

## **NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

**Minutes of Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils  
held on-line via Zoom on Thursday 28 April 2022, at 18.00hrs**

### **1. Apologies**

Received prior to the meeting from Katie Walding, Sway Parish Clerk, David Mcelhenney, Fawley Parish Council and Kate Ryan, Chief Executive, NFDC.

### **2. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed 25 council members, NFDC officers Chris Noble, Service Manager – Waste & Transport; Nicola Plummer, Performance & Projects Officer - Waste & Recycling; Manjit Sandhu, Executive Head - Partnership and Operations; and NFDC Cllr Steve Davies, Portfolio Holder for Environment & Coastal Services with specific service responsibilities for various matters including Waste Strategy.

### **3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2022 were approved by those present, and the Chairman will sign them when we meet in person at our Annual General Meeting.

### **4. Matters Arising - None**

### **5. New Forest District Council**

Manjit Sandhu, Executive Head - Partnership and Operations said NFDC were commemorating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a series of activities this summer, including red, white, and blue tree planting.

Centred around The Queen's Green Canopy tree-planting initiative, NFDC are planting 60 trees at 30 locations across the district. As the local authority in the New Forest, NFDC wanted to mark Her Majesty's incredible 70 years of service. The Queen's Green Canopy tree planting project is wholly befitting to the area.

NFDC have chosen a red, white, and blue theme for the trees, for the planting at their offices at Appletree Court, and a mixture of native and non-native trees across locations in the district. The trees, suitable for the chosen sites across the district, will be planted to support biodiversity being suitable for the local climate.

The scheme at Appletree Court will see three varieties being planted, including a Blue Cedar, Swamp Oak, and Jacquemontii Birch. NFDC will also plant hundreds of young tree whips at Fawley Fields alongside naturalising bulbs, plus wildflower areas to create a sustainable legacy for communities and wildlife.

NFDC councillors have each been given an additional £400 in their community grants this year, in connection with the Platinum Jubilee. Manjit said NFDC would be grateful to know of events elsewhere in the district, what local councils are planning to do locally as it will assist NFDC Streetscene, and Communications.

## **6. NFDC Waste Strategy**

The Chairman introduced Chris Noble, NFDC Service Manager – Waste & Transport and Nicola Plummer, NFDC Performance & Projects Officer - Waste & Recycling.

“We know you want to be able to recycle more from home and do your bit to tackle climate change. We are presently developing our plans and NFDC councillors will be asked to make a decision on the future this summer. We will be providing lots of information in lots of different ways to help recycle more from home.

### **Why does the current service have to change?**

The recycling rate in the New Forest is 34%. NFDC is rated 174<sup>th</sup> out of 225. The UK has a recycling target of 55% by 2025. The best councils in the country are achieving over 60%.

This council has declared a climate and nature emergency which means we need to take action to reduce our impact on the environment and reduce emissions, and we can do that by recycling more and changing the way we run the front-line service. The council currently distributes 10 million single use plastic sacks per year to provide the current recycling and waste service and we want to find a way we can reduce that number.

Finally, the Government is overhauling the way they want local authorities to carry out waste and recycling collections at the kerbside. For example, the Government wants all councils to collect food waste from the kerbside weekly and send it for recycling.

### **Objectives of a new waste service**

The council's waste strategy will have four main objectives.

- We want to reduce the amount of waste generated across the district.
- We want to increase the proportion of waste that is recycled.
- We want to reduce the emissions that are associated with the current service and reduce our impact on climate change.
- And we want to make sure that our future service complies with future laws and moves it in a direction that's more consistent with other councils within Hants.

### **How recycling will be better**

We know that our residents want to be able to recycle more at the kerbside. So how are we going to enable them to do that? We'll be introducing a weekly collection of food waste at the kerbside. And that food waste will be sent for recycling. That's important, because we know that, by weight, food waste makes up about 40% of the proportion of black bags currently.

We also know people want to be able to recycle more types of plastics at the kerbside. Our new service will also recycle plastic pots, tubs, and trays in addition to the plastic bottles we currently collect. We also hope that plastic film will be introduced in the future as well as drinks cartons like orange juice and apple juice cartons. We will also be collecting glass more frequently, moving it from a monthly collection to a fortnightly collection to help residents recycle more at the kerbside.

**How bins will help recycling**

When thinking about changes to our waste and recycling services, it's important to remember that we're not working in isolation. There are lots of other councils within Hampshire and indeed across the country, who have already introduced wheeled bins for waste and recycling services. We work very closely with the county council in Hampshire who in the future will have to change the way they deal with recycling.

Government is very keen that councils keep glass and paper separate and also that councils collect a wider range of recycling. We've agreed with other councils in Hampshire that the best way to do that is to keep paper and card separate from everything else, to make sure it's good quality that can be recycled back into paper and card again. That means collecting glass, mixed with metal and plastic including extra plastic we don't collect presently, together in a wheeled bin. That will then go for sorting at a new facility that's going to be built for us and all Hampshire authorities. Wheeled bins are helping us to expand the range of materials we collect at the kerbside.

**Other benefits of bins**

There are other benefits that wheeled bins will bring as well. For example, we know that our current service, which is based on the sacks, on collection day, can lead to rubbish strewn across the streets when bags split or burst, or livestock attack the bags. We also know that in future, a wheeled bin service will be safer for our staff. We also have to consider cost. Wheeled bins may cost initially to roll out, however we have to look at the longer-term picture. Currently, we are replacing plastic sacks to all 80,000 households twice a year. That comes at a cost. In the long run, wheeled bins will be a more cost-effective collection container to use for the service.

**Plastic sacks**

One of our key objectives is to reduce the quantity of single use plastic sacks use across the district. At the moment, we distribute 10 million of these every year so residents can take part in waste and recycling services. In future recycling will be placed loose, into a wheeled bin, or a reusable sack thereby reducing the use of the clear sacs. We also know that a lot of residents, put a kitchen waste bag into the black bag before placing it out for collection at present. In the future, that kitchen waste bag can go straight into the wheeled bin. Negating the need for a black bag as well. Wheeled bins can be made from recycled plastic and at the end of their life, can be recycled back into new wheelie bins.

**Assisted collections**

We've been asked, how residents who may find it more difficult to get containers to the kerbside for collection, can participate in the future waste and recycling service. Well at the moment, the council offers what we call an assisted collection. This means we will help some residents move their containers to the kerbside so they can be collected. This applies to elderly or disabled residents and can be provided on a temporary or permanent basis. We will continue to offer that service in the future and make sure we publicise it if new bins and containers are rolled out.

### **Fortnightly collections**

Why are we looking at changing how often we collect waste and recycling?

In the future, we will collect food waste separately on a weekly basis and send it for recycling. We'll also expand the range of recycling we will collect. For example, to include a greater range of plastics. That's meant we can look at how often we collect waste and recycling. Do we need to continue to collect waste every week at the kerbside if we are collecting food waste separately? We don't believe so. And we believe that by moving to a collection system whereby recycling is collected one week, and rubbish is collected the next, we can reduce the number of vehicles on the road and therefore reduce our emissions. We also know, that wheeled bins and rubbish will help to reduce the amount of waste people throw away. The wheeled bins will only provide a certain amount of capacity for residents, which means everyone will have to recycle as much as possible.

### **Property surveys**

The majority of properties within the district will be suitable for wheeled bins. However, there will be some that won't. We will carry out a survey of properties across the district to work out which are suitable for wheeled bins in the future and which aren't. Those which aren't, for example, blocks of flats or terraced houses with no areas to store a wheeled bin, will be offered an alternative, and in some cases that could include keeping the existing sack collection service. We will make sure that the service works for as many of our residents as possible."

A Question & Answer session then followed, and a Q&A document will be sent out. The Chairman thanked both Chris Noble and Nicola Plummer for their inspiring presentation.

## **7. New Forest National Park**

In the absence of Steve Avery, the Chairman updated members on the following matters:

### **A revised Design Guide for building development**

New Forest's buildings are an important part of what makes the National Park special, giving the area its distinctive local character. A revised Design Guide has been issued. As the local planning authority, NFNPA role is to ensure that any building works are of a high quality and sympathetic to the nationally important landscape of the National Park.

The new Guide has a greater focus on climate change and sustainability which have risen up the planning agenda in recent years. It also looks at areas of greatest pressure in new developments within the National Park, such as types of boundaries used and protecting dark night skies by reducing light pollution.

It provides guidance on the right materials to use in new development, while a new section on sustainability includes 'green' measures which can be implemented, while respecting the environmental protections and local character of the New Forest National Park. These include native planting, the use of energy efficiency measures in new buildings and using locally sourced materials.

## Development at Ashurst

Plans for 62 homes on a greenfield site near two schools have been given the go-ahead - despite almost 250 objections to the scheme. The Chairman said permission was given to build 48 houses and 14 flats on 2.7 hectares of grazing land near Ashurst. Members of the New Forest National Park Authority were told that half the homes would be affordable. NPA officers advised members to approve the application.

## 8. Safer New Forest Partnership

Coordinator said Nikki Swift, Community Safety Manager from NFDC had advised that the Safer New Forest Partnerships priorities from 1 April 2022 are now on the Safer New Forest website...

- **Drug and alcohol related crime**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Reducing risk to vulnerable people and property**

The headings remain similar. Nikki Swift usually attends our October meeting, as that is the time for the new Strategic Assessment to be written and will update us then on progress on the plan.

## 9. Any Other Business

Richard Taylor, our Cycling representative recently circulated to town and parish councils via NFALC the details of a planned cycle event on 20/08/22 from Moyles Court.

Richard sent a revised version of the event that has been changed following feedback to avoid New Forest Gravel Tracks during bird nesting season and a dangerous section. For future reference, Richard asked if parish and town councils have any specific comments on this or other events that they direct these to the event organiser with copies to him and the NFDC safety advisory group as below.

Event organiser - [sam.kantorowich@wmpcreative.com](mailto:sam.kantorowich@wmpcreative.com)

NFALC cycle rep - [richardtaylorpc@gmail.com](mailto:richardtaylorpc@gmail.com)

Safety Advisory Group - [events@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:events@nfdc.gov.uk)

These details have already been circulated to other members of the Safety Advisory Group Please see over the page. If you have any queries, please contact Richard Taylor, as above.

## 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils will be AGM on 14 July 2022 at 6.00pm, to be held in the NFDC Council Chamber at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting just after 7.20 pm.

Chairman

Date

