

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting – 4 December 2017
Lyndhurst Community Centre

Present

Members: Ruth Croker (Chairman)
Paul Brockman
Fran Carpenter
Alastair Duncan
Jacqui England
Gordon Garrett
Heather Gould
Hallam Mills
Rachel Pearson
Leo Randall
Alison Russell
Peter Scott

Officers: Petronella Nattrass (Hampshire County Council)
Sam Jones (Hampshire County Council)
Mark Holroyd (New Forest National Park Authority)
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance: Alison Barnes (New Forest National Park Authority)
David Illsley (New Forest National Park Authority)
John Truswell (Natural England)
Aldred Drummond (Fawley Waterside Ltd)
Chloe Walker-Panse (Natural England)
Jake White (National Trust)
Owen Devine (Hampshire County Council)

1 Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mark Cowling, Sam Dovey, Ross Mitchell, Gary North and Ann Sevier.
- 1.2 Forum Members introduced themselves to the two new Members Jacqui England and Fran Carpenter.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- 2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true record and all matters arising from the last meeting had been completed.

3 Chairman's Report

- 3.1 The Chairman advised the Forum that Mark Holroyd would be leaving the National Park Authority at Christmas, she thanked him for all his hard work and dedication to the Access Forum. Mark replied that it had been a pleasure to work with Forum Members.
- 3.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read

4 Forum Officer's Report

- 4.1 Petronella Natrass brought the Forum's attention to the Annual Reporting of the LAF, Natural England were not running the usual LAF reporting process however they would receive any completed reports. Petronella recommended that the forum completed the form as usual and asked for any comments.
- 4.2 Following discussion it was agreed that Petronella and the Chairman would complete this on behalf of the Forum and would circulate for any further observations.

Action: PN and RC complete the Annual Report Form and circulate to Forum Members for further comments.

- 4.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

5 National Park Authority Update – Alison Barnes, Chief Executive NFNPA

- 5.1 Alison Barnes reported on the Authority's recent and future projects.
- 5.2 Ms Barnes thanked Mark Holroyd for his hard work during the last five years working with the National Park Authority and wished him well for the future. She assured the Forum that during the recruitment process for Mark's position candidates would be informed that part of the role would be working with the Access Forum and that the NPA would continue to resource as required.
- 5.3 A large project which was currently underway at the Authority was the Recreation Management Strategy, Ms Barnes explained that following the consultation during the summer, comments had now been read and would be consolidated into a report which would be published. The steering group would then begin to look at specific projects and resolve how these could be taken forward. She reminded the Forum that this was a partnership endeavour and that the NPA were putting in their resources to facilitate the process.
- 5.4 Ms Barnes commented on the success of the recent walking festival, over 1000 people attended and proved to be an ideal platform to engage with the public to understand the special qualities of the forest.
- 5.5 With Brexit negotiations currently taking centre stage in the news, Ms Barnes reassured the Forum that she and her fellow National Park Chief Executives were aiming to ensure National Parks were kept at the forefront of any government future spending. It was hoped that ministerial officials would visit the forest in 2018 to observe how the NPA work and where money is spent.
- 5.6 Ms Barnes was pleased to announce that all National Park Authority's had signed an accord with National Health England to work together to publicise how beneficial National Park were to wellbeing and overall health.
- 5.7 Finally Ms Barnes highlighted the recent launch of the Green Halo partnership, where over 70 organisations had signed up to work together to show the value and importance of our area. The engagement partnership with these fellow organisations would be based on natural assets, how nature provides for society and bringing people together to make a difference for future generations.

6 England Coastal Path Update – John Truswell, Natural England

6.1 John Truswell advised the Forum that the submission for the Highcliffe to Calshot route of the Coastal Path had been delayed, this had been due to the challenging nature of this route. Discussions were still currently taking place with local land owners and a date had not been set for completion. The Forum would be advised in due course.

7 Recreation Management Strategy – Mark Holroyd, NFNPA

7.1 Mark Holroyd updated the forum on the recent consultation which had taken place on the Recreation management Forum, 7,000 comments had now been read and analysed. In the New Year two reports would be published, one containing the results and the other a forward looking document on what actions would need to be taken to make a difference. A second consultation would then take place in 2018.

8 Planning Principles

8.1 The following comments were made on the draft document:

- Include an Appendix of References
- The document should be made available online
- Additional ‘Do’ bullet in section 4, to consult with the Hampshire and/or Wiltshire Council rights of way team at an early stage in site masterplanning
- Reference to Hampshire CAP and Wiltshire ROWIP
- Concern was raised about specific mention of the Castleman Trail

Action: PN to produce ‘final’ version taking on board comments and draft a one page checklist to include a single table. This would then be emailed to Forum Members for comments and get out into the public domain.

9 Local Plan Review – David Illsley (NFNPA)

9.1 David Illsley gave an update on the current Review of the NFNPA’s Local Plan. The current Local Plan was published 7 years ago; much has changed since then, which is why a full Review is being undertaken at this stage. The New Forest has the second busiest National Park Planning Department in the country, with 900+ applications a year.

9.2 There is an annual requirement for 300,000 houses to be built in Hampshire. National Park designation gives a degree of protection but not immunity; there is a requirement for 50-60 homes/year within the New Forest, and the new Local Plan therefore has to allocate land to meet those needs, within agreed policies e.g. for Landscape and Economy.

9.3 Fawley Power Station site straddles the National Park boundary. There was some discussion of whether with the decommissioning of the power station the site should be brought inside that boundary. This is thought unlikely since it would require action by central government, however in planning terms this would not make a significant difference.

- 9.4 The next consultation is due early in 2018. The Forum agreed that the Planning sub-group should meet in late January to agree a response.

(A copy of the presentation can be found on the website)

Action: PN to arrange a meeting of the Planning sub-group in late Jan 2018 to agree a response to the Local Plan
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10 Fawley Waterside – Aldred Drummond (Fawley Waterside Ltd)

- 10.1 Mr Drummond presented to the Forum the vision for the Fawley Waterside development. He explained that the current power station was the largest building in Britain with its own basement, sewage treatment plant and port which makes it ideal for re-development. Fawley Waterside proposes to build a vibrant small town with services included, this would be a mix of housing and commercial properties.
- 10.2 Mr Drummond went on to explain that the southern part of the village would be in keeping with the character of the New Forest and would include grazing land with the northern section forming the commercial zone, currently the proposal was to keep the chimney but to ensure it was more structurally sound and in keeping with the area. The whole village would be walkable with a 12 minute walk from north to south to alleviate the necessity of vehicles. Mr Drummond then asked if the Forum had any questions.
- 10.3 It was asked if there had been any provisions for disabled parking with the majority of the parking being contained underground, Mr Drummond responded that this had been taken into account and provision had been made for residents with disabilities.
- 10.4 A further question was asked regarding the timetable for the project, Mr Drummond replied that a planning application was due to be submitted in 2018, then if granted, it would be necessary to remove the current onsite structures prior to the commencement of building works therefore development would not begin for another 3 years, 2021 with the village being completed by 2036.

(A copy of the presentation can be found on the website)

11 Education – Overview of Initiative Sue Palma & Craig Daters (NFNPA)

- 11.1 Sue Palma reported on the education initiatives which were carried out across the forest, she explained that both formal and informal education were provided.
- 11.2 Ms Palma informed the Forum about the New Forest Educators' Forum which was a group with 27 fellow organisations dedicated to achieving the highest quality outdoor learning provision within the unique environment of the National Park. She explained that this was an invaluable forum to develop best practices and to keep in contact with education providers throughout the Forest.
- 11.3 Craig Daters then went on to explain the value of informal education which was carried out in conjunction with local forest organisations to inform young people of the importance of nature and the forest. Craig highlighted the recent success of the

National Citizenship Service and the John Muir Award which encouraged young people to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

12 Regular Updates

- 12.1 a) New Forest National Park Authority
As per paper
- b) HCC Countryside Access
As per paper
- c) Forestry Commission
As per paper
- d) Rural Communities Fund (formally Small Grants Scheme)
As per paper
- e) Historic Routes
No meeting had taken place, however an email was sent which Mark Holroyd would forward to the Forum

Action: Mark Holroyd to forward the email he had received to Forum Members regarding Historic Routes
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13 Reports from other LAF's

- 13.1 a) *Hampshire*
The next meeting would be the AGM which was scheduled for Tuesday 12 December.

Date of next meeting:

12 March 2018, 9.30 – 1.00, Venue: Lepe Country Park