

NFDC Update May/June 2024

Local Plan Review

We are now in the early stages of Local Plan preparation, and focusing on identifying the issues and scope that a local plan should address. This includes studies on housing needs such as affordable housing, open space, sports needs, indoor sports facilities, demographic needs and sustainable transport.

Discussion on the scale of future growth and site selection will follow to include matters such as green belt, Biodiversity Net Gain and housing delivery. We plan to prepare a first full draft of the Plan for a public consultation early in 2025. This will allow time for us to reflect on any new planning priorities that a new government may bring forward.

A35 Litter Campaign

The Council is trying to encourage people not to throw litter out of cars with a new “game approach” on the A35. There are two scoreboards one at the Lyndhurst end and one at Hinton displaying the “litter score”. The rating will be from A (good) to D (bad), with an overall percentage score on display based on how much litter is on the roadside. The higher the score, the less litter. The scheme is set to last until September.

Business Support

1. New Forest Rural England Prosperity Fund:

- The community infrastructure projects funded by the Rural Fund are progressing well and this budget is fully committed.
- There are now sufficient pipeline projects in appraisal to fully allocate the business grant budget, but we will confirm the budget position in due course.

2. The two New Forest Business Boost programmes, an intensive 12 hour programme of workshops and 1:1 mentoring delivered by the University of Portsmouth Business School and funded by

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), are fully subscribed and the first cohort started last week.

3. In collaboration with IncuHive who are delivering our start up business support programme, we will be holding the second 'Bees Nest Pitching Competition' on Wednesday 26 June. This is for start up businesses to pitch their business ideas to a panel and the winner will receive a cash prize and other incentives. The event promises to be a great networking opportunity for local business owners and entrepreneurs, as well as an exciting way to learn about new enterprises being launched in the area, and you can register for your free place on the Incuhive website www/incuhive.co.uk/upcoming-events-2.
4. In partnership with Solent Business & Skills Solutions we are also offering businesses support through the New Forest Apprenticeship & Skills Hub, which offers free and impartial advice to organisations of any size regarding apprenticeship and skills training. The New Forest's dedicated Business Skills Advisor is Kirsty Gray who can be contacted via www.newforest.gov.uk/businessinitiativesandevents