NORTH EAST QUADRANT MEETING – 7TH OCTOBER 2015 – BRAMSHAW

Alison Barnes Chief Executive of the National Park headed her talk on Protect, Enjoy and Prosper, the three main themes for the National Park.

Protect

The updating of the Management Plan provides a strategic and aspirational approach designed to guide the long term management of the National Park by a wide range of organisations, landowners and interested groups. One major issue has been the Navitus Bay Development, a full and explanatory report was sent to the Secretary of State which concluded with a refusal, not to be reviewed.

The New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme, working alongside the Verderers and Forestry Commission to restore habitats, supports communing, protects archaeology and informs the next generation about the New Forest way of life.

Enjoy

The education officers and rangers work with schools running litter assemblies in schools and hosting events in the Forest

Promoting walking with expanded range of walking route guides. There are 11 printed heritage walk leaflets and the NPA continue improving footpaths that had become badly eroded.

Prosper

There are several projects that have helped people under the community grant scheme.

Encouraging car-free travel and improving cycling. Supporting New Forest food and craft producers

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT by Landscape Officer Sarah Kelly

The Landscape assessment has been put together with the assistance of Hampshire County Council, New Forest District Council, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Wiltshire Council, Test Valley Borough Council and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust.

The assessment challenge covers 19 areas and was presented in a very colourful and illustrated document. Each member was given a copy for their own perusal. This document will assist in planning applications in each individual parish.

There was time for questions and answers after the speakers, which included damage to the edges of country roads, event cycling, fungi, and the notorious pot holes.