

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Linden Hall, Lyndhurst Community Centre,
Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY
on THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2024 at 7.30 pm**

Those present:

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

1 Consultation Presentations

1.1 The Solent CO2 Pipeline Project – Exxon Mobile

Phillipa and Alison made a presentation to the Panel. The aim of the project is to install an underground pipeline through which captured carbon dioxide from the Fawley Manufacturing Complex and potentially the wider Solent area could be transported to a deep rock formation in the English Channel. Three initial corridors had been identified and these options were now subject to the current consultation with a view to establishing a preferred corridor down to a route 50m wide after which there will be a further consultation. Exxon/Mobil had preliminarily identified two favoured corridors – the Isle of Wight North to West and the Isle of Wight North to South, the third being the Mainland Corridor option. They went on to illustrate the project timeline and socio-economic and environmental considerations which had been taken into account in identifying the three potential corridors as well as the benefits for the Solent region of the project and the significant contribution toward the Government's goal of achieving net zero by 2050.

The representatives from Exxon/Mobil explained how interested parties could submit their responses to the consultation. They responded to a range of queries from Panel members in connection with transporting the CO2, the depth of pipeline trenches and recovery of the landscape following installation of the pipeline and reinstatement of the groundworks.

1.2 New Forest Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan – Jim Mitchell (NFNPA)

Jim Mitchell gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and the consultation which would begin on Monday 9 September.

Mr Mitchell explained that an LCWIP provided a strategic approach to identify cycling and walking infrastructure at a local level, that the consultation focused on the utility aspect and sets out the investment priorities over the next 10 years. He advised that the consultation would begin on Monday 9 September and would run for 8 weeks, this would be a combination of a questionnaire and an interactive map, the consultation can be found here - [New Forest LCWIP \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com)

Members were then given the opportunity to ask questions, these included –

Have tranquil areas been taken into consideration? Jim responded that most routes were on road / gravel, but tranquillity would be taken into account, he advised to add this to the consultation response.

Where are the resources for this coming from? As HCC were currently in £150m deficit and was there a danger of raising expectations?

Jim responded that this was a strategic overview of what was required and consulting on this would give communities better chance at accessing funds.

A [copy of the presentation](#) is available on the [website](#). Although the survey is now closed, the interactive webpage describing the consultation and LCWIP aims may be accessed [here](#).

2 Apologies for absence

Craig Harrison (FE) – Sam Jones substituted

Rob Waite – Environment Agency

Gordon Bailey – Test Valley

Habib Ghahramanizadi – Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Melissa Shephard – Bransgore Parish Council

Pamela Keen – Norleywood Society

3 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 6 June 2024

- 3.1 The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to the amendments published in the Chair's Report.

4 Matters Arising

- 4.1 The Chairman drew members attention to the previously discussed proposal published in his report and recommended that to avoid the cancellation of Panel meetings in the future due for example to extreme weather conditions, the Constitution of the Panel be amended to provide for on-line meetings to be held. He proposed the following amendment to item 4.2 of the Constitution which was duly approved by members through a show of hands (amended text is in shown in italics):

Ordinary meetings will be held at the Lyndhurst Community Centre or at such other venues as may be agreed by the Panel and Chairman.

In the event of it not being possible for members to attend a physical meeting of the Panel due to unforeseen circumstances such as extreme weather conditions, an on-line meeting of the Panel will be held to deal with the business on the agenda. The Secretariat will contact Panel members to advise them of the change and make appropriate arrangements for the on-line meeting to take place. Notification of the change will be posted on the website on the Panel meeting page, and if practicable at the meeting venue.

5 Matters for Reporting

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

The presentation included FE staff managing the public's interest in the deer rut for safety and reduced disturbance, access for all improvements at Knightwood Oak, and Operation Mountie's efforts to reduce animal accidents. Updates given on flytipping, forest fire prevention, Public Space Protection Orders and bridge repairs. Lighter elements included Forestry England receiving best stand award from the New Forest Show, and the nomination of the "elephant oak" in Old Sloden Inclosure for 'Tree of the year'.

A [copy of the presentation](#) can be found on our [website](#).

5.2 NFNPA Update – Steve Avery

The presentation included responding to the Planning reforms consultation, visitor engagement over the summer months and the 'Behind the Scenes' campaign which was launched at the New Forest Show.

A [copy of the presentation](#) is available on the [website](#).

5.3 NFDC Update – Derek Tipp

Councillor Derek Tip advised that the District Council was very concerned at the large increase in new housing targets which had been set by the new Government leading to a trebling of housing targets for the Council. He said that this would be very difficult to achieve. NFDC were going to call for suitable housing sites in the Spring of 2025 and look at possibly co-ordinating with other planning authorities with a view to producing a combined strategic housing plan. Some areas such as Test Valley were ahead of their housing target.

5.4 Verderers Update – Graham Ferris

Graham Ferris drew attention to the last meeting at which he said that he would produce a written report – this had been included with the minutes. He said that the setting up of an Agri-environment Funding Scheme by Defra was still on going. This situation was likely to continue until the new Government

had considered and consulted on what alternatives were available. In the meantime the sub group of the Forest Farming Group were looking into which scheme/s would best suit the New Forest in the longer term when the HLS scheme was replaced.

6 Consultations

N/A

7 Any other items the Chairman feels urgent

7.1 There were no further items of business.

8 Dates of next Panel Meetings.

8.1 Thursday 5 December 2024.