

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILSwww.nfalc.org.uk

Minutes of Meeting of New Forest Association of Local Councils held in the Council Chamber
 Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA on 21 April, 2016 at 7.00pm

Parish/Town Council	Name
Ashurst & Colbury	Sally Arnold Caroline Husband
Brockenhurst	John Korbey – Vice Chairman Harry Oram
Copythorne	John Goodwin
Denny Lodge) Alison Tilbury
Exbury & Lepe	
Fawley	Steve Postlethwaite (Clerk)
Hordle	Sue Bown
Hyde	Martine Coatham (Clerk)
Lyndhurst	George Bisson Jeff Lock
Marchwood	Fred White
Milford on Sea	Graham Wells (Clerk)
Minstead	Richard Taylor
Netley Marsh	Mike Welbourn Les Puttock
New Milton	Goff Beck – Chairman Graham Flexman (Coordinator)
Ringwood	Anne Murphy
Sway) Barry Rickman (Leader of NFDC)
New Forest District Council	
New Forest District Council	Bob Jackson (Chief Executive)
New Forest National Park	Steve Avery (Executive Director)
Hampshire Fire & Rescue	Shaun Lawrence (Chief Officer)
Apologies	
Sue Benison	Bramshaw
Peter Turner	Breamore
Neal Martin	Burley
Sue Sykes	Damerham
Stephanie Bennett	Hythe & Dibden
Alison Hoare	Marchwood

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed 19 representatives from 16 local town and parish councils, Steve Avery Executive Director from the New Forest National Park, Bob Jackson Chief Executive of NFDC and Barry Rickman Leader of the District Council, together with Shaun Lawrence Chief Officer from Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service.

The Chairman referred to a Rededication Service of the Falklands Memorial being held at St John's Church at Marchwood tomorrow, Friday 22 April 2016 at 13.50 hours with HRH Earl of Wessex in attendance. Members are welcome to attend the service in the church.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, previously circulated.

The Minutes of the General Meeting held on 14 January 2016 were approved by those present, and signed by the Chairman. Sally Arnold referred to a report from the last North East sector quadrant meeting, and this would be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

3. NPA Local Plan Review

The Chairman welcomed Steve Avery, Executive Director of the New Forest National Park Authority who gave an illustrated presentation on the NPA Local Plan review. Following a Q & A session, the Chairman thanked Steve Avery for his interesting presentation. See presentation slides available on our website at www.nfalc.org.uk

4. Neighbourhood Planning

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, previously circulated.

Members considered the proposed Terms of Reference for a Neighbourhood Planning Focus Group, and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference for a Neighbourhood Planning Focus Group be adopted by NFALC

The Chairman duly signed the Terms of Reference on behalf of NFALC.

5. Rural Transport

The Coordinator referred to a recent photo opportunity highlighting the Lymington–Sway–Hordle–New Milton CANGO Bus Service that is jointly administered and partly funded by New Milton, Hordle and Sway councils together with three County Councillors.

The Chairman recently attended a New Forest Passenger Transport Forum at Lyndhurst Community Centre on 19 April 2016 to hear from Peter Shelley, Head of Passenger Transport at HCC about an update on current Passenger Transport initiatives including information on the government's forthcoming Buses Bill.

See attached slides from the Transport Forum.

6. Reports of Focus Groups

a) Dibden Bay

In the absence of Alison Hoare, who was attending NFDC Chairman civic duties, the Chairman suggested this matter be deferred until to the next meeting. Cllr Fred White from Marchwood Parish Council provided a brief update.

b) Broadband

Steve Avery referred to Ed Bailey MP who is pushing for wider coverage.

c) Quadrant Reports

Sally Arnold referred to the latest NE Quadrant meeting as attached and Harry Oram updated members on both the SE and SW Quadrants.

d) Neighbourhood Planning

The Chairman referred to Appendix 3, previously circulated being details of the seminar being held on Thursday 30 June, 2016 at Lymington Town Hall starting at 10.00am, noting spaces must be booked by Friday 22 April, 2016.

e) HALC

John Korbey, Vice-Chair provided a verbal report on the last HALC meeting held on 19 March 2016 at the Holiday Inn, a new improved venue. Eleanor Green spoke about External Audit requirements for smaller local councils, County Councillor Roy Humby talked about Devolution, the approach to planning in the future and partnership working with 260 local town and parish councils in Hampshire.

7. New Forest District Council

The Chairman welcomed Bob Jackson as Chief Executive of the District Council.

Bob Jackson has been in post for 6 months now, and updated members on recent changes in the Senior Management structure. In December, four Executive Heads were appointed - Colin Read; Grainne O'Rourke; Chris Elliott; Manjit Sandhu. More recently, a new management structure as attached including two new appointments was agreed.

The Chairman explained that Bob has now been officially appointed Returning Officer for the District and reference was made to the forthcoming Police Crime Commissioner elections on 5 May, 2016 and the EU Referendum on 23 June, 2016.

The Chairman referred to the NFDC Annual Report for 2015/16 attached.

8. New Forest National Park

The last NPA meeting was held on 24 March, 2016 and Steve Avery updated members on

- The 2016/17 Work Program setting out how the NPA would deliver its part of the Partnership Plan was approved
- The £4m Lottery funded Our Past, Our Future project that was now well underway
- The affordable housing project to build two new homes which the NPA would let to local people at Bransgore had now started Income would go to NPA projects.
- Work on the above was currently on track and the houses should be completed by August and marketed next May, with the NPA agreeing a Housing Tenancy Policy
- The New Forest WW1 exhibition had been launched at the New Forest Centre and information panels would be taken around the New Forest it ends on 1 May.

9. Devolution

The Chairman referred to the Parish Devolution Workshop that took place at HCC on 1 March 2016 ostensibly about the H10W bid, but there was shock news on Solent City bid.

The Chairman referred to the attached Leader's Statement on the matter of conflicting devolution bids, and Bob Jackson said the whole process was in a state of flux at present.

The Chairman advised members to keep abreast of what's happening on NFALC website www.nfalc.org.uk See latest articles attached.

10. Safer New Forest Partnership

The Chairman referred Appendix 4, previously circulated being an NFDC briefing paper.

Members considered the proposed engagement between NFDC and NFALC on such matters with most members agreeing it was a good idea in principle. The new clerk from Fawley, having a background in such matters, was concerned at giving an expectation to residents and Councillors that they could affect such issues by discussing them at NFALC meetings in January and October each year suggesting a more evidence-based approach.

Shaun Laurence from Hampshire Fire & Rescue argued such meetings would consider specific plans, manage expectations and avoid undue pressure, making it fit for purpose. Bob Jackson said towns and parishes would have the opportunity to influence what happens locally, and be subject to review every six months - or more frequently if required.

It was agreed the Chairman (or his representative) should attend future meetings of the Safer NF Partnership to ensure a report was made to NFALC members. It was then

RESOLVED:

That the Association agrees the request by the Safer New Forest Strategy & Delivery Group to be represented and speak at two meetings of NFALC per year in January and October to obtain the Association's views on

- a) Issues for inclusion in the annual partnership plan***
- b) Performance against the plan***

11. Hythe Parish Council

In the absence of Stephanie Bennett, this matter was deferred to a future meeting.

12. Brockenhurst Parish Council

Harry Oram referred to a recent meeting on 22 March, 2016 held at the Balmer Lawn Hotel with the NPA and Forestry Commission.

Over the next 20 years, the Forestry Commission proposes to eradicate all conifers from their land and cease soft timber trade with a commensurate reduction in income. Referring to the attached pie chart, the intention is to increase the heathland habitat for ecological purposes, encouraging more environmentally-friendly species and improving the habitat, subject to consultation with relevant bodies until 6 June, 2016.

The Consultative Panel includes 40 separate parish and town councils in the vicinity, being 51% of total consultees, so local councils could have a majority influence. The matter will be discussed at the next SE Quadrant meeting on 11 May 2016 at Exbury.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils, being the AGM will be held at held in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, **Lyndhurst** SO43 7PA on Thursday **21 July, 2016** from 7.00pm.

Please note revised date above

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 8.50 pm.

Chairman

Date

NORTH EAST QUADRANT

REPORT FOR N.F.A.L.C

The last meeting of the North East Quadrant was hosted by Minstead Parish Council on Tuesday 9th February at Minstead. The subjects debated were the Local Plan Review, Managing Recreation, Road Maintenance and the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

Congratulations must go to Minstead Parish Council who gave an excellent presentation on a serious matter of road erosion, which is not unique to Minstead as many areas in the National Park suffer from the same problem. A power point was provided with a report from Councillor Richard Taylor.

Roads have dropped away and edges ruined causing deep caverns each side of the road. The National Park and Highways have been given the documents and hopefully in the not too distant future some devolvement will be found. It was felt that all Parishes need to be involved and support Minstead.

The Verderers and Forestry Commission are working together on this matter and money is available under the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

Although we were light on the ground with members, the time and effort that the National Park Officers gave to us on the topics was rewarding and informative, to which Parishes should always be appreciative and take the trouble to attend.

In my position as Quadrant leader I have the privilege of visiting all eight Parishes in my quadrants, and have found them all very different, and all most welcoming. I do take reports with me, and find that most of the Parishes have a slot for me on their agendas.

The next quadrant meeting is at Colbury Memorial Hall on 30th June at 7.30pm. If Parishes have topics that they would like to be discussed please contact me as soon as possible. This gives the Officers time to find speakers.

New Forest District Council – Annual Report 2015/16

The last year has been full of challenge and change for the District Council, with a new Central Government, a new Council Administration, and a new officer structure following a reorganisation.

The District Council managed not only the General Election last May, but also the District, Town and Parish Council elections too – a real triple whammy for the Elections staff, who rose to the challenge admirably.

Last autumn, Bob Jackson, our former Executive Director, was appointed to take over as the new Chief Executive following Dave Yates' retirement.

Significant reductions in Central Government funding have meant that the Council has continued to explore various measures to reduce expenditure, increase income, and find innovative ways to deliver its services. As part of this, the Council has this year undertaken a senior management review and organisational restructure. Fundamental service reviews will provide opportunities to seek efficiencies, working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors, to make best use of its assets and deliver cost effective services.

The Council has also agreed an increase in council tax for the first time in 6 years. The increase, which was equivalent to just 5 pence per week for a Band D property, will help ensure that the Council can maintain essential services whilst being fair to Council Taxpayers.

The Council had also developed a new Corporate Plan for the next 4 years, setting out Council priorities and areas that will be reviewed. Its priorities will be:

- Supporting local businesses
- Assisting the wellbeing of those living and working within the District
- Protecting the character of the New Forest

The Council continues to take part in discussions on bids for devolved powers for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight authorities, and is keen to explore a number of options for future collaboration with other councils.

Looking ahead, the Council will continue to ensure it is in good shape to meet the challenges of the next few years and beyond, working with its key partners to ensure that the New Forest remains a good place to work and live.



Bob Jackson
Chief Executive



Colin Read
Operations Executive Head
and Deputy Chief Executive



Chris Elliot
Economy, Housing and
Planning Executive Head



Grainne O'Rourke
Governance and Regulation
Executive Head



Manjit Sandhu
Resources
Executive Head



Geoff Bettle
Compliance and Coastal



Ryan Stevens
Community



Rosemary Rutins
Democratic Services and
Member Support



Ritchie Thompson - start 18/4/16
Building Works



Joanne Bailey
Health and Leisure



Richard Topliss
Housing



Joanne Mclay - start TBC
Environment and Regulation



Rebecca Drummond
Business Improvement and
Customer Services



Steve Jones
Open Spaces



David Groom
Planning and Building Control



Alan Bethune - start 5/6/16
Financial



Heleana Aylett
Human Resources



Rob Lane
Street Scene



Louise Evans
Policy and Strategy



Andrew Kinghorn
Legal



Rob Beere - start 1/7/16
ICT



Richard Bissett
Waste and Transport



Fiona Skeats-Sicomori
Property

LEADER'S STATEMENT

Before commencing the Cabinet meeting I would like to update members on our position with regard to any future proposals for devolution

Since September I, and the Chief Executive, have spent a great deal of time on discussions on a devolution deal for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

My mandate from Councillors was that the Council would only be part of a devolution arrangement of powers and responsibilities if it was in the best interests of all of the District. Any decision would be for all Councillors to make, who represent all parts of the District and any decision would only be taken when all details were known in an open and transparent manner.

When discussions took place with government it became clear that any devolution deal would need to meet a number of central government conditions, including that of an elected mayor. The local authorities within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight bid took a vote that overwhelmingly did not support a directly elected mayor and as a consequence a devolution deal with government would not progress.

Shortly after this an announcement was made on a proposed devolution of powers and responsibilities to some councils in the Solent area (Portsmouth, Southampton, Gosport, Fareham, Isle of Wight, Eastleigh, Havant and East Hampshire), that included an elected mayor. The proposal I understand arose from a meeting hosted by the Treasury to which New Forest District Council was not invited and therefore we have not been party to any details of the proposal.

I can now inform all Councillors that I have received a letter asking if we would wish to attend regular meetings with the leaders of the Solent proposal with a view that they would support us joining the Solent Devolution proposal. I understand a similar invitation has been sent to the Leaders of Hampshire County Council, Test Valley Borough Council and Winchester City Council. I can also inform Councillors that we have attended a meeting with the local authorities of North Hampshire that were also excluded from the Solent proposal to share thoughts on what options there were for future collaboration that would generate real benefits for each of our districts.

I would like to inform all Councillors that I will continue to take actions which are in the best interests of the whole District. I believe we therefore need to maintain a position which keeps all options open but I state clearly that no decisions will be taken on any future deals or arrangements without it being a decision of all Councillors.

SOUTHERN Daily Echo

Council leaders hit back in battle for future of Hampshire

17 May, 2016

CIVIC chiefs in Hampshire have hit back in the battle over how the county should be run in the future. County council leader Roy Perry last week revealed a report had spelled out several new options for major changes, including one to replace all councils with one huge new authority. However, the leaders of seven city, borough and district councils have attacked the plans as “distancing our populations from the services they rely on”.

It is the latest round in the long-running battle over the Government devolution of powers to the Solent area, which Cllr Perry opposes but southern council leaders support. Cllr Perry said on Friday that a new report, commissioned by the council and written by consultants Deloitte, had spelled out several different options for how the council could be governed. They include creating one new council for the entirety of Hampshire, including Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, and creating five new larger unitary councils. He said the new options could save residents’ money in council tax while saving tens of millions of pounds every year. However, the plans have been attacked by the council leaders set to take part in the Solent devolution project.

A joint statement by the leaders of Southampton, Portsmouth, Fareham, Eastleigh, Gosport, East Hampshire and Havant councils has been issued. In it, the councils’ seven leaders say they “want to place on record their concerns that the document is more concerned with looking in detail at how local government organises itself, rather than focusing on how councils can work together to provide better and more efficient services for local people”.

They continue: “This proposal amounts to localism in reverse. It exceeds the Government's own standards for scale and manageability, is a clear threat to town and parish councils and would further distance our populations from the services they and their communities rely on. Rather than creating a large and unwieldy council for the whole county area we would prefer to look at bringing existing councils together to work closely to improve outcomes for local people and bring extra powers and resources for the area - as being explored in plans for both the Solent and Heart of Hampshire combined authorities which between them cover the whole of Hampshire and the IOW.”

They say the proposed Solent deal being negotiated with the Government would provide £30m of extra funding every year and allow key decisions to be made locally as opposed to by ministers or civil servants in Westminster and Whitehall. They add: “Bringing these responsibilities together in the Solent area will simplify and strengthen support for business growth and innovation as well as enabling a focus on training in skills businesses want people to have, therefore people get jobs, businesses prosper and the whole of South Hampshire & the Isle of Wight becomes better off.

“It would control a dedicated transport budget, franchised bus services and the network of strategic local authority roads. “It is also anticipated that once the combined authority is in place it would be able to demonstrate its successes and negotiate with government to agree further powers and opportunities to be devolved, potentially in areas such as health and criminal justice, as the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has done. Pursuing the options proposed by Hampshire County Council will put all of this in jeopardy.”

Two-way devolution carve-up is indefensible, says county leader

Public urged to have their say on local government

BY BEN CRAIG

THE public should have their say over "indefensible" devolution plans that could split Hampshire in half, the leader of the county council has declared.

Coun. Roy Perry spoke out strongly at the authority's AGM in Winchester to caution local political leaders against emerging proposals to divide the county into two separate groupings of areas, each under an elected mayor.

The two mayoral regions would be Heart of Hampshire, made up of mostly rural patches like the New Forest; and Solent, comprising urban coastal councils and the Isle of Wight. Supporters say it would boost the local economy and improve cooperation.

The issue of how Hampshire should be governed has caused months of acrimonious high-level argument - mostly behind the scenes - since a push was

more efficient local government with fewer layers of bureaucracy and consistently high quality services - at scale and locally."

He attacked plans for a split Hampshire, saying: "They don't bring greater clarity or efficiencies. They add a new layer of local government and additional costs and will inevitably disrupt high quality countywide services."

He held up an £89,000 county council-commissioned study by auditors Deloitte, which he said showed that a united Hampshire could cut council tax for most households and deliver £40m of annual savings, compared to £30m reportedly offered by the government to a Solent combined authority.

Coun. Perry's position was backed by the leader of New Forest District Council, Coun. Barry Rickman. But he said he wanted to keep options open for NFDC - including possibly turning its back on Hampshire devolution to work instead with neighbouring authorities in Dorset.

Coun. Rickman said: "I believe in my heart that staying as we are is not an option, which is why it's in the interests of the New Forest

to talk to all our neighbours. We have more in common with our neighbours on the south coast than with Basingstoke, for instance.

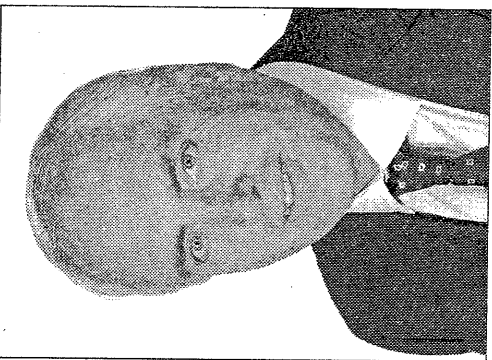
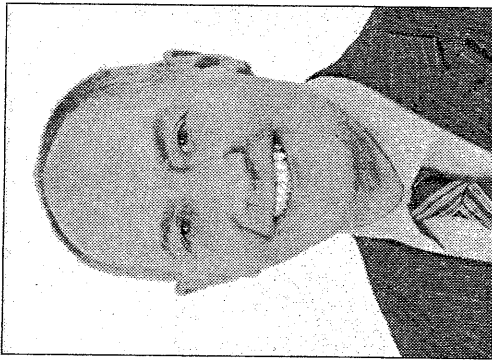
"We will have spent public money on something that's not broken, because of pressure from government. I think it's being forced on us for the wrong reasons."

The next step in the process, according to Coun. Perry, will be to hold a special meeting of the county council's ruling Conservative cabinet to launch a "full public debate" over the choice of devolution proposals.

He said: "It is simply indefensible that we should be taken down that path with so little information or attempt to establish if there is public consent."

The Solent combined authority would comprise Southampton, Portsmouth, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant and East Hampshire, and the Isle of Wight. Heart of Hampshire would be Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester, Test Valley and the New Forest.

>What do you think? Write to Letters to the Editor.



Coun. Roy Perry and Coun. Barry Rickman

launched last year for the county to get greater powers and funding from Whitehall.

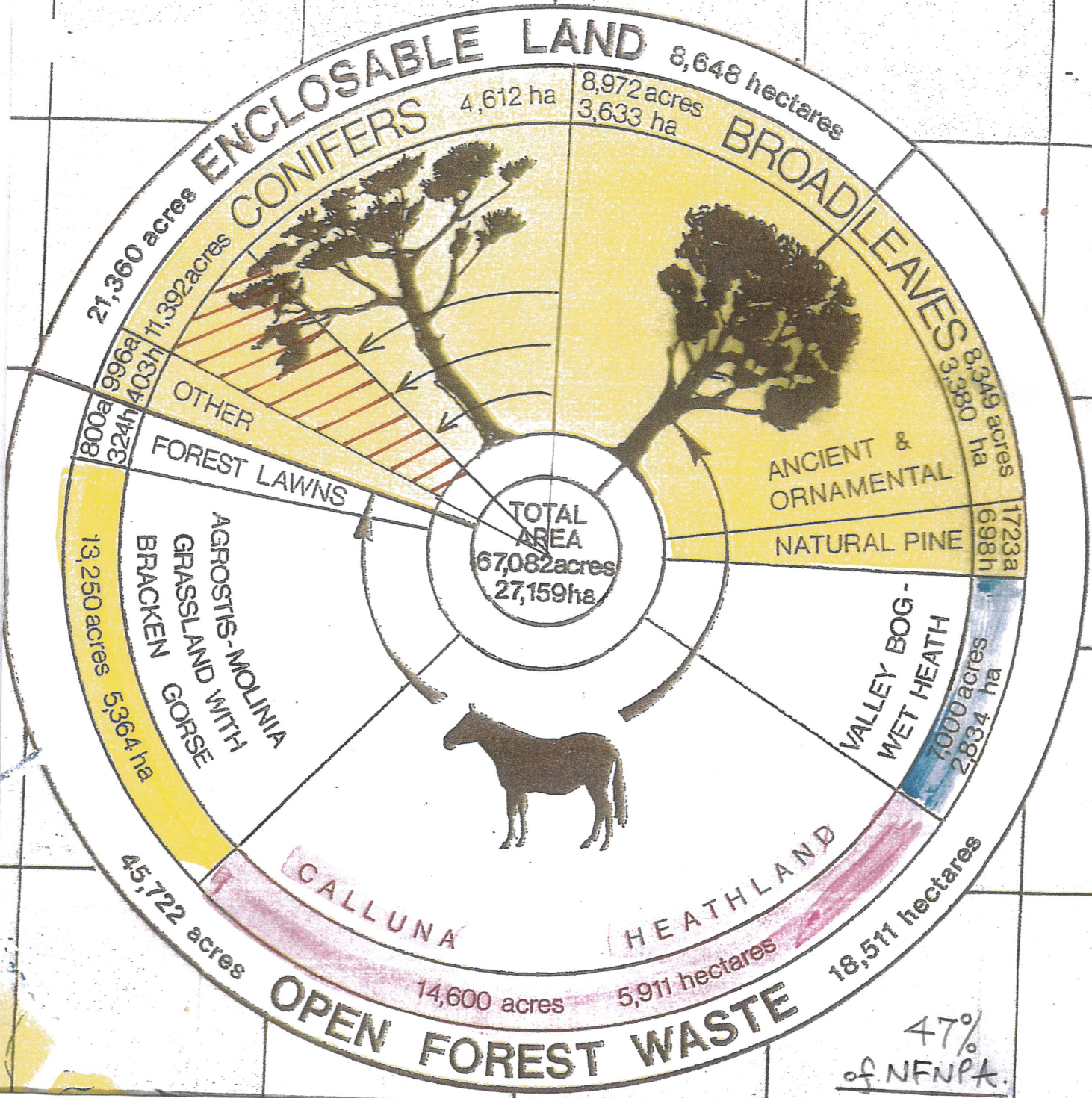
A rival camp, led by Coun. Perry, favours relaunching Hampshire as a single unitary authority responsible for all public services - a move which would devolve some power to parish and town councils but kill off district councils, like the New Forest's.

He has announced a public consultation to find out what residents think, declaring: "I will not be endorsing the current Solent and Heart of Hampshire proposals unless and until the people of Hampshire tell me that is what they want."

"And we will set before the public real alternatives which have a strong evidence base and will deliver what I think people want:

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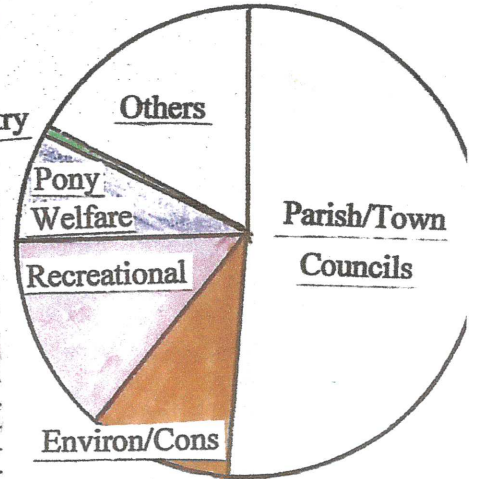
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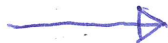
Membership MAY 2014

- Agricultural & Allied Workers National Trade Group
- Ashurst & Calbury Parish Council
- Beaulieu Parish Council
- Boldre Parish Council
- Bramshaw Parish Council
- Bransgore Parish Council
- Breamore Parish Council
- British Horse Society
- Brockenhurst Parish Council
- Burley Parish Council
- Commission to Protect Rural England
- Camping & Caravanning Club
- Caravan Club Ltd
- Copythorne Parish Council
- Defra
- Denny Lodge Parish Council
- East Boldre Parish Council
- Ellingham Parish Council
- English Heritage
- Environment Agency
- Exbury & Lepe Parish Council
- Fawley Parish Council
- Fordingbridge Town Council
- Forestry Commission
- Godshill Parish Council
- Hale Parish Council
- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
- Hampshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
- Hampshire County Council
- Hampshire Fed. of Women's Institutes
- Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Soc
- Hordle Parish Council
- Hyde Parish Council
- Hythe & Dibden Parish Council
- Institute of Chartered Foresters
- Landford Parish Council
- Lymington & Pennington Town Council
- Lyndhurst Parish Council
- Marchwood Parish Council
- Melchett Park & Plaitford Parish Council
- Milford-on-Sea Parish Council
- Minstead Parish Council
- National Farmers Union
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Netley March Parish Council
- New Forest Access For All
- New Forest Association
- New Forest Beagles
- New Forest Business Partnership
- New Forest Commoners Defence Asscn.
- New Forest District Council
- New Forest Doa Owners Group
- New Forest Equestrian Association
- New Forest Friends of the Earth
- New Forest Hounds
- Newforce
- New Forest Pony Breeding & Cattle Society
- New Forest Tourism
- New Forest Village Shops Association
- New Milton Town Council
- Ramblers Association
- Redlynch Parish Council
- Ringwood Town Council
- Romsey Extra Parish Council
- Royal Forestry Society
- R.S.F.C.A.
- Salisbury District Council
- Solent Protection Society
- Sopley Parish Council
- Sway Parish Council
- Test Valley Borough Council
- Totton & Eling Town Council
- Wardens of the New Forest
- Wellow Parish Council
- Whiteparish Parish Council
- Wiltshire County Council
- Woodgreen Parish Council
- Youth Hostels Association

Consultative Panel Composition



Tel:
01590 622500
Harry Orman



70

51 (40) PARISH/TOWN COUNCILS. Contact: New Forest Tel: 0159

10 (8) CONS/ENVIRONMENTAL

14 (11) RECREATION. (12 IF NP)

2 (2) FORESTRY (1 REPRESENTATIVE) PROF JULIAN EVANS.

7 (6) PONY/CATTLE WELFARE