

## **NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL**

### **Minutes of the 251<sup>st</sup> Meeting held in the Linden Room, Lyndhurst Community Centre on THURSDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Those present: Clive Chatters (Chairman)  
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)  
Frances Connolly (Panel Secretariat)

Members as shown on the Official List, with the exception of those listed below for whom apologies were received.

Also Present: Sarah Kelly, Landscape Officer, New Forest National Park Authority

#### **11 Apologies for absence**

- 11.1 Apologies for absence were received from:  
Mark Carter – Institute of Chartered Foresters  
Sam Dovey – National Farmers Union  
Linda Palmer – Whiteparish Parish Council  
Mark Rolle – Lyndhurst Parish Council

#### **12 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2016**

- 12.1 Jenni Tubbs advised the Panel that a substitute was sent on her behalf and therefore New Forest Friends of the Earth was represented at the last meeting, the secretariat agreed to make this amendment.

The minutes from the last meeting were then agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### **13 Matters Arising**

- 13.1 Bruce Rothnie informed the Panel that he was now in a position to arrange a meeting regarding Jonathan Cox Associates's report on wetland restoration as per Robert Clarke' request at the last meeting. Mr Rothnie sought interest from members of the Panel to participate in the meeting and would make arrangements.
- 13.2 Bruce Rothnie advised that the consultation on the New Forest Inclosures Forest Design Plan had now closed and the team were currently working through the comments, a presentation of the outcome would be given at the December meeting.

#### **14 National Park Authority (NPA) update**

- 14.1 Steve Avery updated the Panel on the recent building by the NPA of two affordable houses in Bransgore, an opening ceremony would take place on Friday 16 September, should Panel members wished to attend they would need to contact Mr Avery.
- 14.2 Following the success of the Building Design Awards last year the National Park Authority would be running this again. The scheme recognised developments which enhance their surroundings. The awards were open until 7 October, more information can be found on the National Park website here;  
[http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20043/building\\_design/359/building\\_design\\_awards](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/info/20043/building_design/359/building_design_awards)

- 14.3 Mr Avery advised that the walking festival would take place on 15-30 October with over 60 walks available guided by experts from a wide range of organisations, over 1000 people took part in the festival last year. More information can be found on the NPA website.
- 14.4 Panel Members were thanked for their valuable comments regarding the Latchmore Wetland Restoration project; over 300 responses had been received during the consultation period. This would be considered by Members at the Development Control Committee meeting in October.

## **15 Forestry Commission Update**

- 15.1 Bruce Rothnie advised the Panel that the Forestry Commission remained committed to following the planning process for the Latchmore wetland restoration project to its conclusion. The planning process was the appropriate democratic process with which to assess the proposal. The Forestry Commission had volunteered to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment (although not required under the legislation) and this formed a key part of the planning application.
- 15.2 Bruce Rothnie reminded the Panel that last autumn the Forestry Commission aimed to intercept people suspected of fungi picking in the Forest for commercial gain, whilst maintaining a weight limit for people picking for personal use. Over the last winter and early spring a working group of stakeholders and statutory bodies had been convened to discuss the issue further. It was agreed that interception of commercial picking should continue alongside an appeal for all to support a 'Look but don't pick' campaign. This would be communicated across the Forest by means of leaflets, posters and face-to-face interaction. It will take time for this message to become more widely known and the Forestry Commission favoured an educational awareness approach to communication.

## **16 Potential Undergrounding of High Voltage National Grid Power Lines at Hale Purlieu – Sarah Kelly, New Forest National Park Authority**

- 16.1 Sarah Kelly updated the Panel on the progress which had been made by National Grid. In May a site visit had been carried out to walk the line and view the topography. A public consultation had been carried out in July at Hale Village Hall and at the last meeting Ms Kelly attended; discussions had taken place regarding potential cabling routes.

An Environmental Impact Assessment was currently being carried out by National Grid which would form part of the planning application; this would be considered by the Planning Committee in due course.

- 16.2 It was advised that National Grid was currently waiting for permission from Natural England for consent to carry out bore hole tests, this would entail drilling 8, 150mm diameter holes across the length of the pylons to assess the soil profiles and geology. Should they gain consent this would begin in October. A full report was available on National Grid's website – [www.nationalgrid.com/vip](http://www.nationalgrid.com/vip)

## **17 National Grid Landscape Enhancement Initiative – Sarah Kelly, New Forest National Park Authority**

- 17.1 Sarah Kelly gave a presentation on the recent landscape enhancement initiative funding project by National Grid. The funding would be available for local groups to enhance the special qualities of landscapes within 3km of high voltage cables this could include localised tree planting, hedgerow management and improvement of

footpaths. A total of £200,000 would be available for each project and up to 3 projects could go ahead per year. All applications for funding would need to go through the National Park Authority, more information regarding the scheme can be found at [www.lei.nationalgrid.com](http://www.lei.nationalgrid.com)

*A copy of the presentation can be found on the Panel website*

## **18 Local Plan Update – Steve Avery, New Forest National Park Authority**

*(Steve Avery gave his report at the beginning of the meeting following his NPA Update but for minuting purposes, this item is minuted in context)*

- 18.1 Steve Avery presented his report highlighting the work which had been carried out to date, this had included the initial six week public consultation last September which had received comments from over 60 respondents, a ‘a call for sites’ where a total of 120 sites had been put forward for potential development and various meetings which had been held with Parish Councils and neighbouring authorities.
- 18.2 It was explained that one of the main considerations of the New Local Plan was to ensure that it took account of national planning policy, however much of the existing plan remained relevant and up to date giving the NPA an opportunity to ‘fine tune’ some policies based on experience over the last 5 years.
- 18.3 Mr Avery explained that some of the key challenges included mitigating impacts of new developments on protected habitats, conserving local distinctiveness and supporting housing for local needs. The NPA are now unable to seek affordable housing contributions for 5 dwellings or less.
- 18.4 The initial draft plan would be reported to the full Authority on 22 September, following this a public consultation would run for eight weeks 3 October – 28 November and would include a series of drop in sessions. More information on the plan can be found on the NPA website or by contacting the policy team.  
*A copy of the presentation can be found on the Panel website*

## **19 Any Other Business**

- 19.1 There was no further business on this occasion.

## **20 Date of the next meeting**

- 20.1 1 December, 7.30pm Lyndhurst Community Centre

The meeting closed at 8.55hrs.