a good crown silhouette and several years on this tree has responded well with new regrowth.

We encourage small diameter pruning cuts wherever possible which causes less damage to the tree, reduces the wound size and potential for the entry of decay organisms.

There is another good example of fine pruning recently carried out with consent on a mature silver birch tree in Brockenhurst. It is difficult to see the pruning cuts but this tree has been reduced by up to 2m whilst retaining a good shape to the crown. Regular small cuts as routine maintenance are often preferable to making large wounds especially on species such as birch.

Planning Enforcement

As with Development Management and Trees, the Enforcement Team has been navigating the new software system and working to support our colleagues by assisting where possible with pre-app enquiries and registering planning applications in addition to managing our own enforcement caseloads.

The most common complaints this quarter have been in relation to the stationing of residential caravans, closely followed by alleged unauthorised works to domestic outbuildings. There is a current caseload of 142 cases with one enforcement notice, one breach of condition notice and three planning contravention notices being issued. We have closed 53 cases, 22 of which have involved steps being taken by the relevant party to resolve the identified breach.

In terms of enforcement appeals, we have successfully defended an appeal against an enforcement notice relating to an outbuilding which was found by the Planning Inspector not to be permitted development. Another appeal has been withdrawn in respect of the

stationing of a caravan for non-agricultural purposes. Both notices are due to be complied with this year.

The enforcement team continues to identify areas of work to focus on to provide a more efficient and effective enforcement service and will be reviewing campsites in light of the Park-wide article 4 direction prior to the season beginning and working on getting outstanding elements of the new software system live.

With regard to the proposed development of a residential mobile home park at Vernon Dene, near Bransgore, an Enforcement Notice has been issued requiring the removal of the site works (including caravan bases and internal roadways) and this is now the subject of an appeal. We have also recently given notice to the owners of our intent to revoke the Certificate of Lawful Use for use as a caravan site.

Policy

The team has co-ordinated several annual reports and registers linked to the end of various reporting periods. The Authority's Brownfield Sites Register (setting out the brownfield sites in the National Park that are available for development) and Infrastructure Funding Statement (providing details of the developer contributions received and spent in the most recent reporting period) were both published online in December 2022. The Annual Monitoring Report reviews the performance of the Authority's adopted local planning policies and was considered by our Planning Committee earlier this month.

A key focus for the team's work continues to be ensuring the impacts of planned new development are appropriately addressed. Alongside the Authority's own adopted habitat mitigation scheme for recreational impacts (2020), we are working with eight neighbouring planning authorities, Natural England and Forestry England on a more strategic approach to mitigating recreational impacts arising from new development. Specialist consultants (Footprint Ecology) have been commissioned to undertake further work on the recommended package of strategic access and monitoring measures (SAMM) within the New Forest's internationally protected habitats and a project inception meeting took place in mid-January. This work is due to report by early summer 2023.

The Policy team has continued to support work on the emerging Wellow and Ringwood Neighbourhood Plans. The designated Neighbourhood Areas straddle the planning administrative boundaries with New Forest District Council and Test Valley Borough Council and consultation on both draft Plans is due to take place in early 2023.

The team has engaged in several consultations in recent months at both a local level (e.g. Southampton City Council's draft Local Plan; proposed changes to controlled airspace around Bournemouth Airport); and at a national level (e.g. proposed changes to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework regarding addressing housing need), as well as following progress on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill as it progresses. The Authority is one of five minerals and waste planning authorities in Hampshire which are currently consulting on updates to the adopted Hampshire Minerals

and Waste Local Plan. This public consultation runs until 31 January 2023 and further details are available online.

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

Archaeology

During this reporting period the Archaeology Team has consulted on 10 New Forest District Council and nine Authority planning applications and given comments and recommendations on several other ongoing cases. The NFDC Service Level Agreement concludes at the end of March. We will be opening discussions with them about renewal in the coming months.

Forestry England's Service Level Agreement work and the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) work has continued.

Forestry England's Service Level Agreement

We continue to provide archaeological advice, data packs and site mark ups across FE's entire Southern District. Enquiries have been quieter than expected during this period, but archaeological advice has been given and Data Packs worked up for one site. We have supported FE with advice regarding the production of Historic Environment Assessment (HEAs) for 27 sites as part of their Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme (NCPGS). A provider has now been secured and we continue to support FE with this project. This SLA concludes at the end of March, we are talking with FE about renewal.

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)

The Team continues to support the HLS scheme. Enquiries included general archaeological advice and a site visit at Ravens Nest and a site meeting at Penny Moor is planned for this month. Work has now started on finishing survey work halted by Covid and progressing the HLS projects of data consolidation and concrete survey.

Data consolidation

Following the HLS Board approval of this project, we have started work on the consolidation of HLS surveyed data. This will see this data brought together with the aspiration of it then meeting the standards expected of Historic Environment Records (HER). Once this work is completed the intention is to add all our data to this record, in essence forming our own local HER.

Working with Community Groups

Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS): Following the excavation of a treasure find in late October 2021, working with PAS and The New Forest History and Archaeology Group, soil samples were collected from the excavated feature with the hope of being able to have the deposit dated. The Environmental Team at Wessex Archaeology has now

submitted its soil sample report and we are now looking to finalise this report with the PAS.

LoCATE: We are continuing with the LoCATE (Local Community Archaeological Training and Equipment) scheme, working with archaeological societies and community groups from across Hampshire and Dorset. Avon Valley Archaeological Society makes regular use of the magnetometry equipment and is continuing to carry out valuable research. A meeting will be held with Bournemouth University staff in January to get the training sessions for New Forest groups going again this year, for which keen interest has already been expressed by several societies.

WWI Hospital: We continue to support a small local group with its research into the history of Lady Hardinge Hospital for Wounded Indian Soldiers in Brockenhurst and a proposed geophysical survey project of the site in 2023, subject to permissions. We have secured training for the use of the geophysical kit and are currently waiting for the group to provide us with more information, so that we can support them in gaining relevant permissions.

Romani Community Archaeology: We are providing archaeological advice to Forestry England regarding the Romani Community Archaeology Project. We have advised on its Written Scheme of Investigation for the fieldwork aspects of the project, and it will be seeking the required permissions to start surveying in Autumn 2023.

Graveyard Survey: We have established contact with the Church of England regarding its National Burial Grounds Survey, which aims to survey all churchyards nationwide and make the information available online in an interactive, searchable map format within the next two years. It is keen for us to host our churchyard survey data gathered by volunteers during Our Past, Our Future (OPOF) on this platform, which would be highly beneficial to us and the interested local groups in terms of an easy and financially viable way to display the gathered data in the long term. A meeting will be held about next steps in January 2023.

New Forest Knowledge website

The website continues to be extremely popular. The view stats from October to date are over 28,000 views with [Ashley Walk Bombing Range](#) and the new [Digitised Drivers' Map](#) articles being the most popular. The New Forest Heritage Centre is now at the end of the OPOF legacy funding and we will continue to work with the team as it explores how to fund the site. Our ICT team has managed to keep our Geoserver, which feeds data to the sites map, going during our systems update. However, this temporary fix will not last, and a new solution is urgently needed. We are working with our ICT team to explore options.

Building Design and Conservation

The team has been busy working with communities on the local listing of heritage assets. At our December Planning Committee meeting a further 62 assets were added to the

National Park Local List, made up of nominations from the public, town and parish councils, property owners and others. These included places of worship, schools, military remains from both World Wars, and several of the iconic K6 red phone boxes that remain in the National Park. The local listing work has been enthusiastically received by local communities over the last year and has been capably co-ordinated by Helen Wallbridge, who finished her contract for the Authority at the end of December 2022 (funded through a Historic England grant).

The team continues to provide specialist advice on a wide range of building design and conservation matters, contributing to the delivery of the first National Park purpose. This has included inputting into the current planning applications for the redevelopment of surplus land at the Ashurst Hospital site (allocated in the adopted Local Plan) and applications at Marchwood Priory, New Park Manor and Hale Park. The team also continues to engage with Netley Marsh and Copythorne Parish Councils regarding the review of the Forest North East Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

2 Enjoy

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

Education and Youth

This autumn we've been reaching out to new audiences, in addition to visits with local schools on the coast and forest. One of the highlights has been the privilege of working with the Alabare UK parent and baby project. Young mums in supported housing from Salisbury met us over several weeks, preparing then exploring the coast at Lepe and the open Forest. Watching the families explore together on the warmest day in September really demonstrated what a difference creating nature connection opportunities for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can make. By the end of this short trial programme, one young mum was presented with an award for the positive attitude she had throughout and the example she set to others in the group. Please take a couple of minutes to watch these two videos of their experiences: <https://youtu.be/moF2ZRBM8kl> or <https://youtu.be/V1t0auaSRas>

Feedback from teachers and participants on school visits:

'We valued the way in which Helen delivered the session, taking care to get to know the children as well as delivering quality content that the children would not get in the classroom. We have some children with complex additional needs and they remained on task and interested throughout' (Teacher, William Gilpin School).

'This trip further supported their listening and attention skills alongside their appreciation of their local area. This has enabled them to recognise both the benefits and

responsibilities of being an area of outstanding natural beauty' (Teacher, Fawley Infant School).

The educator's forum has evolved, with members finding more regular networking walks really helpful; a well-attended training course on freshwater habitats for education professionals and more support across the board for new initiatives such as supporting green careers and work experience. We are also hosting a volunteer who is contacting Educators' Forum members and reviewing and updating the information we share about them on our website.

Team members were recently invited to speak at a Careers Leader and Enterprise Adviser Network event hosted by Solent Local Economic Partnership careers team and received great feedback after speaking alongside maritime, tech and representatives from other industries. The education and youth officers have been interviewing year 10 students who may be joining us for work experience next May and our youth development officer is laying the foundations for an early green careers network - to be designed and led by local professionals supporting each other in the early stages of their green career, e.g. apprentices, placements students, seasonal rangers and recent graduates.

We attended the joint health and wellbeing and learning and outreach conference for staff from across UK national parks in Exmoor, learning from our colleague experiences elsewhere and looking at what the future of engaging young audiences could entail as we work together more closely. We have learned a lot from our collective work and with other consortium partners on the Generation Green project and the celebration report is worth reading. [Connect with nature | Generation Green \(yha.org.uk\)](https://www.yha.org.uk/connect-with-nature/generation-green)

Lastly, we have worked closely with rangers, with them shadowing and supporting our education delivery and us working on public events including sessions with St Barbe Museum and Wild play events in October half term in the heart of local communities including Bartley Park in West Totton, Lyndhurst and Sway.

Public and community events / rangers

Joint working continued with 'Operation Mountie', a Police-led multi agency approach to reduce animal deaths and speeding across the National Park. The NPA was awarded a certificate from the New Forest District Commander recognising the rangers' support over the past year. The team was back out at 6.30am on 2 January Bank Holiday for first Op Mountie of 2023.

The team attended drifts to engage with the public providing information and assisting with public safety. A letter of thanks was received from the Verderers. Autumn pony collar counts were undertaken to provide data for use with animal accident figures.

Our Lead Ranger and two Area Rangers attended the UK National Parks Ranger Conference in Yorkshire Dales National Park. The purpose was to examine the role of rangers within national parks generally and more specifically in relation to Climate, People and Nature Recovery answering the question, 'What is the role of the Ranger over the next 10 years?'. A report is being compiled and will be distributed to delegates as well as Chief Executives of each national park in due course. Our Lead Ranger is currently the Ranger Managers group chairperson so will work on enacting the report's recommendations with officers across all the National Parks.

After the departure of the volunteer coordinator, rangers have increased their involvement and support by leading volunteer conservation sessions including scrub clearance on Copythorne Common and hedge planting as part of Farming in Protected Landscape projects.

Following a presentation by Citizens Advice Bureau at an all-staff meeting, rangers have been supporting the local food banks and warm hubs by helping and also providing New Forest themed activities for families who attend and may not engage in other NPA events.

The team has given two talks to students of the wildlife and conservation course at Kingston Maurward College in this period. The first was an introduction to national parks including a personal account of the journey from graduate to Lead Ranger. The second was by Hayden Bridgeman (Ranger) about 'how the conservation workforce can use modern forms of communication like TikTok, to inspire and engage people about the natural world'.

Two of the team attended the Mitigation Meet Up group conference 'Engaging the Community in Nature Conservation 2022' hosted by Bird Wise East Kent in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral. It was useful to share best practice and learning with other Authorities and mitigation projects.

Jim Day has been settling into the People and Wildlife Ranger role meeting key partners, chiefly FE, NFD OG and NFDC amongst others. He's been on patrol and taken the mobile information unit out on engagement sessions meeting and talking with New Forest visitors and discovering bits of the Forest that were unfamiliar particularly along the Waterside. Putting into practice his previous skills, he's delivered a ranger talk in Tiptoe Primary school to Years 5 and 6 with a New Forest Code focus as well as engaging with the wider school and families in the playground with the mobile unit at school pickup.

Rangers led four walks for the Walking & Cycling festival covering topics including the working forest and commoning, coastal habitats and a joint walk with our Member Stephen Tarling around Sway.

Our Apprentice Rangers have been working hard assisting the ranger team and Access and Learning Team. They will start their placement with Countryside Education Trust at Beaulieu in mid-January.

Communications

Partnership campaigns to help protect the National Park included sharing an infographic showing the impact of the joint campaigns across the year. Highlights included:

- 63 retailers taking disposable BBQs off sale (up from 50 last year)
- 85,000 engagements on social media (up from 55,000 in 2021)
- fly-tips reduced by 50% compared to last year
- 7,000 hours of ranger patrols
- 950 New Forest Ambassadors (up 30% on last year)
- 122 kms of forest roads litter picked, collecting over 100 bags of waste.

The partners launched this year's annual animal accidents reduction campaign, highlighting the success of Operation Mountie patrols talking to drivers and issuing tickets where necessary, and appealing to '#PassWideAndSlow' particularly during the darker winter nights. We also launched an appeal around the danger of fireworks and sky lanterns.

Rangers joined officers from Hampshire's Country Watch team and other partner agencies to stop commercial vehicles involved with landscaping, tree surgery, house and garden clearance, building or any other vehicle likely to carry waste or hazardous waste. Alongside the Roads Policing Unit, local neighbourhood policing teams, New Forest District Council, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), HM Revenue and Customs, Forestry England, and the Environment Agency this 'Operation Wolf' took place between 7am and 10am on 11 January and targeted commercial vehicles, waste carriers, and other roadworthy vehicles.

As a result of the operation, 50 vehicles were stopped concerning various traffic offences such as no insurance, transporting dangerous goods, and no MOT. The results are as follows:

- Two people were issued fines for transporting dangerous goods in an inappropriate manner
- One vehicle was stopped for having no MOT
- Three people were reported for summons for driving without tax
- Two vehicles were seized for driving without insurance
- One person was reported for summons for transporting waste without a waste carrier licence
- A 55-year-old man was issued a community resolution after cannabis was found in their vehicle after a search under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Partners engaged with a number of road users and offered advice on safe waste carrying and disposal.

We are supporting the consultation on two Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) proposed by New Forest District Council which look to ban the lighting of fires and use of BBQs principally on the Crown Lands managed by Forestry England, and the feeding and petting of ponies, horses, mules, and donkeys in the New Forest.

We produced a new version of the Pocket Guide visitors leaflet which contains a map, the New Forest Code, information about why the National Park is special, as well as details of the New Forest Tour, Marque local produce, Pedall and Love the Forest visitor giving scheme. Paper prices have skyrocketed so we worked with our designers and printer to reduce the size of the publication, enabling us to keep the print run at 250,000 leaflets and avoid an increase in costs.

The nature emergency and the special qualities of the National Park were highlighted on social media during COP15 on Biodiversity. During the COP we also shared a letter to The Times from all the Chairs of English National Parks, setting out the impact of funding cuts on the fight for climate and nature.

We gave our position on proposed Investment Zones following the paper and discussion at the previous Authority meeting. This included a statement on Solent Freeport's response to the proposed Investment Zone and a letter to the Secretary of State.

The £750,000 Scottish and Southern Electric Networks (SSEN) scheme to underground unsightly power lines at Burley was promoted. The 6.6km of overhead network, supplying power to the local area, was carefully dismantled and the project to dig the trenches to house the new underground cable was run in tandem to ensure minimal disruption to those living and working nearby. SSEN worked with our Landscape Officer to ensure sure that the natural environment was carefully considered and that no works were carried out at times that could disrupt the breeding patterns of local wildlife.

The Brilliance in Business Award for Sustainable Business of the Year, sponsored by the NPA, was won by the Cottage Lodge Hotel, Brockenhurst. The award ceremony at Brockenhurst College was attended by over 200 people.

The autumn/winter issue of Park Life residents' newspaper was printed featuring articles about the Partnership Plan, Horizons scheme update, animal accidents campaign and RSPB Franchises Lodge projects.

More than 700 people took part in 96 guided events across three weeks in the Walking and Cycling Festival. Celebrating its 10th year, the festival was a chance for people to discover more about the National Park.

We began promoting the National Park Volunteer Fair, which is being held on Sunday 29 January. This year's fair has a refreshed look with different promotional materials produced and a new venue of Brockenhurst Village Hall.

Following an internal communications survey, we are putting in place further measures to ensure all staff are kept up to date and have a chance to give views and feedback, all the more important with many staff working in the office, out and about in the National Park and at home. A room has been turned into a Team New Forest area for cross-team meetings to progress the Partnership Plan actions, with graphics and maps on the wall to help us and our partner organisations plan ahead and monitor progress, along with an online dashboard.

Fundraising

Several funding applications are currently in progress or have been submitted recently and we await the outcome.

2. Enabling high quality and beneficial experiences of the National Park

Interpretation and inclusive projects

National Park Artist in Residence Marie Smith finished her residency with the impactful exhibition 'We Belong Here' at spudWORKS in Sway. The exhibition is currently on display in the foyer at Lymington Town Hall. Artist Beccy McCray completed her month in residence and is now developing plans for the exhibition and events in May. Both artists have applied for additional Arts Council Funding to assist their programmes of engagement. We have reviewed the first year of the residency and we have concluded that the project needs additional support so that the artists are not dependant on the uncertain outcome of additional applications. We will therefore be applying in partnership with creative charity Spud to Arts Council England for funding to support a three-year programme of residencies to start from October 2023.

We supported the spudOPEN 2022 which attracted a fantastic response in its first year, with 106 entries from across the region on the theme 'Our Changing Landscape'. 52 pieces of work were selected for the exhibition at spudWORKS, which ran for six weeks. The opening celebration event attracted over 120 people and the exhibition has had good daily visitors and has been particularly busy on Saturday mornings. In addition, the exhibition has also been seen by all the groups of young and older people who attend spudWORKS for a variety of workshops throughout the week. Feedback from both artists and visitors has been really positive - with everyone enjoying the range of work, diversity and quality of the curation. SPUD curated the exhibition and

partnered with St Barbe Museum to allow their Young Curators to spend two days with him learning all about gallery curation.

We are developing different partnerships with organisations in surrounding areas to progress our inclusive national park ambition. We attended events in Bournemouth University and Southampton University and are working with groups to facilitate visits in 2023. Southampton National Park City attended the New Forest Access Forum to talk about their work and are included in the NPA-led Climate Action application to the National Lottery Community Fund, in order to build capacity for partnership initiatives. 2023 will see a full programme of inclusive activity including visits from youth groups, Open Sight Hampshire, inner city communities, student inclusion programmes and refugee and visitor groups. This is in addition to PEDALL activity and programmes such as rangers attending local community events with FareShare Hampshire and Citizens Advice for those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis in the Forest.

Volunteering and Ambassadors

In this past year 2,635 hours of volunteering have been given by 145 people. Hedges have been planted and maintained, woodlands and paths cleared, waterlogged paths improved, ditches restored, habitat piles created, rhododendron growth mapped, New Forest Show stand staffed, hedge-trimmer training provided, signs installed, bird surveys completed and scheduled ancient monuments cleared of gorse.

We held our first Volunteer Christmas celebration as a thank you to all our hardworking volunteers and as a chance for them to meet other NPA volunteers and learn about other volunteering opportunities with the NPA and partner organisations.

With our Volunteer Co-ordinator leaving in September 2022, the logistical work of organising volunteer tasks has been spread round several staff members under the coordination of the Access & Volunteering Officer. Rangers are assisting with task delivery and a slightly reduced volunteer offer will continue into 2023 while we look at future funding options for volunteering work.

We have continued to engage with the New Forest Ambassador group. Working alongside the Freshwater Habitats Trust, we have organised three litter-picking events across the Forest and coastline, involving staff and 30 participants and including one particularly frosty festive event which attracted some hardy ambassadors!:

The New Forest National Park Volunteer Fair returns on Sunday 29 January at Brockenhurst Village Hall. Over 40 organisations are booked to attend with a full programme of talks planned for the day. Attendance is free and all are welcome.

Health and Wellbeing

Dr James Alden, National Park Health Fellowship, has developed an assessment of value of the avoided healthcare costs provided by local greenspace and the New Forest in particular. James has combined existing data from the Office for National Statistics and

the Footprint Ecology report into visits to the New Forest. The annual figure is estimated at £27 million from people regularly visiting the Forest for physical exercise and also just being in contact with nature. James has recently presented this work to the Green Halo Conference, National Park Health leads gathering and the December Nature Health Network webinar. A simple methodology to assess future avoided healthcare costs of greenspace and engagement activities is being scoped which could be used across the region. We are following up with public health teams and other partners such as Business South who are interested in this approach.

We are represented (along with the South Downs National Park Authority) on the Hampshire Mental Health Strategy Steering Group. The strategy has now been signed off and reads across to the New Forest Partnership Plan in its promotion and use of local greenspace (both in and outside of the National Parks in Hampshire) to assist people with their mental health. This links to the work James Alden has done in highlighting the considerable health benefits of spending at least 120 minutes in nature / natural settings per week.

PEDALL

Shelley Filby joined us as PEDALL Project Manager in November 2022, following the retirement of Donna Nesityif. Shelley had volunteered with the PEDALL prior to her appointment and has a passion for improving accessibility to the New Forest. We welcomed Steve Trow who is joining our Friends of Pedall Charity as Trustee. Steve is a member of the New Forest National Park Authority and has also enjoyed cycling with his family and PEDALL. Thanks to David Harrison for his work as he retired as Trustee.

From October to December we had a total of 82 sessions with 510 riders (including carers) and 155 volunteer days. We had our final guided rides from our Ashurst site on 17 December and were joined by 15 volunteers who were given thanks for their fantastic support in 2022. Rides will resume in March.

We were delighted to learn that we have reached the second stage in our South Western Railway Customer and Communities Improvement Fund application. We await further news in March.

With support of our colleagues at The National Lottery Community Fund, The PEDALL team is focused on transforming our Ashurst site into a PEDALL cycling community hub from March 2023, offering social and confidence rides to those who need a little support to get back on two-wheeled bikes. We will also be offering drop-in bike maintenance support for the local community and bike maintenance skills training for our regular riding groups with additional needs. This will be alongside guided rides for organisations and families, expanding PEDALL's project reach and scope. We will be submitting our Year Two evaluation report to The National Lottery Community Fund at the end of January.

We have a number of Volunteer 'Rider Assistance' training days scheduled for January and February and will focus on recruiting new volunteers at the Volunteer Fair on 29 January.

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

We have continued to work closely with New Forest District Council (NFDC) and partners to introduce two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) to prohibit (i) the lighting of fires and the use of barbeques and (ii) the feeding and petting of ponies, horses, mules and donkeys in prescribed areas of the New Forest National Park. This is the subject of a separate report on this agenda in response to the current [public consultation](#) on the two draft PSPOs which runs until 27 January.

Following recent meetings of the RMS Advisory Group and the RMS Steering Group on 16 and 28 November respectively, an updated progress report on the 22 RMS strategic actions agreed in 2019 is being prepared and will be published shortly on our website – many of these actions are now reflected as priority actions in the new Partnership Plan. These include developing a spatial plan for where recreation should take place, facilitating changes to the car parks on the Open Forest, developing a more strategic approach to habitat mitigation, increasing levels of funding and using appropriate enforcement strategies. It is proposed to bring a paper to the Authority meeting in March on the work being undertaken to progress these actions.

In late October, the New Forest Association (NFA) published the results of its 'New Forest Byelaw Watch 2022' conducted over the summer (25 July - 31 August). This is the second such survey undertaken by the NFA which seeks to:

- 1 raise the public profile and importance of the byelaws regulating public use and enjoyment of the New Forest; and
- 2 encourage the relevant authorities to consider the effectiveness of the current byelaws in regulating public use and enjoyment of the New Forest with, if necessary, an increased emphasis on education and selective enforcement whether through enforcement of the byelaws themselves or other available measures including Public Space Protection Orders.

The report set out a series of recommendations which included targeted enforcement and on the spot fines – such as that proposed through the draft PSPOs. A full copy of the report can be viewed [here](#) on the NFA website and has already been shared with members of the RMS Advisory Group.

The Article 4 Direction for temporary campsites is now in effect (applying to those sites established since March 2020 and those with 51 pitches or more). To date, no planning applications have been received although it is noted that some sites caught by the Article 4 Direction are now advertising pitches for this summer. This is being followed up by the Planning Enforcement Team.

On the subject of camping, we look forward to working with the New Forest Show Society as the new operators of the Forestry England campsites and assisting with any reviews of the management plans for each of those campsites.

Finally, over the next few weeks we shall be updating the recreation management pages on our website.

Access and Rights of Way

The 10th Walking and Cycling Festival was a success running for three weeks with over 700 people attending 93 guided walks or cycle rides. All funds raised from NPA walks will go towards replacing a stile with a new kissing gate. We look forward to planning the 2023 festival with the theme of inclusivity.

The path clearance volunteers have finished cutting for this year. We ran 15 events across the National Park spending 129 volunteer days on improving rights of way. Volunteers have completed the 2022 ease-of-use path survey. During the survey 75% of paths encountered were judged to be open and easy to use.

We have received the first year of infrastructure funding from DEFRA and will spend this on six inclusive cycles for use by Pedall, a redesign of our promoted walks leaflets, the creation of 10 new accessible walking leaflets and various surface and gate improvements on the New Forest public rights of way network.

3 Prosper

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

Green Halo Partnership

After two years of meeting online the annual Green Halo Partnership Conference was held in person at Ordnance Survey in Southampton. Over 70 delegates representing more than 40 organisations attended the Conference where the keynote speech was given by Lord Bob Kerslake, former Head of the Civil Service and current Chair of FuturePlaces, the development agency for Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council. Speakers from a range of sectors highlighted the opportunities offered by emerging green finance, the value of investing in the natural environment for business and the health and wellbeing of our communities.

A panel discussion, chaired by Gary Wilburn of epgroup and including directors from Higham Saaz investment company examined the challenges of securing finance for investment in green infrastructure. Chris Fry from Hampshire based Accelar shared the work he has done to create a web-based 'Nature Finance Impact Hub' and, with Olivia McGregor from the National Park Authority showcased projects that have secured investment. The second half of the morning considered investment in people and the landscape with James Alden from the NHS National Park Fellowship highlighting the importance of accessible green space for health and wellbeing. Ruth Wharton shared the work of the Stour Valley Project and Rhian Edwards from the Environment Agency presented the likely impact of sea level rise on the Lymington to Hurst Spit section of the National Park coastline.

The Conference highlighted once again that the Green Halo Partnership remains a key forum in which to share ideas and plans for investment in the natural capital of our National Park and wider south coast region. You can see presentations from the other speakers on the Green Halo Partnership website: www.greenhalo.org.uk.

New Forest Marque

The New Forest Marque continues to provide support for local businesses during the challenges being faced by the economy. Marque members were a key part of the successful Eats-n-Treats Festival at Brockenhurst at the end of November and were well represented in various categories of the Brilliance in Business Awards in December. The year ended with 161 Marque members and the Marque board hopes that the vast majority will renew their membership for the new year.

Visitor experience

732 responses were received to the visits survey (in partnership with Go New Forest and Forestry England) aimed at understanding visitor – both local and outside the National Park boundary – behaviour and impact on the New Forest National Park. Responses are being processed into a readable format.

Editing of a short 'visitor welcome' film, a partnership project between ourselves, Go New Forest, Forestry England and Love the Forest (New Forest Trust), is now complete and will be launched later this year. The film focuses on the basic information for people unfamiliar with the Forest to both have a great visit and also help look after the National Park.

Sway Local Information Point has changed venue and is now located at the Post Office which stocks a range of locally produced goods as well as offering an information and New Forest literature service. A hanging sign has been installed and we are hoping to attach a map soon.

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

New Forest Tour

The 2022 season lasted 12 weeks and there were 45,166 passenger journeys, a slight increase in average daily passenger journeys relative to 2021. There was low uptake on the discounted residents' ticket and multi-day tickets so we will be focused on working with partners to help boost these ticket types for 2023.

If sufficient funding can be secured, we are looking to reinstate the Sustainable Travel Ambassador role to operate from Brockenhurst station, supported by the New Forest Community Rail Partnership and providing an inspirational welcome and inspiring confidence among visitors that a car-free experience a great way to explore the National Park.

Sustainable transport

Single bus fares are capped at £2 until the end of March 2023, which will enable more people car-free access to enjoy, explore and commute to and within the New Forest and coastal area.

Walking and cycling

Work with Hampshire County Council (programme lead), New Forest District Council and Forestry England to develop a New Forest Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) has not progressed since the last report - HCC has indicated that resource constraints are impacting the completion of the audit, based on the work done in 2021 and 2022 on scoping a suitable network. NFNPA officers are seeking reassurance from the partnership that we can collectively deliver on this important strategic document in 2023.

A cycle working group meeting was held in November and we also met with the Friends of Brockenhurst to hear local ideas to improve connectivity both on and off road for cycling in the village.

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

Affordable Housing

The Annual Monitoring Report 2022 was considered at our Planning Committee meeting in January 2023. It indicated that there have been no affordable housing completions in the National Park between April 2020 and March 2022, illustrating the challenges around

bringing forward affordable housing developments on 'windfall sites' within the defined villages, or on 'rural exception sites' elsewhere in the National Park. This emphasises the importance of the Local Plan (2019) site allocations in helping meet identified housing needs. The adopted housing site allocations at the former Fawley Power Station site, Whartons Lane in Ashurst and Church Lane in Sway all have Planning Committee resolutions to grant subject to the completion of the necessary legal agreements. These three site allocations will deliver over 110 new affordable dwellings for local people in housing need. In addition, work has commenced at the site of the former Lyndhurst Park Hotel which will provide eight affordable dwellings for local people with a connection to the parish.

We are now looking to tender the building works for the two affordable houses at Burley and expect to complete very shortly the agreements to permit access across the adjoining Council car park.

Sustainable Communities Fund

Funds of £8,380 have been awarded to New Forest Transition to encourage more sustainable lifestyles by helping communities reduce their carbon emissions. This includes:

- The School's Energy Project – providing school assemblies and giving out thermometer cards to help children learn more about energy efficiency.
- Transition Streets – developing a New Forest version of the Totnes Transition Streets guide to helping neighbours get to know and support each other better by sharing skills, resources, and ways to reduce energy and household bills. The first four cards start with a short survey people can do in their own homes as a pre-thermal imaging survey questionnaire.
- Thermal imaging surveys for residents to understand where energy is being lost in their homes and ways to overcome this.
- 'Blow a Hole in your Heating Bills' – a series of recipe-style cards and postcards to give out at events, talks, and shows across the New Forest.

As part of the project, printed materials will be shared with the New Forest green groups that have been set up across the area.

Funds were also awarded to Eco Sway to provide an energy fair and information day in October at Sway Village Hall. The event included 16 exhibitors and a talks programme giving people information about thermal imaging, green energy insulation, glazing, solar PV, energy storage, air and ground source heat, finance and grants available, as well as a selection of electric bikes and vehicles on show. The day was set up in response to community discussions around the climate emergency and ways to green the village. Eco Sway is an active member of the New Forest's green groups network that we help

convene and has launched several initiatives including a green spaces report and an initiative working with artists at spudWORKS on climate engagement.

4 **Achieving Excellence**

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

Human Resources

As at 1 January 2023 the total staff headcount was 74 or 65.64 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

	Headcount	Variation from previous report	Full Time Equivalents	Variation from previous report
Core funded	58*	- 1	51.40*	- 0.58
Funded by external projects	16	- 2	14.24	- 2.00
Total	74	- 3	65.64	- 2.58

*Of the core funded roles, one staff member (1 FTE) is working in shared services and 20 are part-time.

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

Role	Contract type	How funded
Planning Officer x 2	Permanent	Core funded
PEDALL Manager	Fixed term	Project funded

We said goodbye to:

Role	Contract type	How role will be filled in future
Wildlife and Conservation Manager	Permanent, core funded	Assessing vacancy
Seasonal Assistant Ranger	Fixed term, project funded	Assessing vacancy
Heritage Project Co-ordinator	Fixed term, project funded	N/A – end of fixed term contract

New Forest Land Advice Service Advisor	Permanent, project funded	Assessing vacancy
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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

The first meeting of the new Partnership Plan Leaders' Panel took place on 16 January. The role of the panel is to be a focal point to drive cross-organisational working against the Partnership Plan; and to work together to deliver projects, securing the alignment of shared resources. The Panel will meet four times a year, including a 'partnership tour' of projects delivered in the National Park by partners.

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

ICT Services

Security / Infrastructure

Successful installation of the new network system to replace the HPSN network took place mid-November. Installation of a new firewall took place at the beginning of December; this work has also overcome the issue previously experienced with connecting to AZURE. The final work to move away from the SAN can now take place early in the New Year. As part of the above work the system has been set up to 'direct traffic' so the MS365 applications bypass the internal network system, improving speed and performance. New Wi-Fi for the office still needs addressing.

We had to delay the cyber security incident response plan (CSIRP) to allow the ICT team time to complete the above infrastructure work. The CSIRP work will now take place in the week commencing 16 January with a tabletop exercise to follow.

Replacement planning system

Although the new planning system went live in October, there remain ongoing problems, and some more pressing issues which are being addressed. Alongside this work, a new GIS database and GIS Maps server also went live in November.

Other work / projects

A new cloud-based printing system has been on trial over the past few months, the new system will be setup for all printers in January.

In the new year we will be looking to replace the current telephone system and, working with NFDC to move to a single sign on for the HR hub.

We are also currently going through an ICT Policies and Procedures Audit with a final report due early 2023.

Legal and Information management

Information requests

In the first three quarters of the financial year, we received 56 formal requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations, which is five more than same period last year, an increase of 10%. All but one were responded to within the statutory time frame. As in previous years most requests relate to our planning function, with requests about specific planning applications, pre-apps and enforcement investigations, as well as policy and statistics enquiries. Those which are not related to our planning function are predominantly concerned with matters relating to finance, our IT arrangements, headcount and staff training.

We have undertaken three internal reviews so far this year; in two cases the original decision was upheld and in the third some further disclosures were made. We are not aware of any appeals to the Information Commissioner to date.

Complaints

Formal complaints are down on last year. At the end of Q3 we had received five compared to eight in the same period last year. All five were related to planning matters and three were concerned with the planning pages of our website being temporarily unavailable whilst we migrated our planning records to the new case management system in the Autumn. All were responded to within our 20-working day deadline.

Privacy and data protection

We continue to work hard to ensure that we meet our obligations under the GDPR and are constantly reviewing and updating our website, documents and privacy notices to improve transparency and compliance, whilst responding to data protection queries as they arise.

5 Members

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

- 7 November – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 15 November – Planning Committee
- 1 December – Consultative Panel
- 5 December – New Forest Access Forum
- 8 December – Resources Task & Finish Group
- 15 December – Members Day – Business Plan & Future Resources
- 20 December – Planning Committee
- 20 December – Resources Task & Finish Group
- 9 January – Standards Committee
- 17 January – Planning Committee
- 23 January Resources Task & Finish Group

5.2 Forthcoming activities include:

- 2 February – Members Day TBC
- 6 February – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 21 February – Planning Committee
- 2 March – Consultative Panel
- 6 March – Resources, Audit and Performance Committee
- 21 March – Planning Committee

5.3 Chief Executive's external engagements

- 21 October – St Georges Windsor Fellowship Conversation
- 21 October – Wildlife Roundtable
- 31 October – Freeport Policy discussion with Defra
- 31 October – Business South Board meeting
- 1 November – Revere Working Group
- 2 November – Catch up with NPE
- 3 November – NPE Board meeting
- 3 November – PfSH Chief Executives meeting
- 4 November – HIOW Chief Executives meeting
- 4 November – Beaulieu Estate Dinner
- 7 November – NPs CX meeting with Defra
- 8 November – Greenprint meeting
- 8 November – NFDC Staff briefing
- 9 November – Greenprint Steering Group
- 9 November – Meeting with CX North York Moors

- 9 November – Meeting with SDNPA Chair and CX
- 10 November – Meeting with Foundation for Common Land
- 11 November – NFDC staff briefing x 2
- 13 November – Remembrance Service at Lyndhurst
- 14 November – Meeting with the Verderers / FE
- 14 November – St George's Windsor Fellowship Conversation
- 16 November – NPE meeting on nature recovery
- 17 November – COP26 Working Group
- 17 November – Wildlife Roundtable
- 18 November – Site visits with RSPB
- 21-23 November – All Parks Health and Wellbeing Officers meeting Exmoor
- 24 November – Independent Climate and Environment Group
- 25 November – HIOW LGA meeting
- 25 November – St George's Windsor Fellowship Leader to Leader Exchange
- 25 November – Waterside Steering Group
- 29 November – NPP AGM
- 1 December – Green Leadership Working session
- 5 December – Meeting with CX NFDC
- 5 December – Defra review meeting
- 6 December – Green Halo Conference
- 6 December – Judging Open Art at SPUD
- 7 December – Wildlife / nature recovery meeting
- 7 December – Nature Recovery update session
- 7 December – PfSH Joint Committee
- 8 December – Annual Performance Meeting with Defra
- 8 December – Launch and speech at SPUD Open Art exhibition
- 9 December – Verderers Tour of Stock
- 9 December – Wildlife Roundtable
- 10 December – Meeting with Southampton City Council Leader and CX
- 13 December – Defra Protected Landscapes Targets meeting
- 13 December – Meeting with the Deputy Surveyor
- 14 December – Green Leadership development session
- 14 December – Chair Partnership Plan Leadership Group meeting
- 14 December – Solent Freeport Board meeting
- 15 December – PfSH Chief Executives meeting
- 16 December – Directors of Conservation meeting
- 16 December – St George's Windsor Fellowship Leader to Leader Exchange
- 19 December – ENPOG meeting
- 20 December - Meeting with Forestry Commission Area Director
- 21 December – Meeting with Verderers and FE
- 21 December – Meeting with Business South
- 22 December – Green Leadership meetings
- 4 January – Greenprint Steering Group

- 6 January – St George's Windsor Fellowship Leader to Leader Exchange
- 9 January – National Parks CX meeting with Defra
- 11 January – Duchy of Cornwall site visits
- 12 January – Nature Recovery meeting
- 13 January – Defra Protected Landscapes Targets meeting
- 16 January – Partnership Plan Leaders Panel
- 16 January – English NPO Group meeting (CX of National Parks)
- 20 January – National Parks Partnership meeting
- 20 January – Meeting with CX NFDC
- 23 January – Solent Freeport Board Workshop
- 25 January – Julian Johnson Funeral

Frequent and regular internal engagements include Executive Board and Leadership Team meetings, New Forest Voices programme, RAPC and member committees and briefings, Task & Finish Groups, Members Days, Partnership Plan meetings, All-Staff Team meetings; 1-1s and performance reviews, coaching and leadership development.

5.4 Chairman's engagements

- 3 November – NPE Board meeting
- 4 November – Partnership Plan meeting with Wiltshire Council
- 4 November – Beaulieu Estate Dinner
- 9 November – Meeting with SDNPA
- 16 November – Partnership Plan meeting with Natural England
- 16 November – Partnership Plan meeting with Forestry Commission
- 18 November – Partnership Plan meeting with Environment Agency
- 24 November – Partnership Plan meeting with Verderers
- 24 November – Partnership Plan meeting with NFDC
- 16 January – Partnership Plan Leaders Panel
- 20 January – NPP meeting

6 Recommendation

To note the report.