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Replies via Petronella Natrass
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Date 21 February 2018

E-mail Petronella.natrass@hants.gov.uk
Reference NFNP Local Plan (11/16)

Dear Sir/Madam,

New Forest National Park Submission Draft Local Plan 2016-36

Further to our letter of 28 November 2016 responding to the previous consultation on the National Park Authority's Local Plan, New Forest Access Forum offers the following comments in response to the current consultation on the Submission Draft:

1. Recreational pressures

The Forum feels that notwithstanding its earlier comments, the policies set out within the Submission Draft do not adequately address the issues of increasing recreational pressure on the New Forest from development in the wider visitor catchment outside the National Park boundary. We previously expressed concern about the retention of many policies that pre-date the predicted surge of over 1 million visitor days per annum. Rather than presenting new policies to manage and mitigate this pressure, the Submission Draft simply references the National Park's Recreation Management Plan (RMS), a guidance document which is not part of formal planning policy. The Forum does not believe that this is adequate and suggests that at the very least the status of the RMS should be underpinned by a policy requiring that the RMS should be adhered to within any development proposal.

2. Housing Market Assessment and Housing Needs

The Forum recognises that this plan cannot extend to areas outside the National Park, but robust measures will be required in liaising with neighbouring authorities to ensure the '...shared approach to mitigating the impacts of new development on the National Park' referred to in the Plan's Vision (page 16).

3. Green Infrastructure and Open Space

The Forum is disappointed to note that its earlier comments about the need for good quality accessible recreation from existing and new dwellings **on foot /without the use of a car** do not appear to have been recognised in the Submission draft.

4. Policy DP 47: Holiday Parks and Camp Sites

The Forum welcomes the inclusion of pop-up campsites in the Plan, but feels that Policy DP47 should seek to manage pressures, e.g. by measures to influence visitor perceptions, understanding and behaviours, rather than put up barriers against increasing demand.

5. Policy SP55: Transport Infrastructure

The Forum notes that its suggestion in its 2016 response that Policy 54 (now 55) 'should more explicitly address the need for utility walking and cycling routes to local services and amenities' was not actioned. The Forum strongly believes there should be access for all, with connectivity for both recreation and for access to services and amenities.

It remains the Forum's view that 'the first paragraph of this policy should be amended to include '**...for access to services and amenities and** for enjoyment, health and well-being, ...'.

In relation to SP55, the Forum welcomes the promotion of opportunities for the creation of more routes for non-motorised vehicles.

6. Implementation and monitoring

The Forum considers that there are substantial gaps in the monitoring indicators, and that there should be great assurance for local residents that these indicators are objective and will be robustly applied.

Finally, we ask that the Forum should be kept informed and involved in any further work on the Local Plan, particularly if there is to be any review or local input from the Planning Inspectorate.

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Croker

Ruth Croker
Chair, New Forest Access Forum