

AM 660/23






**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY  
AUTHORITY MEETING – 19 OCTOBER 2023**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

**Report by:** Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

**Summary:**

This report covers the period since the Authority meeting on 13 July 2023. The report has been formatted to accord with our statutory purposes and duty; these are delivered by the Re:New Forest themes of 'Climate, Nature, People, Place, Partnership and Achieving Excellence' from our newly agreed Business Plan, summarised as follows:

 Re:New Climate	 Re:New Nature	 Re:New People	 Re:New Place	 Re:New Partnership
Establishing data and evidence baseline and implementing nature-based climate solutions.	Making space for nature and mitigating recreational pressures.	Increasing green skills and jobs - supporting New Forest business / green tourism. Sustainable land management and securing the future of commoning.	Promoting health and wellbeing through contact with nature.	Establishing stronger partnerships within the boundary.
Building a New Forest coalition for a Net Zero economy.	Enhancing natural capital.	Increasing the National Park's resilience to the effects of climate change.	Connecting people with nature and landscape.	Leading the green agenda beyond the New Forest.
Activating communities and increasing sustainable travel.	Supporting nature recovery through Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS).	Increasing the availability of affordable housing.	Safeguarding cultural heritage.	Developing a centre of excellence of insights and innovation for the New Forest.
<b>Re:New Organisation: Achieving Excellence</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering high-quality services through a capable and motivated staff team</li> <li>• Maximising resources and using them efficiently and effectively</li> <li>• Modernising our use of the office space and our wider ways of working</li> </ul>				

**Recommendation:**

**To note the report.**

**Contact:** Alison Barnes  
Tel: 01590 646633,  
Email: [alison.barnes@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:alison.barnes@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

**Equality and 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.

**AM 660/23**

**NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

**AUTHORITY MEETING – 19 OCTOBER 2023**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

**Report by:** Alison Barnes, Chief Executive

Following the adoption in July of our Business Plan which sets out what we will be doing over the coming years to implement the shared Re:New Forest Partnership Plan, we have made good progress and engaged a wide range of partners and our communities across its six themes.

We were delighted to hear that our bid for £1.2 million to the National Lottery's Climate Action Fund was successful and we launched the resulting Youth for Climate and Nature 'YouCAN' scheme which, with match funding, represents a £1.4 million investment into the Forest and surrounding area. The scheme will run over three years with around £720,000 supporting the NPA's wide ranging youth work and the remainder going to our six partners. The funds will help support around 15 jobs.

In the run up to achieving this transformational funding we have been focussed on supporting young people and green skills and jobs through our intern programme (funded by Groundwork New to Nature), our early careers network, work experience placements, school visits with 444 students, Brockenhurst College Freshers Day, plus youth and volunteering sessions. A pilot junior rangers programme was launched over the summer and sessions were booked up within hours of being launched, demonstrating clear demand from families.

Our nature recovery work has moved forward with the launch of the Re:New Nature Challenge at the New Forest Show to bring together landowners, communities, organisations and individuals to drive large scale habitat restoration and bring together the resources required. Our expression of interest to the Species Survival Fund was accepted and we are submitting the full application for around £1 million soon.

Community activity is key in tackling the climate and nature emergencies and caring for the National Park and this quarter we continued to convene Green Groups from across the Forest and to fund community projects through our Sustainable Communities Fund, including a bird hide at Brockenhurst Primary School. Volunteers have devoted 1,600 hours during 14 sessions to cut back vegetation and improve paths across the National

Park and our New Forest Ambassadors have undertaken a beach clean and survey for the Marine Conservation Society at Hurst Spit.

Our planning team has determined 156 applications since July with a 94% approval rate, including the Ashurst Hospital Scheme and a commoner's dwelling at Rockford. There have been a number of consultations on planning from Government over the summer and following members' discussion at our last meeting we sent a strongly worded response to the consultation on proposals to expand permitted development rights which we believe would be disastrous for the National Park if approved. Following the September meeting of the Authority we are making a new Article 4 Direction to remove the permitted development right for the temporary use of land as a recreational campsite. The uncertainty over the Solent nutrient neutrality scheme, difficulty in gaining commitment to a joint mitigation scheme for the New Forest Special Protection Area and preparation for Biodiversity Net Gain implementation continue to make a significant call on officer time. We were pleased to support councillors across the towns and parishes in their preparation of three Neighbourhood Plans at various stages this quarter as well as a meeting of 130 parish councillors for training on planning matters.

Summer is the time when we celebrate Forest life and take the opportunity to show stakeholders and partners a wide range of projects and discuss opportunities for collaboration as 'Team New Forest'. The New Forest Show is a very important for renewing relationships and discussing Forest matters and we were delighted to celebrate the 10th anniversary of New Forest NPA and CLA Awards in the main ring with fantastic winners representing true dedication to the future of the New Forest across six categories. We welcomed 3,000 people to our stand celebrating the wonders of nature in the National Park and inviting people join the Re:New Nature mission to secure its future. The stand featured 'our nature story' - a campaign with over 300 posts on social media about people's favourite ways and places to connect with nature featuring stories from the Chief Exec of RSPB, local media professionals, young people and NPA staff. Defra Minister Lord Benyon spent time with us on the stand and we were pleased to be able to talk to him about a range of issues, including the strengthening of the duty on all relevant public bodies to ensure they 'must seek to further' National Park purposes which was recently included in a Government amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (currently they merely have to 'have regard' to our purposes).

We also provided the display and video for the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme on the Verderers stand at the Show and were pleased that PEDALL welcomed 800 riders to try the all-ability bikes.

Our ranger team summer holiday duties beyond the New Forest Show included presence at the Ellingham Show, Wild Wednesdays at the Reptile Centre, New Milton Bee Fayre and Wildlife Wonders at Lepe Country Park. Their 'three E' approach of 'engage, educate

and enforce' was deployed through joint patrols with the Police for Operation Mountie and Safer New Forest and with the rollout of the pony feeding and BBQ Public Service Protection Orders (PSPOs) introduced in July. Our seasonal rangers delivered a successful summer of activities at four Camping New Forest campsites engaging with 1,230 people through guided walks, family activities and information provision. The New Forest Tour saw 40,686 passenger journeys over its 11 weeks, enabling a car-free experience and access to commentary about what makes the Forest special and how to care for it.

We hosted a number of visits this quarter including by three of our MPs, Wiltshire Council senior staff and councillors, Hampshire County Council Leader and portfolio holder, UK national parks conservation directors, Defra officials, national parks Chairs and Chief Executives. We have also met with our Wiltshire MP, John Glen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. These visits and meetings have enabled us to show just how important the New Forest is and to enlist their support for our collective work to raise profile, awareness and resources to tackle the issues and take the opportunities in implementing our shared Re:New Forest Partnership Plan.

## **DELIVERY OF NATIONAL PARK PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS**

The report has been formatted to accord with the statutory purposes and duty, which we often refer to as Protect, Enjoy and Prosper. These are delivered through our Re:New 'Climate, Nature, People, Place, Partnership, Achieving Excellence' objectives from the newly agreed Business Plan, a summary of which is set out on the first page.

Our Business Plan is delivered through annual Work Programmes, progress on which is set out in these reports alongside the formal quarterly reporting under the six themes to the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee; at the end of each year we produce an Annual Review document.

The final section of this report lists the Members', our Chair's and the Chief Executive's activities and events.

### **1 First Purpose: Protect**

#### *Re:New Nature Partnership*

The work of the Wildlife Roundtable culminated in the launch of the Re:New Nature Challenge at the New Forest Show. The Challenge aims to highlight the international importance of the National Park for biodiversity and encourage landowners, communities and individuals to do what they can to help restore nature and to promote the need for continued investment in nature in the New Forest.

The work of the roundtable will be developed through the creation of Re:New Nature Partnership to drive the action needed to ensure our habitats are more resilient, better managed, bigger and more joined up. The concept of the Partnership has been shared with signatories to the Partnership Plan and will be formally established in the autumn.

Resources are needed to help secure the ambitions for nature set out in the Partnership Plan and we were pleased to have our expression of interest to the Species Survival Fund accepted and be invited to submit a formal application. The Fund is a short-term programme delivered on behalf of Defra by the Heritage Fund, providing grants for a maximum of two years. We will be working in partnership with the Freshwater Habitats Trust to prepare and submit the bid in late October.

#### *Farming in protected landscapes*

Applications to the FiPL programme have been limited through the summer but the Local Assessment Panel approved two projects at their meeting in September. The team hosted a Defra FiPL workshop for southern protected landscapes in July and FiPL projects were highlighted on our series of MP visits in August.

#### *Development Management*

149 applications were received in the period 1 July to 28 September 2023. In the same period 156 applications were determined with an approval rate of 94%.

During this same period, five appeal decisions were received. Of these, two were allowed and three were dismissed.

A major application for the mixed-used redevelopment of Ashurst Hospital was one of 10 applications recently considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting in September. Members resolved to approve the application subject to the prior completion of a legal agreement. Other notable applications included a new commoners' dwelling at Rockford (approved) and an affordable housing scheme (10 dwellings) at Bartley (deferred for further information on drainage).

A planning training event for Parish Councils was held at Brockenhurst Village Hall on 6 September which was very well attended. Topics covered included an overview of planning, the Local Plan, a step-by-step guide to determining planning applications, enforcing planning control and tree work applications and making Tree Protection Orders.

## Trees

Tree work applications have remained steady with a high volume of applications registered for work to trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders or growing with Conservation Areas.

This year seven new Tree Preservation Orders have been made protecting trees with a high amenity value that may otherwise have been lost through felling or inappropriate pruning.

Both our Tree Officers recently attended a three-day seminar on Fungi and Veteran Trees in the Planning System held in Brockenhurst and hope to attend the National Tree Officer Conference in Reading next month.

Our National Park interns have just started on a project helping with a review of all our older Tree Preservation Orders and checking compliance with replacement tree planting conditions. This is an important piece of work vital in maintaining our records are kept up to date.

## Planning Enforcement

Sadly, the enforcement team has said goodbye to John Langdown who brought a new dynamic to the team with his fresh view and inquisitive nature which will carry on. Before leaving, collectively the team dealt with 56 new cases received in Q2 and 62 cases closed, three of which were as a result of Enforcement Notices being complied with.

During the course of establishing whether or not a breach of planning control has occurred the Authority has issued 7 Planning Contravention Notices (PCN's). Two cases have resulted in the issuing of an Enforcement Notice; one in Lyndhurst where a touring caravan is being used for independent residential purposes and the other, an outbuilding in Norleywood being occupied independently of the dwelling.

## Policy

It has been a busy few months of planning policy work, including supporting local communities in the production of neighbourhood plans, responding to national and local consultations, and ensuring the impacts of new development on the New Forest's internationally designated sites are appropriately addressed. The parish council training event in Brockenhurst on 6 September was attended by over 130 parish councillors and provided a useful opportunity to set out the planning policy framework for the area and the role of the statutory 'development plan' in decision-making.

The draft Ringwood Neighbourhood Plan was subject to a final round of public consultation between August and September 2023. The draft Wellow Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well and officers have also engaged with Fawley Parish Council as it considers whether it will embark on preparing a neighbourhood plan for the parish.

In terms of our own statutory planning policy work, good progress has been made on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan review. The timetable for the key stages in the plan-preparation process are set out in a separate report to this meeting and we continue to work in partnership with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth and Southampton City Councils and the South Downs National Park Authority on this important update.

The Policy team co-ordinated the Authority's response to the Government consultation on proposed changes to national permitted development rights. Our response was endorsed at the Authority meeting on 21 September and submitted to the Government by the consultation deadline. Our response set out strong objections to the proposed extension of a range of permitted development rights into National Parks. We also contributed to the combined National Parks England response, which set out the collective view of the 10 English National Parks and the Broads that the proposals would have hugely damaging impact on the landscape, economy and communities in National Parks. The Verderers of the New Forest, the Friends of the New Forest and the Campaign for National Parks also raised strong objections to the proposals.

Addressing the impacts of planned development both within and outside the National Park continues to be a key part of the team's work. We took a report to the Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Committee meeting on 26 September outlining the progress made on a strategic approach to mitigating the recreational impacts of planned new development on the New Forest's designated sites. The Footprint Ecology report on potential 'Strategic Access Management & Monitoring' (SAMM) measures is due to be finalised shortly and we look to work with Natural England and other parts to deliver this step change in strategic mitigation. In terms of water quality impacts on the River Avon and Solent's designated sites, recent debates on the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill have resulted in the requirement for 'nutrient neutral' development in affected catchments remaining. We continue to work closely with landowners and neighbouring planning authorities to bring forward mitigation schemes that deliver nutrient neutrality and other benefits for the environment.

### *Archaeology*

During this reporting period the Archaeology Team has consulted on 26 NFDC and nine Authority planning applications and given comments and recommendations on several other ongoing planning cases and enquiries. We've also made three site monitoring visits to NFDC sites to review the archaeological work being conducted.

We continue to provide archaeological advice and services across Forestry England's entire Southern District. The district covers Dorchester to the west, Reading to the north, Dorking to the east and the northern half of the Isle of Wight. The work includes archaeological advice, desk-based assessment, site surveys, the production of site-specific Heritage Impact Assessments (Data Packs) and site mark-ups, where we mark heritage features ahead of ground works beginning.



During this reporting period the Archaeology Team received six new requests for Heritage Impact Assessments (Data Packs) and site mark-ups ahead of forestry work, progressed 16 ongoing cases and made over 11 visits to sites across the southern district. We've also been asked to support FE as it reviews onsite interpretation/information boards at two War Memorial sites in the New Forest.

The team continues to support HLS and Gareth attended this year's AGM. During this reporting period the team received 19 new requests for Heritage Impact Assessments (Data Packs) and site mark-ups ahead of ground works for ridge, furrow and stump removal, trees and scrub clearance, stream/wetland restoration and lost lawns. The team also made six site visits and Gareth attended the Anses Wood consultation meeting.

### *Festival of Archaeology 2023*

We supported Forestry England with its successful Festival of Archaeology events in Creech Wood near Denmead for two open days, including four guided walks focussing on the D-Day preparations camp.

We also ran two work experience student sessions in July together with the education team, engaging young people with our heritage work through staff-led finds processing.

### *LoCATE training scheme*

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. Further training sessions for Hampshire and Dorset societies in the use of magnetometry equipment, resistivity equipment and the Total Station survey equipment are planned in November.

Avon Valley Archaeological Society continues to make regular use of the magnetometry equipment, as well as Burley Historical Society and the New Forest History and Archaeology Group. Bournemouth University and Avon Valley Archaeological Society are looking to include additional pieces of kit to the loan scheme soon.

### *Supporting local groups and societies*

We are supporting the Burley Historical Society with its research into Early Medieval heritage assets in and around Burley, providing advice regarding a proposed geophysical survey east of Burley through the LoCATE scheme, now planned for early 2024 to avoid heavy bracken cover in the proposed survey area.

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, subject to permissions. We have trained two

members of their society in magnetometry techniques through the LoCATE training scheme and are currently waiting for the group to provide us with more information so that we can support them in gaining relevant permissions.

The Romani Community Archaeology Project has received full funding, and we will continue to provide archaeological advice to Forestry England regarding the project's fieldwork methodologies.

#### *New Forest Oral History Group*

The team is continuing with transcribing the oral history recordings from the Beaulieu and Buckler's Hard Archives.

#### *New Forest Knowledge website*

The website continues to be extremely popular. The view stats from July to date are over 24,000 views, with the 'Wellworthy Piston Rings Limited' article taking the most viewed spot. Our ICT team has continued to keep our ageing 'Geoserver' going, which feeds data to the sites map. However, this temporary fix will not last and the search for an alternative service provider continues. Gareth met with the new Head of Collections at the New Forest Heritage Centre and we are continuing our joint work caring for and developing the site.

#### *Building Design and Conservation*

Work on the review of the Forest North East Conservation Area is progressing. The team has been liaising with Netley Marsh and Copythorne Parish Councils on the review, which will consider the boundary of the Conservation Area and the identification of the key features within it (including buildings that could be added to the 'local list'). Officers have led walks of the Conservation Area and have received useful information back from Netley Marsh Parish Council that will help move the review forward.

We continue to review nominations for additions to the 'local list', which local communities have actively engaged in. Nominations are reviewed by officers and then reported to our Planning Committee to make a decision on whether they are included on the 'local list'.

Our annual Building Design Awards recognise the positive contribution well-designed development makes to the character and local distinctiveness of the National Park. Nominations are now open and we look forward to reviewing the submitted schemes.

## **2 Second Purpose: Enjoy**

### *Education and Youth*

Summer and Autumn term are most popular time for school visits, we have met in person with 444 pupils to explore the New Forest National Park coast, rivers and woodland, connecting it to their school curriculum and unfortunately, having reached our staff capacity, had to decline requests from a further seven schools interested in visiting. We were pleased to recommend other centres who are members of the New Forest educator's forum.

'The children had an enjoyable day; they can talk about habitats and creatures with more confidence and developed more of a bond as a class as a result.' Deputy Head- Broadchalke Primary School

'To be able to get pupils out of the classroom and introduce them to this landscape so close to their home was valuable in itself. To be able to see good examples of landforms and parts of a river system and interact and take field study measurements was ideal as an introduction to fieldwork.' Head of Geography, Testwood School.

Our youth development officer and colleagues have worked with 125 young people on sessions ranging from green skills and careers, wellbeing and our new Junior Ranger programme. This has been a long-term aspiration for both our ranger and education and youth teams and we are really pleased that external funding from Amex, through National Parks Partnerships, has enabled us to run a pilot programme across the summer and autumn at Ashurst, Lepe and at a local commoners' holding. Junior Rangers sessions have been fully booked within hours of being advertised and the feedback from young people (and their parents) has been overwhelmingly positive. We are looking forward to rolling this monthly programme out in 2024 and beyond, as a joint project between education and youth and ranger teams, including partner organisations across the forest and beyond.

'First of all can I say a massive thank you for the session you ran on Tuesday. My child really enjoyed it and is very keen to attend future sessions (you made him feel very welcome, and we were so pleased because he was quite nervous about coming as he was on his own). It is sooo good to have this kind of activity available for this age group.' Parent of one of our first Junior Rangers

Working alongside the family of 15 national parks we were really pleased that two of our younger staff, both apprentice rangers, were able to represent the New Forest at the Youth Climate Camp in the Cairngorms National Park in August, a meeting of 38 young people from areas and network across Scotland, UK and Europe, including National Parks UK, EUROPARC and Scottish Youth Local Action Groups (LAG). Themes included climate and nature crisis; wild adventure and nature connection; youth action. The ideas expressed during this event have been collated in a valuable report demonstrating the

areas of greatest concern and call to action from young people for protected landscapes to help make a difference. We will be working together to make sure positive action is taken locally.

The launch of The National Lottery Community Fund YouCAN project in September marks the beginning of a very exciting time for our team. The funding will allow us to retain team members and recruit another youth engagement coordinator to work full time on projects including Junior Rangers, youth volunteering, youth action projects with underrepresented groups, youth voice, the early green careers network, all which aim to inspire and enable young people across the Forest, Southampton and Bournemouth to understand and take action for climate and nature and secure the future of the New Forest. We will also be working closely and skill sharing with partner organisations in the project (see fundraising section below for more detail).

#### *Public and community events / rangers*

Rangers completed another successful ground nesting bird season engaging with a wide range of Forest users to promote responsible use of the Forest and increase awareness of the protected bird species and their habitats. Initial reports from the New Forest Keeper team and Game and Wildlife Trust show a positive year for Lapwing and Curlew fledglings.

All of the team attended the New Forest Show throughout the three days as well as assisting with set up and pack down.

The summer holidays proved as busy as ever with the team attending a vast range of events with the mobile information units such as Ellingham Show, Wild Wednesdays at the Reptile Centre, New Milton Bee Fayre and Wildlife Wonders at Lepe Country Park. Joint patrols were delivered with the Police for both Operation Mountie and Safer New Forest patrols.

We were pleased that through working with Brockenhurst Parish Council on PSPO signage, we were invited to attend the Brockenhurst College Freshers Day. It provided an opportunity not only to inform students of the pony feeding and BBQ PSPO's but also speed awareness and safe driving whilst commuting to and from college.

Our Seasonal Rangers delivered a successful summer of activities at 4 Camping New Forest campsites engaging with 1,230 people through guided walks, family activities and information provision. Initial feedback has been positive from Camping New Forest and it is hoped we will receive another contribution from them next year to deliver a similar programme of sessions.

In early October, Lead Ranger Gillie joined Jen Lowthrop and her rescue dog Cookie who are on a fundraising hike across all 10 of England's National Parks.

We are super proud to see Hayden, North Area Ranger representing the New Forest at the Europarc Conference in the Netherlands where she will be addressing the delegates and picking up her scholarship award. More details to follow in coming reports.

## Communications

Our stand at the New Forest Show featured 'our nature story' - a campaign with over 300 posts on social media about people's favourite ways and places to connect with nature. The campaign featured stories from the Chief Exec of RSPB, local media professionals, young people and NPA staff. The stand was visited by around 3,000 people who took part in nature-themed family activities including a multi-sensory woodland tunnel with giant sculptures of unusual New Forest species. Defra Minister Lord Benyon also visited the stand and spoke with staff.

The New Forest Show provided an opportunity to launch our Re:New Nature Challenge, developed by the Wildlife Roundtable to join forces to drive widespread nature recovery across the National Park and beyond and seek joint resources. Sir Julian Lewis MP attended the launch reception, with NGOs, landowners and other stakeholders. A Re:New Nature leaflet setting out a collective vision of nature recovery for the region was distributed.

The New Forest National Park Awards, in conjunction with the CLA, were presented to worthy winners in the main ring at the Show, marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the awards. Trophies were presented by Show Patron Lady Mary Fagan.

The winners of the 2023 awards were:

- Young Farmer/Commoner: Ben Mansbridge from Longdown
- Best Supporter of Local Produce: Daisy Meadow Dairy, Botley
- Rural Diversification: Popell Barns Mobile Farm, Botley
- Sustainability Champion: Hockey's Farm Shop, South Gorley
- Farming and Nature Champion: Richard Stiles from Titchfield
- Young Environmental Champion: Jamie Ward from Lymington.

Following the Show we hosted a series of successful MP visits by Sir Desmond Swayne, Sir Julian Lewis and Caroline Nokes to view projects in their constituencies and to discuss current issues affecting the National Park. We also hosted a visit by Wiltshire Council Leader and NPA Board member Richard Clewer and Wiltshire Council environment colleagues; the Directors of Conservation across the national parks; and the autumn meeting of the English National Parks Officers Group of Chairs and Chief Execs.

Our joint New Forest Code behaviour change campaigns are being analysed with partners following the summer period, including monitoring of the PSPOs. New versions of the code in different formats were produced and translated into 10 languages. The ground nesting bird campaign saw 120,000 impressions and 5,000 engagements on NPA social channels as well as being featured in Park Life. A 'heathland highlights' leaflet about ground nesting birds was updated and a 'love your dog, love the forest' leaflet was reprinted with information about keeping yourself and your dogs to the tracks during the nesting season. We promoted messages to stay away from the animals during pannage and the #LookDon'tTouch fungi campaign. NFDC led a meeting with ourselves, Forestry England and Go New Forest about a new anti-litter campaign in the district's villages and towns based on a recent successful campaign on the coast.

The network of 'green groups' which we convene is working together on a community energy scheme in conjunction with Community Energy South and New Forest District Council. The network congratulated Mary DeBoos of Ringwood's RACE group for being recognised in the BBC Solent's Make a Difference campaign. She was one of eight community heroes who were honoured with an award. Events the groups have arranged include a bat walk, a talk about 'right light at night' and energy awareness training. The whole village of Brockenhurst has been awarded plastic-free status by Surfers Against Sewage thanks to a community-wide commitment.

As well as delivering communications for the Authority, we provide comms and marketing support for several partnership schemes:

- In our role of providing communications support for the Verderers of the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS), we produced posters and a film about the HLS scheme successes for the Verderers stand at the Show, which was well received. The content was updated for a display and film showing at the HLS AGM at Minstead Village Hall on 19 September attended by around 100 people.
- We supported the New Forest Trust's Love the Forest scheme with a display and prize draw at the New Forest Show and publicity about our new animal accident cards and stickers which the scheme helped to fund.
- We are recruiting for a new Communications Assistant to help promote the New Forest Marque after the existing post holder left at the start of the summer. In the meantime the team has continued to support the Marque, including members' incredible success in the world Great Taste Awards where they took away 10 awards in this prestigious competition. Of 14,000 global entries put through the rigorous blind-tasting tests, only 248 products were bestowed with the prestigious three-star award, including Marque members Lyburn's Stoney Cross cheese, Hockey's Rare Breed British Lop spare rib of pork and The Noble Bee's New Forest wildflower honey. We also promoted several events and roadshows, as well as an appeal for nominations in the Marque's Brilliance in Business Award category.

- The New Forest Tour season has come to an end after 11 weeks. Facebook impressions alone are up 182% compared to last year and engagement up 75%.
- Case study films about clients benefiting from Pedall inclusive cycling sessions are being produced.

A visits survey launched with Forestry England and Go New Forest received 844 responses, up from 732 last year, and the results are being analysed.

We have promoted the call for nominations for the next round of artists in residence in conjunction with the Sway charity Spud, as well as the resulting successful applicants and the exhibitions of the previous cycle of artists in residence.

Our Park life residents newspaper autumn/winter issue has been produced and the annual review format was reviewed to keep costs down following a steep rise in paper prizes.

We have supported HR in advertising a large number of job vacancies and thanks to wide promotion, all have received a good number of applicants.

The popular National Park walking and cycling festival is being promoted and this year has the theme of accessibility with over 30 walks and guided cycle rides available to book on our website.

The annual building design awards were launched – nominations close at midnight on 31 December 2023 with the awards handed out in March. We also called for nominations to our sponsored sustainability category in the New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards.

Media enquiries this period ranged from a Southern Water sewage leak to our response to the Government's permitted development rights consultation.

Over the summer (1 July to 30 September) our main corporate social channels saw 1.6 million impressions and engagement of 62,000. In line with our strategy to produce more video content and connect with younger audiences on Instagram, video views were up 480% at 105,000 compared to the same period last year.

We attended an online cyber incident response exercise with the ICT team and other colleagues to test our readiness and reaction to a potential cyber attack and how we would communicate with staff and stakeholders to minimise risk and keep services operational.

### *Fundraising*

Our partnership bid to The National Lottery Community Fund's Climate Action Fund with and on behalf of several trusted partners has been awarded £1.17m over three years to connect young people to nature and help communities tackle climate change. With match-funding this represents a £1.4m investment in the area. Around £720,000 will be

received by the Authority with the remainder split amongst our partners: Alabare, Countryside Education Trust, Freshwater Habitats Trust, The Parks Foundation (based in Bournemouth), Southampton National Park City project, and Theatre for Life. Funds will enable outdoor learning exploring and connecting climate, nature, people, and place to inspire and encourage climate action across New Forest, Southampton, Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole. Funds will contribute to around 15 posts across seven partners and support project costs including outsourced sessions and residential stays with local providers and new climate resources including interpretation and materials for events.

We submitted an expression of interest to the Defra Species Survival Fund, which was approved, and we now move on to submitting the full application by the end of October. The application is for habitat restoration projects with the Freshwater Habitats Trust, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, New Forest Commoners Defence Association, and Wild New Forest. The bid is likely to apply for £940,000 in grant funding with match funding of around £100,000, representing a potential total investment into the Forest of £1.04 million.

We supported the Marque in its successful application for Arts Council England funding of £27,000 to develop an 'Inspired' arts and crafts Marque.

We supported the Pedall team in its application to The National Lottery Community Fund to support the continuation of the project and a decision is expected in due course.

We are now preparing a bid to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant to support our volunteering work.

#### *Interpretation and inclusive projects*

The New Forest Show was a big success with over 3,000 people visiting our stand and interpretation included development of models of New Forest wildlife which can be used in future years.

The joint CDA and NPA produced 'Commoner's Voices' exhibition has returned to Ringwood Meeting House during October.

Following our successful application with the charity SPUD to Arts Council England for a three-year Artist in Residence programme, Alex Julyan started her residency in October. Artist Mel Rose, who was in residency in May (funded by the NPA), held her exhibition 'Shadowing' in SpudWorks in October. A well-attended private view took place on Thursday 5 October. The artist in residence programme seeks to explore our relationship with the National Park in new and creative ways, to involve new audiences and help us understand the New Forest.



Our programme of visits with Open Sight Hampshire have continued with a day out exploring accessible trails at Blackwater and a walking and cycling day as part of the Walking and Cycling Festival. Bournemouth University students joined us on a nature connection visit to Rockford Common in September and we are welcoming a group of young people from Southampton Hospital Cardiology department and Heartbeat House on 26 October on a 'get to know the New Forest' day.

### *Health and Wellbeing*

We have delivered our elements on the national ENLIVEN project, which aims to make the wellbeing benefits of outdoor activity more accessible to older people with cognitive impairment, for example memory problems due to dementia or a stroke. The focus is to enable people to keep active, independent and socially-connected through increased outdoor activity. As part of this we facilitated three visits on the New Forest Tour, five PEDALL inclusive cycling sessions and five volunteering sessions at Lepe Country Park. The project has enabled us to develop new partnerships with Dementia friendly Hampshire and local people, and will enable continued activity into the future. The research will be complete by March 2024 and this will also help with our learning on how to be an Inclusive National Park.

### *PEDALL*

PEDALL New Forest Inclusive Cycling have been busy throughout the summer months delivering rides at a series of outreach events and welcoming families and groups to our bases Burley and Ashurst.

From July to September a total of 2,356 riders joined PEDALL cycling in the New Forest, connecting with nature and improving both their physical and mental well-being. We supported 19 organisations including schools, colleges, residential homes and charities between July and September.

A particular highlight has been our rides with Dementia Friendly Hampshire and Alton in partnership with the Enliven project and Exeter University. The rides were enjoyed by carers and family members alongside those living with dementia.

Pedall's attendance at the New Forest Show was a significant highlight for the team. We were located with our friends at Forestry England and over 880 people took our bikes for a spin around the small woodland circuit. We raised both ride fee income and sponsorship through our participation in the show, as well as driving very positive community awareness.

The PEDALL Ashurst Community Hub continues to be a great second base for Pedall and our drop-in bike repair service, guided and social rides have built momentum over the Summer. We are pleased to welcome our second group of young people with special

educational needs to the Community Hub to participate in a 'bicycle maintenance' skills training programme.

Pedall has submitted a new, significant grant application to The National Lottery Community Fund and awaits feedback. Our very strong match funding record, delivery against project targets and future plans will hopefully ensure our success.

Our volunteers continue to be the beating heart of our project. Without the dedication and commitment of our ever-expanding team of volunteers, Pedall would be unable to operate. We invited our volunteers to share their thoughts and feedback at a recent 'blue sky thinking' event where their ideas will help shape Pedall's future.

Friends of Pedall are joined by two new trustees, Vanessa Targett and Emma Best who bring some great experience and energy into the charity. Vanessa has a strong background in charity operations and is the National Trust Programme Manager for the 'Save our for Wild Isles' campaign. Emma is an academic researcher focused on transport planning and town centre regeneration. Emma is a passionate cycling campaigner. Friends of Pedall now have a strong team of eight trustees and are focused on future fundraising.

#### *Volunteering and Ambassadors*

The 2023 path cutting season is coming to an end. By the end of October, we will have done over 1,600 hours of volunteering on 14 events across our network of promoted walking routes.

We have completed three corporate volunteer events this year raising over £1,000 of revenue which helps to cover staff and equipment costs for our volunteer programme. Many thanks to our corporate partners who give so generously of their time and resources.

Several hardy New Forest Ambassadors braved 50mph gusts at Hurst Spit to collect litter. This was a joint initiative with the Freshwater Habitats Trust. We also undertook a survey of a section of the beach on behalf of the Marine Conservation Society (MCS) during the Great British Beach Clean week. MCS will gather and analyse the data, and identify litter trends, which will inform future wildlife-friendly campaigns.

The New Forest National Park Volunteer fair will return to Brockenhurst Village Hall on Sunday 28 January 2024.

We are progressing with an application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund to support our volunteering work and facilitating wider partnership activity. Our full application will be submitted at the end of October.

### *Recreation Management*

The Recreation Management Strategy Steering Group (RMSSG) met on 27 September and discussions focused on progressing the spatial plan for recreation, looking in particular at the location and capacity of Forest car parks and the off-road cycle network. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) have been working well with a reduction in the number of reported wildfire and pony petting/feeding incidents. Rangers from Forestry England and the National Park Authority have been recording PSPO engagements with the public over the summer and a more formal review with partner organisations is planned later this year.

Following last month's meeting, a new Article 4 Direction is now being made to remove the permitted development right introduced this summer for the temporary use of land as a recreational campsite.

### *Access and Rights of Way*

Working in partnership with Hampshire County Council we have started on a series on improvement works at Dilton Farm. NPA staff cleared overgrown paths and HCC are working on large scale surface improvements.

We replaced two stiles with easy to use metal pedestrian gates on a public footpath at the Cadland Estate. This is a well used route linking Blackfield residents with the Cadland and Exbury estates.

## **3 Duty: Prosper**

### *New Forest Marque*

The New Forest Marque has received a grant of £27,000 from Arts Council England in support of the development of an 'Inspired' category for artists and craftspeople to forge an income from work inspired by the iconic New Forest. The grant will help develop a route to market for artists to sell their work, plus networking opportunities and business support. The project will run for 18 months by which time it is anticipated the Marque will have developed a strong Inspired brand to complement the existing local produce opportunities.

### *Visitor experience*

'Enjoy the New Forest' survey closed on 30 September. Responses are up 13% on last year. Full analysis of the data will follow, and results will be shared within 12 weeks. This year, the survey extended to cover awareness of PSPOs, to gauge how welcoming and accessible the New Forest is, and to gather more information about how people travel to and within the national park. NPA and partner organisations are considering how to use the information obtained to inform visitor management strategies and relevant groups such as the Dogs Forum and Cycle Working Group. We will review the questions, survey format and its promotion ahead of a repeat survey. During this process, we hope to identify any trends relating to demographic, behaviour and knowledge of Forest-friendly messages.

### *New Forest Tour*

The New Forest Tour finished on 17 September. Overall, there was a surprisingly positive volume of customers, especially given the rainy weather during the peak summer holiday weeks. The 2023 season lasted 11 weeks and there were 40,686 passenger journeys, which represents only a 2% decrease in average daily passenger journeys relative to 2022 which was 45,166 over 12 weeks. Average daily patronage in 2023 was 515 compared to 525 in 2022. We are meeting with the management team on 16 October and with the operational team on 2 November where we will analyse the season just gone and plan for 2024. The New Forest Tour finished runner-up in the UK Open-Top Bus Cup 2023: a national award chosen by the public, showcasing great scenic bus journeys.

### *Sustainable transport*

The £2 bus fare cap finishes on 31 October 2023 and then £2.50 until November 2024.

Following receipt of funding (to spend in the current financial year) from South Western Railway, we offered to support the New Forest Community Rail Partnership (NFCRP) to deliver projects relating to exploring nature, accessibility and disadvantaged young people. Our Walking and Cycling Festival 2024 is the obvious ongoing initiative where this can be implemented. Subject to the funding being carried forward, we hope to work together to deliver a sustainable-transport themed festival next year.

We attended the Hampshire County Council Passenger Transport Forum and the Road Safety Council meeting and updated on our aspirations for better walking and cycling infrastructure and road safety in the New Forest.

### *Walking and cycling*

We continue to work with Hampshire County Council around the New Forest Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). There was an online stakeholder meeting in July to update on progress so far, including a map of proposed routes.

The Cycle Working Group met in July and further subgroups have since formed to deliver on improving communication and mapping for the cycling community, in tandem with the Verderers.

### *Affordable Housing*

The delivery of affordable housing for local people in housing need is a key element of both national and local planning policy for the National Park. In August our Planning Committee agreed to support a request for the Designated Protection Area (DPA) status of part of the Church Lane, Sway site to be waived by Homes England to enable the delivery of additional affordable housing. At the time of writing, Homes England's response is still awaited. The legal agreement for the Whartons Lane, Ashurst development is nearing completion and this scheme is due to deliver over 30 affordable homes for people in housing need with a connection to the local area.

As noted earlier, an application for 10 new affordable homes at Bartley was deferred at last month's Planning Committee meeting. This was to enable further information and clarification on the proposed drainage arrangements to address local flooding concerns raised by the parish council and local residents.

### *Sustainable Communities Fund*

Funds approved recently include:

Brockenhurst Primary School has been awarded £10,000 to install a structure to be used as a bird hide on land located within the Forest School to provide access for up to 10 people to experience nature up close. The school has a strategic plan to expand community links and use of the site and its resources to support intergenerational development. This includes providing facilities to open the school experience to the wider community including vulnerable adults and wider community through links with care home residents, church groups, businesses, and wider stakeholders. The Forest School is located within the woods which are also home to two resident pigs and offers a variety of opportunities that support play, learning and supported risk-taking, developing confidence and self-esteem. The area is adjacent to the sensory garden which was developed in 2020.

ArtfulScribe, a not-for-profit writer development agency supporting and celebrating spoken and written word, has been awarded £8,000 to set up a writer in residence in partnership with the Countryside Education Trust in Beaulieu. The writer will work on site over the course of a year and help visitors and local people to engage with the special qualities of the New Forest National Park. The residency will include delivery of creative writing workshops, production of an anthology or other collection of writings from participants, a written creative response to the Forest throughout the seasons, and potential exhibition material for display at Forest Arts Centre in New Milton to tie in with its literature festival. As part of the residency the writer in residence will connect with the NPA and partner organisations to help inform their work and approach, and access events including the National Park walking and cycling festival and Awakening Festival.

#### 4 **Organisation: Achieving Excellence**

##### *Human Resources*

As at 30 September 2023 the total staff headcount was 74 or 66.70 full-time equivalents (FTEs).

	<b>Headcount</b>	Variation from previous report	<b>Full Time Equivalents</b>	Variation from previous report
Core funded	56*	- 2	49.98*	- 1.41
Funded by external projects	18	+ 1	16.72	+ 0.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	- 1	<b>66.70</b>	- 0.46

\*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:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Contract type</b>	<b>How funded</b>
National Park Intern (second placement)	One-year fixed term	Mostly funded by the New to Nature programme via Groundwork UK (with up to £5,000 matched by NPA)

We said goodbye to:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Contract type</b>	<b>How role will be filled in future</b>
Planning Enforcement Officer	Permanent, core funded	Like for like replacement
Receptionist (Mondays & Tuesdays)	Permanent, core funded	Like for like replacement

We are currently recruiting:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Contract type</b>	<b>How funded</b>
Communications Assistant (New Forest Marque)	Permanent	Part core, part project funded
Receptionist (Mondays & Tuesdays)	Permanent	Core funded
Planning Enforcement Officer	Permanent	Core funded

### *Team New Forest / Updating the Partnership Plan*

Both the New Forest Partnership Plan Leaders' Panel and the Leadership Group (made up of senior officers from partner organisations) both met in September. The focus is on delivering projects under the five Partnership Plan themes. Recent examples include the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) introduced by New Forest District Council with the support of other New Forest organisations; and the on-going joint work by nine local planning authorities in and around the New Forest to deliver strategic mitigation for the impacts of planned new development on the New Forest's internationally designated sites.

### *ICT Services*

#### *Security / Infrastructure*

The team had a very useful half-day security training session run by the ICT Technical Officer. The training focussed on elements of Microsoft 365 Defender and how we can make best use of it.

Along with the Data Protection Officer, the team attended a Microsoft Purview workshop, which looked at how to set up and use the application for retention policies, labelling and tabs. IT will be working closely with the Data Protection Officer in the New Year to get these plans implemented.

In early September, a cyber incident tabletop session took place involving the Cyber Incident Response Plan team. The tabletop exercise simulated a cyber-attack on one of our third-party systems, how we reacted to that and what actions were proposed. The exercise went well, and a final Cyber Incident Response Plan is due to be issued shortly.

Defra is arranging its first security meeting with all Arms-Length Bodies and partners, and our IT Technician has been asked to do a short presentation describing how a small IT team copes with daily IT problems and security in comparison to a large team such as Defra's IT team.

Work to update all the devices with the Microsoft modern desktop deployment is approximately 90% complete. A new backup system has been purchased and partially implemented.

#### *Replacement planning system*

Conversion of the million .tiff files is underway, with the smaller volume folders being completed and we are now about to commence on the four main volumes. The planning software providers will shortly commence checks at their end to ensure the converted files are transferred correctly. We anticipate this work to continue into the new year with completion by Easter. The software supplier of the tiff converter would like to create a case study about our project and we will be meeting with them to discuss further.

We are still working with the software provider to address an issue with Tree Protection Order documents and improvements to the reporting system.

#### *Other work / projects*

The replacement phone system project is now underway. A short survey has been sent to staff to help us understand their requirements. We hope to have appointed a supplier by the end October/early November and have the new system installed by the end of January, if not sooner.

Good progress is being made on the draft updated IT policy and this will be sent around to staff and union for comments shortly, before coming to members in the new year.

A short presentation was given at the most recent all-staff team meeting outlining some upcoming changes and improvements to the Warbler (staff intranet).



## *Legal and Information management*

### *Information requests*

We received 47 formal requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) by the end of Quarter 2. This is the most we have ever received in any half year and a 47% increase on the same period last year. August was particularly busy with 18 requests, which is three times the monthly average. Unfortunately, owing to resource limitations we were not able to respond to four of these requests within the statutory timeframes (two were one day late, one was two days late and one, which was particularly resource intensive, was nine days late). Five have yet to be responded to, however we anticipate being able to meet the statutory timeframe.

As in previous years, the majority (64%) of the requests relate to our planning work, including policy matters, pre-application advice and specific planning applications and enforcement cases. A further 23% relate to finance and our ICT arrangements.

In 60% we released the information either in its entirety or subject to only minimal personal data redactions. In 24% of the responses we withheld the information requested, the most common reason being that it was related to sensitive enforcement matters.

### *Complaints*

We have received eight formal complaints to date this year, all were related to planning matters. They were all responded to within the 20-working day deadline and none were upheld.

## **5 Members**

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

- 18 July – Planning Committee
- 25-27 July – New Forest Show
- 15 August – Planning Committee
- 4 September – Resources, Audit & Performance Committee
- 26 September – Planning Committee
- 10 October – Planning Tour
- 17 October – Planning Committee

## 5.2 Forthcoming Members activities include:

- 21 November – Planning Committee
- 4 December – New Forest Access Forum
- 7 December – Consultative Panel
- 13 December – Members Day – TBC
- 19 December – Planning Committee
- 16 January – Planning Committee

## 5.3 Chief Executive's external engagements

- 14 July – Meeting with National Trust (National)
- 14 July – Meeting with NPE Lead Chief Exec (North York Moors NPA)
- 17 July – Greenprint Conference wash-up session
- 18 July – Meeting with Southern Policy Centre
- 18 July – UK National Parks Directors of Conservation meeting
- 18 July – Green Leadership interviews
- 19 July – Meeting with CEO Glow and Business South Board Member
- 19 July – Regular catch up with Chief Executive, NFDC
- 20 July – Meeting with National Park UK Lead Chair
- 20 July – Wildlife Roundtable
- 24 July – Green Leadership programme preparation meeting
- 24 July – Waterside Steering Group
- 24 July – New Forest Show Dinner
- 25-27 July – New Forest Show: Re:New Nature Launch reception; Hosting Defra Minister Lord Benyon; lunch with the President of the New Forest Show Society, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary New Forest Awards with CLA
- 28 July – Hosted visit - Rt Hon Sir Julian Lewis MP
- 31 July – Nature Recovery meeting
- 31 July – Greenprint post conference debrief
- 31 July – Chief Executive's Performance Panel
- 1 August – Hosted visit - Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
- 1 August – Green Leadership interview
- 2 August – Hosted visit - Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne TD MP
- 3 August – Meeting with Blue Marine Foundation
- 4 August – HLS Board
- 29 August – National Parks Freeports discussion with Pembrokeshire NPA
- 30 August – Meeting with NPE Lead CX (North York Moors NPA)
- 30 August – Meeting with Chief Executive, The Countryside Education Trust
- 31 August – Meeting with Official Verderer and CDA Chair
- 31 August – Meeting with ABP and Solent Gateway
- 31 August – Meeting with Southampton University Greenprint Associate
- 1 September – Hants and Isle of Wight Public Sector Leaders meeting
- 1 September – Meeting with English Heritage

- 4 September – Natural Capital finance opportunities meeting
- 6 September – Meeting with Chair, National Parks Partnerships
- 7 September – Hosted visit – Wiltshire Council Leader, Portfolio Holder and Senior Officers
- 7 September – Partnership Plan Leadership Group officers meeting
- 8 September – Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) Chief Executive's meeting
- 8 September – Regular catch up with Chief Executive, New Forest District Council
- 12 September – PfSH Members briefing
- 12 September – Greenprint Steering Group
- 13 September – Meeting with Hampshire County Council
- 13 September – Congress Plenary National Park City planning discussion
- 14 September – Partnership Plan Leaders Panel
- 14 September – Future New Forest Partnership Steering Group meeting
- 14 September – UK National Park Forum planning meeting with CX Lake District NPA
- 15 September – Visit to Goodwood Estate with NFNPA Officers
- 15 September – St George's, Windsor Leadership Fellow follow up session
- 18 September – Meeting with NFDC officers
- 21-22 September – National Parks UK Chairs Forum
- 29 September – Meeting with Rt Hon John Glen MP, Chief Secretary to Treasury
- 2 October – Green Leadership Programme, session 1
- 3-5 October – Hosting UK Directors of Conservation Nature Recovery meeting in the New Forest
- 5 October – NPAs Health Leads meeting
- 5 October – SPUD Opening - Mel Rose National Park Artist in Residence
- 6 October – Green Leadership interview
- 9 October – SLT Awayday
- 9 October – Meeting with the Leader, HCC
- 10 October – WUP Congress Planning
- 10-12 October – ENPOG meeting / NPE Board meeting in the New Forest
- 13 October – Meeting with the Deputy Surveyor
- 13 October – Intro meeting with new Chief Executive, Solent Freeport
- 16 October – Green Leadership Programme, session 2
- 17 October – Meeting with Dept CX and Director of Hampshire 2050, HCC
- 18 October – Hosted visit - Cllr Humby, Leader & Cllr Chadd, Portfolio Holder HCC
- 18 October – Meeting with Auditors
- 19 October – Waterside Steering Group

## 5.4 Chair's engagements

- 18 July – Planning Committee
- 25 July – New Forest Show
- 31 July – Chief Executive's Performance Panel
- 1 August – Hosted a visit by Rt Hon Caroline Nokes MP
- 2 August – Hosted a visit by Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne TD MP
- 15 August – Planning Committee
- 31 August – Meeting with the Verderers
- 14 September – Partnership Plan Leaders Panel
- 26 September – Planning Committee
- 28 September – Future New Forest Partnership Board meeting
- 29 September – Meeting with Rt Hon John Glen MP
- 9 October – Meeting with the Leader, HCC
- 11 October – Meeting with NPAs Chairs
- 12 October – NPE Board meeting
- 13 October – Intro meeting with new Chief Executive, Solent Freeport
- 17 October – Planning Committee

## 6 Recommendation

**To note the report.**