

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Linden Hall, Lyndhurst Community Centre,  
Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY  
on THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2025 at 7.30 pm**

### **Those present:**

Brian Tarnoff (Chair)  
Nigel Stone (NFNPA)  
Richard Burke (FE)  
Derek Tipp (NFDC)  
Anthony Pasmore (Verderers)  
David Stone (Panel Secretariat)  
Rachael Bowen (Panel Secretariat)

### Also in attendance:

Laura McColloch, Head of Spatial Planning, and Nicky Court, Specialist Environmental Services Manager and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Manager, Hampshire County Council

### 1. Presentations

- 1.1 A presentation was made by Laura McColloch, Head of Spatial Planning, and Nicky Court, Specialist Environmental Services Manager and Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre Manager, Hampshire County Council with regard to a Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire and particularly for the New Forest. They outlined areas of particular importance for biodiversity and priority outcomes for the Strategy including local nature recovery strategies and concluded their presentations with a timeline for the approval of the Strategy.

*A copy of the presentation is filed on the Panel's website for the meeting:*  
[Consultative Panel 05/06/25 - New Forest National Park Authority](#)

- 1.2 Richard Taylor, Trustee of 'Friends of PEDALL' made a presentation to the Panel on the 'Pass the PEDALL Festival Event' which would take place on 27 September 2025 in New Park, Brockenhurst. He said that the event was a fundraising challenge and celebration of cycling for all in the New Forest. He then drew members' attention to the background of PEDALL and details of the festival, including sponsorship packages which were available.

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[Consultative Panel 05/06/25 - New Forest National Park Authority](#)

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their presentations.

## **2 Apologies for absence**

- John Korbey (Brockenhurst Parish Council)
- Gordon Bailey (Test Valley Borough Council)
- Jenni Tubbs (New Forest Friends of the Earth)
- Margaret Bunyard (Campaign for the Protection of Rural England)
- Maria Adaway (Sopley Parish Council)
- Ian Moyse (East Boldre Parish Council)
- Mandy Preece (Natural England)

## **3 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 6 March 2025**

3.1 The minutes were approved.

## **4 Matters for Reporting**

### **4.1 Forestry England Update – Richard Burke**

Richard Burke reported on operational activities that included:

- Improved accessible trail upgrades made possible through Defra funding
- Ongoing maintenance of 130 car parks
- Repairing some road sections and parts of cycle route in Wootton and Brownhills inclosure
- A public engagement day was held on the Bank Holiday Monday
- Walking events led by FE rangers and supported by the Police
- Annual removal of rhododendron

Forestry England had seen an increase in use of BBQs and outdoor cooking equipment recently due to the good weather and were looking to increase awareness about the ban on using cooking facilities and fires. Three PSPO fixed penalty notices have been issued so far for people lighting fires.

Forestry England had consulted with the Parish Quadrants, the New Forest Association (NFA), the Commoners Defence Association (CDA), the Access Forum, NFDC Senior Leadership Team and Members, NPA Senior Leadership team and Members and other relevant stakeholders regarding the proposed car parking charges. The Habitats Regulation Assessment had been completed, and work to assess the risk of displacement of vehicles was currently being prepared. In accordance with guidelines that align with other Forestry England car parks and British Parking standards, efforts will be made to reduce signage burden. Additionally, an option to pay for parking within 24 hours is under consideration and is being tested at other Forestry England locations.

He said that there will be a national membership scheme offering a competitive discounted rate, payable by monthly Direct Debit along with other additional benefits.

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[Consultative Panel 05/06/25 - New Forest National Park Authority](#)

## **4.2 NFNPA Update – Nigel Stone**

Nigel Stone, Head of Resources and Chief Finance Officer for the NFNPA introduced himself and said that he had worked for the Authority for more than 18 years and was a member of the Authority's Executive Leadership Team with a core background in finance, legal and governance. He was responsible for Finance, Legal, Facilities, Fundraising, HR, ICT, Health & Safety, Administration, Members and Stakeholder Engagement. He said that, going forward, he would be the main contact for the Panel and parish Quadrants and will be accompanied by other staff and members as required by the agenda items. He said that his contact was:

01590 646655 (Direct Dial / Fwd to Mobile)

[nigel.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.stone@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

Mr Stone said that, with Steve Avery having left the Authority in April 2025, interim arrangements currently in place were that David Illsley was interim Head of Planning and Place, with a Principal Planning Officer and two Senior Planning Officers. Paul Walton was responsible for the Ranger Team and Recreation Management. A new Monitoring Officer (Gareth Hale) had been appointed and would be starting on 16 June.

On finances, Nigel Stone said that, following five years of a flat-cash grants, Defra had reduced the NPA's revenue grant by 9% cash in respect of 2025/26. The NPA would be able to balance its budget for this year but would face shortfalls in subsequent years. Further reductions were possible following the Comprehensive Spending Review on 11 June 2025.

On facilities he said that the Authority's lease of the Lymington Town Hall would run out in November 2026 and the NPA was currently considering its options. He said that the Authority would welcome any suggestions / discussions about potential sites for the future NPA headquarters.

On other issues, he said that members and officers had met with Defra's Protected Landscape Team in May to brief them on activities and issues within the Forest. This had included a very useful session about the future of Commoning. Key projects currently underway included the YouCAN (Youth for Climate & Nature) and Species Survival Fund.

An 'Enjoying the New Forest' survey was launched in 2025 and the survey would be open until 30 September. This was a joint project with Forestry England and Go New Forest. The survey was designed to find out how people are accessing the New Forest and how they spend their time here. He included a link to the survey for the Panel's information - [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/enjoyingtheforest](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/enjoyingtheforest).

The NPA had hosted stakeholder sessions in March and April 2025 in support of an application to the Lottery Fund on a 'Landscape Connections' application to the Lottery Fund. This was a 10-year programme worth up to £10m and the NPA was currently reviewing the inputs to the sessions and drafting the bid.

Mr Stone updated the Panel on a Campsite in North Ripley (Vernon Dene) where the NPA had revoked a Certificate of Lawfulness. A hearing on the matter had taken place in the High Court in April 2025 with the case being won by the Authority. However, the site owners had appealed for the case to be heard by the Supreme Court.

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#### **4.3 NFDC Update – Derek Tipp**

Derek Tipp provided an update on behalf of New Forest District Council (NFDC). The bidding window for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grants is currently open and will close on 8 August 2025. Grants, which can be up to £100,000, are available to schools, community groups, charities, and similar organisations. These grants must align with the policies and objectives outlined in NFDC's development plan. Additionally, a Community Grant Scheme is also available for local businesses for grants of up to £10,000.

The government has proposed a reform of planning committees, introducing a two-tier approach which would severely curtail the opportunity for members and councillors to bring applications before the planning committee. This proposal includes setting a maximum number of members on the planning committee and providing additional training. The consultation period for this proposal will close on 23 July 2025.

#### **4.4 Verderers Update – Anthony Passmore**

Anthony Passmore advised that the Verderers were concerned at the introduction of plastic food waste bins (caddies) by the New Forest District Council and the unclear guidance on these, particularly with regard to the installation and use of the food recycling caddies at campsites. He said that the caddies posed a serious danger to livestock in the New Forest and potential spread of disease.

**5. Discussion: Should future Panel meetings start at 7.00 pm or 7.30 pm?**

Due to time constraints, the Chairman asked that this item be discussed at the next Panel meeting. This was agreed by members.

**6 Any other business**

6.1 There was no other business.

**7 Date of next Panel Meeting.**

7.1 The next Panel meeting would take place on 4 September 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.43 pm