

Minutes of the New Forest Access Forum Meeting
Council Chamber, Lymington Town Hall
3 December 2018

Present

Members: Ruth Croker (Chairman)
Ann Sevier (Deputy Chairman)
Paul Brockman
Fran Carpenter
Gordon Garrett
Heather Gould
Jane Horton
Hallam Mills
Leo Randall
Peter Scott
Nick Tomalin
Henry Mellor

Officers: Petronella Nattrass (Hampshire County Council)
Adam Vasey (New Forest National Park Authority)
Vicki Gibbon (New Forest National Park Authority)

In attendance:
Jonathan Woods (Hampshire County Council)
David Illsley (New Forest National Park Authority)
Sarah Kelly (New Forest National Park Authority)
Eric Clark (Wiltshire CAF)

1 Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Alastair Duncan, Mark Cowling, Ross Mitchell, Rachel Pearson and Gary North.

2 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

3 Chairman's Report

3.1 The Chairman advised that since writing her report she had visited Martin Down, along with Adam and Alastair. Martin Down were preparing to submit an application for section 38 consent and asked for the Forums advice on their proposals to ensure there were no further issues that should be addressed. Ruth said that they felt the proposals were good and as a Forum would like to write to them to corroborate this. It was agreed that Adam would write a letter confirming that the NFAF were in agreement with their planning proposal.

3.2 The remainder of the report was taken as read.

Action: Adam to draft a letter to Martin Down confirming the NFAF agreement with their proposals
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4 Forum Officer's Report

- 4.1 The Forum Officer advised that the final amendments had now been made to the NFAF's 'Guidance on Access for Planners and Developers' and a copy of the final document was provided. Following discussion it was agreed that a slight amendment would be made to page 4 of the document to request that existing footpaths be upgraded to provide off road routes for cyclists, equestrians and pedestrians.

Action: Petronella to change the statement on page 4 as requested

- 4.2 Petronella informed the Forum that she would be leaving HCC at the end of the year and would be taking a new role with the British Horse Society, the Chairman thanked her for all her help and hard work over the last 3 years.

The remainder of the report was taken as read.

5 National Grid's Visual Impact Provision Project – Sarah Kelly, NFNPA

- 5.1 Sarah Kelly, Landscape Officer at the NPA, reminded the Forum that OFGEM (via National Grid's Visual Impact Provision project) were providing £500 million to mitigate the visual impact of the high voltage transmission infrastructure in England and Wales' protected landscapes (National Parks and AONBs). The stretch of high voltage cables and pylons that cross Hale Purlieu in the New Forest was shortlisted in the VIP project and over the last 2/3 years National Grid have been investigating the feasibility of undergrounding the cables. Ms Kelly went on to explain that if the project went ahead, the excavation needed to underground of the cables would be a major engineering project across Hale Purlieu and National Grid have indicated that the project would take approximately 2 years to complete.

- 5.2 Ms Kelly explained that National Grid had carried out consultations with stakeholders, land owners, members of the public and Parishes over the past 3 years. National Grid are planning to submit a planning application for the undergrounding of the high voltage line to the National Park Authority in spring 2019 (post meeting, date changed to July 2019). The New Forest Access Forum will be a statutory consultee for the application. Full details of the project is available on National Grid's dedicated VIP project website <http://newforest.nationalgrid.co.uk/project-updates/route-options-aug-2018/>

6 NFNPA Local Plan Review – David Illsley, NFNPA

- 6.1 David Illsley updated the Forum on the progress of the Authority's Local Plan 2016 – 2036 which was submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination in May 2018. Two Planning Inspectors have been appointed to assess the 'soundness' of the Plan and the Examination hearing sessions took place in November 2018. The draft Local Plan makes provision for new greenspace and access improvements within the National Park, although can obviously only provide policy coverage for matters where full planning permission is required for development. The Authority is currently waiting for the Inspectors' Report and the aim is to formally adopt the updated Local Plan in 2019.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

7 Fawley Waterside Development Proposals – Adam Vasey / David Illsley, NFNPA

7.1 Mr Illsley explained that as part of the National Park's Local Plan an allocation of housing, open space and community facilities had been included on land adjacent to the former Fawley Power Station site (in support of the proposed allocation on the brownfield part of the site in the New Forest District Council draft Local Plan). The proposed allocation in the National Park was based on the delivery of clear net positive public benefits in relation to landscape, public access improvements and provision of suitable green space. He explained that a minimum level of provision of at least 30 hectares of new accessible greenspace must be provided (which equates to 8ha per 1000 people) as part of the proposed redevelopment

7.2 David advised the Forum that a 'Fawley Waterside Access and Nature Conservation Plan' had been produced as part of the supporting documents for the site proposals which detailed the proposed green infrastructure provision and access improvements that would be provided.

A copy of the Fawley Waterside Access and Nature Conservation Plan can be found on our website

8 Health & Harmony – Adam Vasey, NFNPA

8.1 Adam Vasey explained that following the government's recent Health and Harmony consultation public access was regarded as the least important public goods that the government should support, however it was a popular topic for discussion in several responses. With respondents feeling that public access does have a positive impact on health and led some respondents to believe that better public access would boost rural communities. It was also suggested that the bill include measures to ensure farmers fulfilled their legal responsibilities and reward them for increasing access. The bill would be put to royal assent during 2019.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation can be found on the website.

9 HCC Draft Enforcement Policy – Jonathan Woods, HCC

9.1 Jonathan Woods gave a brief overview of the CAMS access management system over the last period (*full statistics available in regular updates section of agenda documents*). He explained that HCC were dealing with as many reports that were coming in and that there were currently around 1200 outstanding issues in the South with the main concerns being signage and waymarking.

9.2 Jonathan then went on to explain that HCC were looking at bringing forward an enforcement policy as over the last three years there had been a considerable increase in officer time being taken up with negotiating with land owners and developers. He advised that they were currently in the process of ensuring both the litigation team and solicitors were on board to ensure that should they be required to take someone to court this would be a smooth process. Guidance and procedures were taking up a considerable amount of time however once this process was completed a draft policy would be sent around to consult on.

10 Regular Updates

- 10.1 a) NFNPA – Adam Vasey
As per report.
- b) HCC Access team (South) – Alison Perry
As per report
- c) Forestry Commission – Gary North
As per report (*copy on website*)
- d) England Coast Path – John Truswell
As per report

11 Reports from other LAF's

- 11.1 a) *Hampshire*
As per report
- b) Wiltshire
As per report
- c) Hampshire Rural Forum
It was explained that there were three elements to the Hampshire Rural Forum meeting this included; Jonathan Moore who spoke about motorcyclists in small villages and how they would work with the police to improve traffic control measures and anti-social behaviour. Nigel Matthews gave an update on the RMS strategy and Inspector Korine Bishop gave an update on strategic rural policing.

12 Meeting Venues for 2019

- 12.1 Meeting venues would be confirmed in due course.

Date of next meeting:

11 March 2019, 9.30 – 1.00, Venue: