

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

Minutes of Meeting of New Forest Association of Local Councils held in the Council Chamber at Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 9ZG on 15 October, 2015 at 7.00pm

Parish/Town Council	Name
Ashurst & Colbury	Sally Arnold
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison
Brockenhurst	John Korbey – Vice Chairman
Denny Lodge	Eve Elcoate
East Boldre	Kim Penna
Exbury	Alison Tilbury
Godshill	Ann Cakebread
Hordle	Marion Still Sue Bown
Hyde	Jane Arigho
Lymington & Pennington	Michael White
Marchwood	Jane Bovey Mark Proctor
Minstead	Richard Taylor
Netley Marsh	Mike Welbourn
New Milton	Goff Beck – Chairman Graham Flexman (Coordinator) Valya Schooling
New Forest District Council	Dave Yates
New Forest National Park	Paul Walton
Hampshire Police	David Powell Simon Tribe

Apologies

Peter Turner	Breamore
Neal Martin	Burley
Cllrs Lane & Spark	Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley
Stephanie Bennett	Hythe & Dibden
Caroline Godfrey	Lymington & Pennington
George Bisson	Lyndhurst
Alison Hoare	Marchwood
Melanie Wathen	Marchwood
Steve Avery	National Park Authority
Maria Pennington	Whiteparish

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed 18 representatives from 14 local towns and parishes, Dave Yates Chief Executive of NFDC, together with Paul Walton from the New Forest National Park.

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman thanked Dave Yates for his long and loyal service to NFALC over the last five years, since it was resurrected in 2010 initially as the Association of Local Councils in the New Forest (ALCNF). Dave has now decided the time is right for him to retire as CEO of the District Council, and this will be his last NFALC meeting.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Dave for allowing NFALC to meet at Appletree Court and Lymington Town Hall, and for attending all the NFALC meetings over the past 5 years. Dave Yates will be succeeded by Bob Jackson who will be attending our next meeting and has promised to give us the same dedicated support as we have received from Dave.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 July 2015 were approved by those present, subject to a note that ***“road maintenance in the Forest was raised by Minstead PC and it was agreed that NFALC would contact Tim Lawton”***.

The minutes were duly signed, subject to the above amendment.

3. Reports of Ambassadors

Mike White from Lymington updated members on recent meetings with More Bus seeking increased funding for certain services, especially Saturday mornings in Lymington when there are queues in the high street on Market Day.

The Chairman said NFALC would support Lymington in their endeavors and with CANGO local bus services.

4. Reports of Focus Groups

a) **Dibden Bay** – In the absence of Alison Hoare, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

b) **Broadband** – Paul Walton from the NPA updated members stating they are working closely with HCC, NFDC and interest groups in tackling issues such as those experienced at Burley, and extending services beyond current superfast.

c) **Cycling Liaison** – Neal Martin had asked that this focus group be wound up as they had achieved all they could do as far as ensuring cycle events are compliant with the Cycle Event Organizers Charter. Events are now being monitored by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

d) **Quadrant Reports** – Please find attached report from the North East Quadrant.

5. New Forest District Council

Dave Yates updated members on the following district-wide matters of interest:

a) Electoral Registration

Rosemary Rutins is continuing the Annual Canvass for registering to vote explaining that the way we all register to vote is changing. The registration system changed with effect from 10 June 2014 and is now called ***'Individual Electoral Registration'*** (IER).

All households should have received an electoral registration **Household Enquiry Form** (HEF). These forms should have been returned to Electoral Services. If not, an electoral registration canvasser will call at properties to collect it. NFDC are required by law to visit properties when forms are not returned.

The HEF is not a registration form - it is a form that enables NFDC to check that all those entitled to register appear on the electoral register. New residents will then be [invited to register](#). The revised version of the electoral register will be published by 1 December 2015 and will be used for any elections held after that date. These will include the Police and Crime Commissioner Election to be held on 5 May 2016.

b) Devolution

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight partnership consists of 15 councils, two National Park Authorities and two Local Enterprise Partnerships in Hampshire, together with the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton unitary authorities. On 4 September 2015, the HIOW Partnership submitted its **Devolution Prospectus** to the government which sets out proposals structured around four themes:

- business and skills
- housing delivery
- infrastructure investment
- public service transformation

The proposals deliver on the government's productivity plan / rural productivity plan:

- more homes built
- more efficient local planning system
- further expansion of broadband and better mobile connectivity
- improved transport connections
- a higher-skilled workforce with employers setting the skills agenda locally
- higher employment and better wages

Dave Yates said a Government Minister will be visiting Cllr Roy Perry, Leader of HCC next Friday to discuss the HIOW devolution proposals.

c) Local Plan Review

The current Local Plan for New Forest District outside the National Park, (the Core Strategy, adopted 2009, and the Sites and Development Management document, adopted 2014), which planned for the period up to 2026, needs to be reviewed.

This early review is necessary to bring planning policies for the area fully in-line with national government planning policies (the National Planning Policy Framework). The New Forest District Council has commenced the review, which will look at the development needs and opportunities in the area up to 2036. Evidence suggests that there will be a need for the new plan to identify more sites for future housing and employment development.

After the Council has completed its preliminary work on identifying areas with potential for future development, it will be consulting the public and giving them and others the opportunity to influence the shape of the emerging new planning strategy for this area. This consultation will be in spring 2016.

The table below outlines the stages when there will be an opportunity to have your say on the emerging plan. More details will be given on this website nearer the time.

Local Plan Review timetable for public consultation

Public consultation on issues and strategy options	Spring 2016
Public consultation on Preferred Strategy	Late 2016
Plan published and formal representations invited	Summer 2017
Examination of the Plan by Planning Inspector	Winter 2017
Possible consultation on modifications before formal adoption	Autumn 2018

d) Closing remarks

During his time with NFDC, Dave Yates helped build close collaborations with town and parish councils, other local authorities and the National Park Authority.

Throughout his time in the New Forest, Dave Yates worked closely with partner organisations such as New Forest Association of Local Councils (NFALC) and taking on key roles within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWLGA), Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) being local authorities working together for a better future for South Hampshire & Isle of Wight, and supporting the establishment of the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA).



In closing, Dave Yates said “It’s been a great privilege to have been chief executive of one of the best local authorities in the country, serving a unique and wonderful area. It was important to me to leave the organisation in good shape and I have every confidence that Bob Jackson will continue the best traditions of New Forest District Council and face any challenges that may lie ahead.”

6. **New Forest National Park**

The Chairman welcomed Paul Walton from the NPA who was standing in for Steve Avery who had tendered his apologies. Paul referred to the following items:

The New Forest National Park Management Plan was first published in 2010. It is a plan for the Park as a whole rather than for the National Park Authority or any particular organization. Its vision and objectives are designed to guide the long-term management of the National Park and to deliver the two statutory national park purposes and duty.

During 2015, the [Plan](#) was updated, keeping the same policies, but including new actions for the period 2016-20. The Management Plan update was approved by the National Park Authority in July 2015. All the main partner organizations were asked to formally endorse the Plan during July, August and September 2015, following which the final document will be designed and published on the website.

Our Past, Our Future is a £4.5m Landscape Partnership Scheme for the New Forest which, supported by Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF), will undertake around 20 projects to restore lost habitats, develop traditional Forest skills and inspire new champions. http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/downloads/download/208/our_past_our_future

The 5-year scheme, delivering a range of projects from 2016-2020, is being led by the New Forest National Park Authority working with more than 10 partners, financed by a £2.8m grant from HLF supplemented by a cash injection from the NPA and 10 key partners being the Beaulieu Estate, Commoners Defence Association, Forestry Commission, Freshwater Habitats Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, HCC, National Trust, Natural England, New Forest Centre and New Forest Land Advice Service.

Commercial mushroom picking is becoming a problem and the NPA fully supports the measures proposed by the Forestry Commission to disrupt large scale commercial picking; working with others to develop an educational campaign to raise awareness of the ecological importance of fungi and to encourage people to enjoy and study them in situ; and engaging with the Forestry Commission and Natural England towards updating and strengthening the current code of practice for fungi picking and, together with local landowners, develop a specific code of practice for the New Forest.

New Forest National Park Local Plan Review - An initial six-week public consultation ending on 23 October 2015 represents the initial work on the scope of the Plan and the key issues to be addressed This is the initial step in reviewing the Local Plan and there will be further opportunities for local communities and others to get involved in 2016/17.

As part of this initial consultation, NPA also launched a '***call for sites***' through which landowners and other interested parties are invited to put forward land which they would like to be considered for development. Information submitted will be publicly available and will be used to inform the next stages in the plan-preparation process. It will also be shared with local communities preparing Neighborhood Plans where appropriate.

Planning Training Event for Parish and Town Councils held on 22 September 2015 in the Lyndhurst Community Centre proved popular, with some 90 Parish and Town Council representatives attending the course which amongst other items, considered the Local Plan Review, the planning application process and enforcement procedures.

New Forest Walking Festival – 17 October to 1 November 2015 - This NPA initiative is sponsored by [Stewarts](#) includes [Wildlife Walks](#), [History Hikes](#), [Accessible Walks](#), [Activity Walks](#), [Family Adventures](#), [Shorter Strolls](#), [Longer Walks](#). Walking@newforestnpa.gov.uk

New Forest Centre, Lyndhurst - 19 September to 3 January 2016 - New Forest's past is an interactive exhibition revealing new archaeology that has been discovered using high-tech remote sensing to look beneath the tree canopy. New sites and monuments previously not visible through traditional survey techniques have now come to light, helping to build up a picture of the New Forest through time.

7. Hampshire Association of Local Councils

The Chairman attended the HALC quarterly Board meeting on Saturday 12 September, 2015 at Eastleigh in the company of Vice Chairman John Korbey. It was rather a short meeting with the main topic being the relationship between HALC and NALC. The meeting was asked to ensure they reminded their members to attend the AGM.

On Saturday 10 October, 2015 in the company of Graham Flexman, John Korbey and George Bisson, the Chairman attended the HALC AGM at Sparsholt College, Winchester. The meeting was addressed by Dr Jonathan Owen, CEO of NALC, who spoke on NALC's Customer Focus; Steve Parkinson, SLCC Development Manager whose address was Three Big Development Issues for Local Councils; John Connell from DCLG who spoke about Local Councils Delivering for Communities; and finally Guest Speaker Cllr Roy Perry, Leader of HCC presented Hampshire's Devolution Bid and how it may affect Towns and Parishes. The content of these presentations is available on HALC's website.

8. Any Other Business

The Chairman reminded members that Hampshire Constabulary have had to address reductions in their budget to the tune of £55m since 2010 with a further £25m over the ensuing two years, being £80m in total.

He further reminded members that the Police Commissioner, who is responsible for the budget, has categorically stated that the Neighborhood Policing Teams will not be affected by the cuts. Please be aware, that to meet the cuts there has been a reduction in officers leading to officers from various wards being deployed at other venues when needed, for instance two of New Milton's officers were recently deployed to Aldershot to boost the Police presence there during the visit of the Dalai Lama.

9. Presentation

The Chairman welcomed Chief Superintendent David Powell and Chief Inspector Simon Tribe from Hampshire Police, who were invited back for a Q&A forum, answering written questions as attached (Red = Tribe / Blue = Powell) and taking questions from the floor.

The Chairman opened the forum by asking whether the public are receiving the service they deserve with the introduction of the new centralized hubs, bearing in mind the local neighborhood teams may not be able to concentrate on their core roles / responsibilities due to lack of cover by Response & Patrol and having to backfill due to lack of officers. The Chairman questioned whether officers based in large hubs, as opposed to being spread across stations and locations, is the best use of officers / resources – does this satisfy call response times and how have the public reacted to these changes?

Chief Superintendent David Powell replied by saying, yes they will still provide the same level of service. Further savings will be achieved by changing ways in which the Police manage contact with the public, from phone to other forms of communication. The Police will concentrate on their statutory responsibilities working closer with local communities. There may be less 'face to face' contact, with more digital interface / engagement.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils will be held on **Thursday 14 January 2016** at 7.00 pm in the **Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA.**

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked attendees closing the Meeting at 9.00 pm.

Chairman

Date