

## NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Thursday 24 July 2014

### Cycling Issues - Update

- I would like to give you a brief update on where we are to date, I have been joined by Nigel Mathews of the NFNPA who will be able to respond to any particular questions which you may have later on.
- The process followed by the Cycling Liaison Group and the various sub groups has been encouraging and has reached a natural conclusion. It good to see the local organisations sitting round the table with local and national representation from the cycling organisations ... all with different views and agenda's and conflict was inevitable.
- The great achievement being that in all bar a few issues, agreement was reached by all the parties.
- At this point, I must compliment Nigel Mathews from the NPA who has done a terrific job in coordinating the process and keeping the group on track.
  
- Last time I spoke to you, we were in the early stages of developing the Charter and as you are all aware, the document has now been published.
- At the same time as the Charter went up on the NFNPA website, it was communicated to all 37 Town & Parish Councils for comment. At the request of some of the Parishes, the deadline was extended to allow Council Meetings to take place.
- Feedback has been received from 15 of the 37 Town & Parish Councils across the Forest, i.e. the Town's and parishes impacted by the events ... also feedback has been received from Parish Council which sits outside the Forest boundaries but has been impacted by the events (Hurn).
- The feedback has been consolidated and circulated to you all ... there were two big issues which had not been addressed to the satisfaction Councils.
  - Number of Participants - 75% Councils highlighted this as an issue
  - Rider Identification, i.e. numbers on the back. 81% have highlighted this as an issue
- It is interesting to note that the third issue i.e. Speed, has dropped down the agenda 19%. Perhaps as result of improvements in behavioural issues during the April event.
  
- I presented these findings to the NFNPA during a 3 minute slot at their AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> June and a copy of my presentation has been circulated to you all.

- The NFNPA has voiced its support on the two key issues and they passed a Motion insisting that in order to obtain NPA support for the Charter, the two big issues must be included.
  - In essence, NFNPA Members have decided that it is best to have a Charter that included these two issues even if some organisations and some cycle event organisers didn't agree with them.
  - The Charter is being changed to reflect these two issues and other comments received as part of the feedback process
  - The proposed change to the Charter has been supported by Wiltshire County Council, The Verderers, the Police and the Forestry Commission and we are just waiting to hear from New Forest District Council and Hampshire County Council.
  - The two organisations that have rejected the proposed changes are UK Cycling Events (Wiggle) and the local arm of British Cycling.
  - It is now very important that NFALC as an organisation is seen to support the Charter. We have had our say and there have been key changes made to the Charter which reflects our feedback.
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- I must emphasise again, The Charter is an advisory vehicle which underpins the process. It is not the cause of the issues we have had in the Forest.... it is part of the solution
  - The Charter is seen as a building block on which to build..... It gives structure to the process ... bearing in mind; 6 months ago we had no structure.
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- We are seeing process improvements in the Safety Advisory Group and greater transparency. There have been improvements in the communication process. The NFNPA and NFALC have been drawn into the public application process and we are seeing applications for events at the initial stage which gives Local Councils the opportunity to make comment and for local knowledge to be applied.
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- An issue which has been drawn to my attention, it would be good if we as local Councils could assist with the support with the provision of feeding stations, it would enable us to keep track and influence the process ... also to provide a valuable income stream.
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- We also have the opportunity to provide valuable feedback to the Safety Advisory Group following an event.
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- Where do we go from here...?
    - The amendments are being made to the Charter
    - Looking to re publish in August

- We then need to monitor the impact through the Safety Advisory Group feedback system and we as Town & Parish Councils have an active role to play here.
  - Then to take steps to amend the Charter as appropriate.
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- So finally Chairman, I would like to see a motion passed which endorses the support of NFALC to the Charter
  - Perhaps before we discuss this, are there any questions for either Nigel or me.
  - Close