

## **NFAF Chairman's Report. 4 December 2023**

- Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL).

A meeting took place on 12th October.

The start of a large-scale project was approved. The project will explore deer management north of the A31.

Eventually the project may cover a much wider area and spread outside the New Forest.

The meeting scheduled for 23rd November was cancelled as there were no applications for consideration. Applications for up to £10000 can now be decided by officers without input from the FIPL Local Assessment Panel.

Training Event Online. I attended a training event in late November.

Some points from this training:

Defra found FIPL Panels to be effective.

Most projects were local. There was local decision making. Projects are meeting local needs and using local knowledge. Locality is the key.

Funding recommendations. Should give added value and not undermine other projects and schemes.

We were told that ministers love FIPL. Feedback has been positive.

The project's budget has been doubled for next year. (The last year.)

Defra says the project is working closely with ELMS.

There is innovation and best practice.

Additionally next year there will be a Historic Building Restoration Fund held by Defra. The FIPL panel must approve the project, but Defra need to give the final approval and Defra hold the fund.

- Wetland Restoration.

On 5th September a consultation site visit took place to Anses Wood near Cadmans Pool.

Work was done in 2018 but further work is thought to be needed as banksides have eroded and there is sedimentation. There was a desire to relocate the channel to the lowest point in the flood plain near to the inclosure. This was thought to be necessary as a deep channel has formed.

Those present agreed. The work will be done under HLS

A further meeting took place to Rans Wood | 22nd October. I was unable to attend,

- Cranborne AONB.

This Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a Protected Landscapes has been renamed.

It is now known as Cranborne Chase National Landscape. It is still designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Ruth Croker