

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

Minutes of the 245th Meeting, held in the Main Hall, Brockenhurst Village

Hall on THURSDAY, 12 MARCH 2015

Those present: Clive Chatters (In the Chair)
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)
Debbie Copping (Panel Secretariat)
Rachel Pardey (Panel Secretariat)
Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received.

ITEM 1

1.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The election of Chairman took place, Clive Chatters was re-elected as Chairman for a further term.

ITEM 2

2.1 APOLOGIES

Nick Clark – NewForce
Sophie Beeton – Milford on Sea Parish Council

2.2 SUBSTITUTIONS

Jo Florance substituted for Heather Gould on behalf of New Forest Dogs
Mr Hollinghurst substituted for Stewart Hall on behalf of Woodgreen Parish Council

2.3 NEW REPRESENTATIVES/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none on this occasion

ITEM 3

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (6 November 2014)

3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

ITEM 4

MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Minutes of 6 November, item 10.2. Bruce Rothnie updated the panel on the commercial picking of fungi in the Forest. He had recently visited Epping Forest where they had strong by-laws and enforcement on fungi collection, the Forestry Commission were currently looking at ways as to how similar measures could be implemented in preparation for the upcoming Autumn season.

ITEM 5

NFNPA UPDATE – ALISON BARNES

- 5.1 Alison Barnes advised the Panel that the recent Management Plan ‘call for views’ consultation had now ended, 79 responses had been received with over 500 comments.

A revised document had now been prepared which would be endorsed by NPA Members at the next Authority meeting with a formal consultation taking place between May and June.

- 5.2 The National Park Authority had recently celebrated its 10th birthday; as part of the commemorations for this event Simon King had produced some short films on the forest which could be found on the website at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk.

ITEM 6

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS – CLLR KEITH MANS

- 6.1 Cllr Mans explained that Local Enterprise Partnerships had been formed following the Government’s offer to give local areas the opportunity to take control of their future development. There were 2 LEP’s in the Hampshire area, Solent LEP which covers Portsmouth to Southampton, the M27 corridor and the Isle of Wight, the second being the Enterprise M3 LEP which includes the New Forest both LEP’s work together as they cover such a wide area.

- 6.2 The LEP is a partnership between businesses, local authorities and education providers with the intention to build stronger relationships, determine local economic priorities and to help provide a vision to enable business growth and the creation of local jobs.

ITEM 7

BROADBOARD – EDWARD HERON / GLENN PEACEY

- 7.1 Glenn Peacey from Hampshire County Council gave a PowerPoint presentation on the recent roll out of superfast broadband throughout the New Forest, explaining that they would hope to be 90% live and completed by the end of 2015. 96 cabinets were scheduled for the National Park, 49 of which were now live. Seven cabinets currently have location issues and requests had been made to local landowners for permission for sitings. A copy of the presentation is attached for further information.

- 7.2 Mr Peacey was asked if broadband speed would be affected by distance from the cabinet, and explained that the typical range of a cabinet was 1200m. 90% of properties would benefit from superfast speed however an upgrade to a fibre product would be required which could easily be done by contacting the ISP provider.

ITEM 8

FOXBURY PLANTATION PROPOSALS (INPUT FROM NATIONAL TRUST, TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY)

- 8.1 Dylan Everett (National Trust) gave a history of the site and explained the current position (as set out in the briefing note circulated to Panel members). The Panel learned that planning permission had been granted and a full consultation has been carried out, accordingly, once the funding streams were in place work would commence on the ground. A copy of the presentation is attached for further information.

- 8.2 Karen Eastley (Test Valley Borough Council) explained that the Borough Council was looking at the designations and impact on the New Forest as part of their work on the local plans. The Council was also working with Foxbury as an education resource. A copy of Karen's presentation is attached.
- 8.3 Alison Barnes highlighted the Our Past Our Future project and explained that the NPA would be submitting the £4 million project to the HLF imminently to start in September.
- 8.4 Alison Russell (British Horse Society) asked how much more than the current 26 hectares would be planted. Dylan explained that there are no additional areas would be planted but current areas would be retained to provide a noise and pollution barrier and it was planned to replace the current trees with native species. Alison also asked if the gravel tracks would be improved and it was explained that maintenance work would be carried out.

ITEM 9

PANEL AGENDA SETTING

- 9.1 Richard Reeves (New Forest History & Archaeology Group) suggested inviting neighbouring authorities to consult the panel on how those authorities were addressing the effects of their activities on the forest.
- 9.2 Ann Cakebread asked if Sustrans could be invited to talk about the current proposal for a new cycle route into the New Forest from Salisbury as there has been no consultation with the local Parish Councils.
- 9.3 Robert Clark (Burley Parish Council) requested that Bruce Rothnie provide the update which was due at the January meeting at the next meeting.

ITEM 10

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 10.1 Mark Abbott (Lyndhurst Parish Council) noted that the Pondhead planning application had now been withdrawn to be resubmitted with more detail. He also informed the Panel that this would be his last meeting. Clive Chatters thanked Mark for his long service.
- 10.2 Eddie Holtham (Fawley and Denny Lodge Parish Councils) raised the issue of fallen trees in Fawley Inclosure and the health and safety implications arising from the use of a National Park Boundary Marker being used to cross a ditch. Eddie pointed out that this would also be his last meeting as he will not be standing at the May elections and asked that if possible he would like to continue to attend the FC tours. Clive thanked Eddie for his time on the Panel.
- 10.3 Frank Weller (Ramblers' Association) asked if the annual tour had been organised. Bruce Rothnie responded that this would be arranged for the end May / early June and it was agreed that this would be held on a weekday. Bruce will ask Vicki Gibbon to circulate some suggested dates and if anyone has any requests for particular areas to visit please could they send these into Vicki.
- 10.4 Further information on the Sustrans proposal was requested and it was agreed that a link to the PDF and proposal would be circulated. The NFNPA will also check the timetable and clarify the current situation.

ITEM 11

DATE OF NEXT PANEL MEETING

- 11.1 The next meeting would be held at **7.30 pm on THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2015** in the **Main Hall, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Brockenhurst.**