

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Linden Hall, Lyndhurst Community Centre,  
Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY  
on THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024 at 7.30 pm**

### **Those present:**

Brian Tarnoff (Chair)  
Steve Avery (NFNPA)  
Sam Jones (FE)  
Ann Sevier (Verderers)  
Derek Tipp (NFDC)  
David Stone (Panel Secretariat)  
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)

### **1 Election of Chair**

Following presentations by candidates, Brian Tarnoff was elected as Chair for the ensuing year.

### **2 Apologies for absence**

Craig Harrison (FE) – Sam Jones substituted  
Graham Ferris (Verderers) – Ann Sevier substituted  
Frank Weller (Ramblers) – Peter Scott substituted  
Tim Cook (Netley Marsh) – Sharon Merrill substituted  
Rob Waite (EA)  
Hannah Marsh (BHS)  
Peter Hebard (Brockenhurst Flood Action Group)

### **3 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 7 September 2023**

3.1 The minutes were approved.

### **4 Matters Arising**

4.1 Robert Clarke requested that a member of Natural England attend a future meeting and asked for Craig Harrison to report on the HLS scheme as per the request at the September meeting.

Sue Bennison asked about fly tipping in the Forest, Sam Jones responded that this was a major concern for Forestry England and that they were working with a range of partners to try and combat this. He agreed he would forward a statement and information on the range of measure FE were currently using.

## 5 Matters for Reporting

### 5.1 Forestry England Update – Sam Jones (Head of Recreation & Public Affairs)

Sam Jones began his presentation by advising that positive progress had been made in relation to the New Forest Code however animal accidents had increased, and the vast majority of those drivers caught speeding during operation Mountie were New Forest residents on their daily commute.

Mr Jones advised that FE were currently looking at broadening mobile refreshment opportunities within car parks and were inviting local businesses to submit bids for these opportunities. He explained that successful companies would be contractually required to meet conditions around litter management along with promoting the New Forest Code.

Car park repairs were ongoing and with the current weather and extensive use of car parks potholes and cracks were developing quickly. Spiralling costs of materials and inflation over the last year had made the ongoing situation challenging. The Ground Nesting bird programme continues with special quiet zones being set up for their protection.

A question was raised in regard to mobile refreshments on the Forest and how that could impact on stock behaviour, Mr Jones responded that he understood the concerns and mobile refreshments would be an ongoing conversation with all parties involved including the CDA.

**Action** – *Sam Jones to provide a list of possible refreshment opportunities and timescales of licences.*

A copy of the presentation is available on the website.

### 5.2 NFNPA Update – Steve Avery

Steve Avery began his presentation by highlighting the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023 which was introduced in October 2023, he was pleased to announce that the Act now imposed a new duty for all relevant authorities to seek to further National Park purposes and restates the Sandford Principle.

Mr Avery advised of the Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework, the government would be setting out how it expects National Parks and AONB's to achieve three key outcomes for thriving plants and wildlife, mitigating and adapting to climate change and enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment. Defra would be producing guidance soon.

A new Article 4 Direction had been confirmed for temporary campsites, planning permission would now be required for all pop-up campsites

established after 1 March 2020 and for all pre-existing pop-up campsites operating for more than 28 days per year.

Looking at the Waterside, Mr Avery said the A326 proposals were gathering pace, and a planning application should be received in the Autumn. Fawley Waterside proposals were currently being looked at and should this not go ahead how it would impact on the A326 proposals.

A concern was raised regarding Fawley Waterside and what would happen to the transport plans which rely on this should it not go ahead. Mr Avery responded that the investors should clarify their position within the next month or so.

A copy of the presentation is available on the website.

### **5.3 Verderers – Ann Sevier**

Ann Sevier reported that:

- Livestock on the Forest were in a good condition for this lean time of year.
- Forestry England had informed the Verderers of plans to allow refreshment vehicles at various points in the Forest. This had not yet been discussed by the Verderers but would be at an Open Court Session where the public would be permitted to have their say on the proposals before any decision was made.
- She mentioned that a bid for a new funding scheme for the future preservation of the Forest was being drafted, this was currently being worked on for submission by the Verderers in the Summer.

### **5.4 NFDC Update – Derek Tipp**

Derek Tipp updated members in connection with the following:

*Fly tipping policy* – NFDC policy was to clear fly tipping from Council owned land or areas where the Council was responsible for the land. Private landowners would however be responsible for removing such waste from their own land.

*Waste Collection* – the Council would soon be initiating a system of bin collections rather than sacks. There was more volume in the bins which were made from long lasting recyclable material and more cost effective than sacks in the long run. The Council intended to follow this up with a system of wheelie bins in 2025/26, one to be provided per household for recyclable waste and one for general waste - these bins would be collected on alternate weeks. Residents would also be issued with a caddy for collection of food waste to be collected each week.

*Recycling centres* - this was the responsibility of Hampshire County Council and a consultation on the closing down of waste centres was currently being consulted on by the Council as part of a number of cost cutting measures intended to save the Council approximately £130 million. There were a number of options around the future of recycling centres and residents were asked to give their views on these options. The consultation was due to end on 31 March 2024.

The District Council was commencing a Local Plan review leading up to the Summer and a number of reports on this review would be presented to the Council for consideration. The Council was also looking at the regeneration of towns in the District, starting with Totton.

On the economy, he said that various schemes had been initiated to assist businesses and business startups. The funding from these schemes would be sourced from the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

The Council was also about to start an Apprenticeship and Skills Hub, details of which would be provided on the Council website within the next two weeks.

Funds in the amount of £1 million sourced from the Community Infrastructure Levy were being used to fund 26 projects within the District area.

## **6 Consultations**

The Chairman advised that he would forward a list of current consultations to Panel members via the Panel Secretariat.

## **7 Any other items the Chairman feels urgent**

7.1 The Chairman advised that he would ask the Statutory reporting bodies to provide a short summary of their presentations to the Chair before each meeting, these would then be circulated to Panel members to provide them with advanced notice as to what discussions might be expected at each meeting. He also referred to the cancellation of the December meeting of the Panel and suggested that measures be put in place to hold meetings online if a physical meeting was unable to take place.

7.2 Andrew Parry-Norton of the Commoners Defence Association reported that the encroachment at Shobley had now been resolved with the property owner concerned agreeing to remove the fence he had erected on the property and to enter into an agreement not to reinstate the fence in the future. This was on the understanding that legal costs would not be sought from him. This had placed a significant financial burden on the CDA and various organisations were contributing towards the cost of covering the legal costs in the amount of £400,000.

- 7.3 Peter Scott, Ramblers, raised the following –  
Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Dept. have a database called Countryside Action Management System (CAMS) in which all things relating to Footpaths, Bridleways, Restricted Byways and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT) are recorded. HCC have allowed trained individuals from all Ramblers Groups in Hampshire to access this CAMS database and have issued computer tablets to each Group on which information can be input to the database. Each Ramblers Group is encouraged to survey each ROW in their area once a year in addition to data about current path problems. The ROW in the New Forest Area is covered by New Forest and Southampton Ramblers Groups and maybe Romsey Group. They are attempting to create an index where each ROW in a Parish has a volunteer name attached to it. They understand that each parish has a nominated representative who has an interest in ROW. Mr Scott would like any group represented on the Consultative Panel to contact him in the first instance if they think they can help in this endeavour.

## **8 Dates of next Panel Meetings.**

- 8.1 Thursday 6 June 2024, Thursday 5 September 2024 and Thursday 5 December 2024.