

NEW FOREST ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL COUNCILLORS
& ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NFALC)

**Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of NFALC held at NFDC
Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Monday 22 September 2025 at 6.00pm**

<u>Parish/Town Council</u>	<u>Name</u>
Ashurst & Colbury	Caroline Hubbard (on-line)
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison (on-line)
Bransgore	Jacque Lay (on-line) Amanda Linford (on-line)
Brockenhurst	Gale Pettifer (on-line)
Copythorne	Graham Chillcott, Sylvia Wiggins and David Rigby
East Boldre	Ben Hawker (on-line)
Fawley	Paul Saunders
Fordingbridge	David Millar
Godshill	Richard Fell (on-line)
Hordle	Maggie Hill (on-line)
Landford	Mary Davies
Lymington & Pennington	Tom Brindley (on-line)
Lyndhurst	Brice Stratford – Chairman
Minstead	Bill Andrews
Ringwood	Gareth De Boos
New Milton	Graham Flexman – Clerk
Totton	Neville Penman (on-line)
Wellow	Mike Richardson (on-line)
NFALC Cycling Rep	David Orme
New Forest District Council	Joe Reilly, Ashurst, Bramshaw Copythorne & Netley Marsh
NFDC	Richard Knott - (Link Officer) NFDC Strategic Director Daniel Reynafarje – NFDC Democratic and Support Services - ICT Officer
NFNPA	David Illsley, National Park Authority Interim Head of Planning & Place
<u>Apologies:</u>	
Brockenhurst	John Korbey
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	Sarah Pinfield
Fawley	Stephanie Bennett
Minstead	Helen Bennett

1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed 24 attendees from councils/authorities within and around the New Forest district.

2. Minutes

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1 being the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2025. The Chairman went through the minutes page by page.

Confirming Mary Davies remains Vice Chair of NFALC, the Minutes were agreed as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes not shown elsewhere on the agenda.

4. New Forest Cultural Council

The Chairman said there were no updates from the steering group, except for the Arts and crafts. There is potentially going to be an Open Day showcasing physical theatre and a workshop every couple of weeks in Brockenhurst. Probably at the Community Centre, having had a meeting with them today.

Open to everyone, including total beginners, enthusiastic amateurs, semi-professionals, retired celebrities, anyone who wants to engage with live performance from across the New Forest. Brockenhurst was chosen as a suitable venue, because it's easier to access by train.

5. Other Business

a) The Chairman referred to Appendix 2 – Buckler's Hard Shipyard Trust - describing it as a really brilliant project spearheaded by Mary Montague-Scott of the Beaulieu Estate who has been leading efforts to survey and excavate the historic shipyard's main slipway, where large wooden warships were built for Nelson's navy, with the eventual aim of creating a replica of the keel and the ribs of the HMS Agamemnon on the original slipway where it was built using original construction techniques, noting it was Lord Nelson's favourite ship that was built there in 1781.

b) The Chairman referred to Appendix 3 – New Forest Commoners Association – pushing for recognition of commoners as a minority group. Unfortunately, we had apologies from Sami Reece who was going to deliver an update.

There is nothing new since the last meeting, but Council of Europe (CoE) is now engaging directly with it, being the organization focused on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Europe. There will be a visit to the UK at the end of next year or early 2027 and the New Forest will be included as part of that.

But it's a long, slow process.

6. New Forest District Council

Richard Knott Strategic Director Housing & Communities updated the meeting as follows

Economic Development team now has a new manager with lots of experience. They are doing a lot of work to develop skills, action plans and working with local business partnerships particularly taking on apprenticeships. A new business programme is being launched to help small and micro businesses across the New Forest.

Local Plan review is progressing, with Cllrs still very much supporting it going forward, even though LGR is happening. It is important that we continue to work that through given the timescales our local plan takes. The NPA is also reviewing its Local Plan so there'll be some further consultation, between November and January around spatial options that are likely to include local feedback.

Associated British Ports. The ABP 28-day consultation regarding Solent Gateway 2 proposals for an expansion to the existing site was launched last week. Steve Cornwell has been appointed to coordinate consultation responses, as this is very likely to go forward as a national infrastructure project, a big project that will affect particularly those parishes and lots of residents around that area.

Quadrant meetings. NFDC continues to attend these and found them really useful, meeting lots more representatives around the district and something that NFDC would like to continue with, alongside the NPA and bring NFDC inputs into that.

Local Government Reorganisation. Working together with our partners across Hampshire on the LGR options that will be submitted to the government. Special Council meeting is on Thursday night this week and Members will vote or at least put forward a preferred option that this Council supports to the Cabinet on Friday 26 September, who hopefully will sign that off, and then we will forward a submission to government and you will note that all of the other councils in Hampshire are going through a very similar process. So, by the end of this week, it will be a lot clearer on what options will be put forward.

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) will then follow their time scales around direct public consultation towards the end of the year, with a final decision in the spring.

Wheelie-Bin Rollout. Container deliveries in Phase 2 are going better than they did in phase one and are now ahead of schedule. We learnt a lot from that initial roll out so residents in phase two should be experiencing a much smoother roll out.

7. New Forest National Park

The Chairman welcomed David Illsley, Interim Head of Planning at the National Park Authority who updated members on matters of interest within the national park.

Regarding what was known as **Dibden Bay** now **Solent Gateway 2** proposals there is a lot of really helpful information on the ABP website. The 'Solent Gateway 2' proposals for an automotive terminal relate to the northern area of Dibden Bay between Marchwood and Hythe just outside the New Forest National Park boundary.

A country park, nature reserve and new access road is also included in the consultation, the footprint of which appears to include land within the New Forest National Park. While this is an informal consultation, a formal consultation will take place next year and the final decision will be made by the Secretary of State. The National Park Authority will be a statutory consultee.

As part of their initial consultation, ABP are holding events below where you can meet members of the project team and ask any questions you may have:

- Friday 26 September, 3pm to 8pm – Marchwood Village Hall (SO40 4SX)
- Tuesday 30 September, 3pm to 8pm – Hythe & Dibden Parish Hall (SO45 6AA)
- Friday 3 October, 3pm to 8pm – Hythe & Dibden Parish Hall (SO45 6AA)
- Saturday 4 October, 2pm to 5pm – West Totton Community Centre (SO40 8WU)

The 28-day deadline for initial feedback is 13 October 2025, before NPA has an authority meeting or a planning committee meeting. NPA will be holding a session for members at the beginning of October to hear what they think and to inform NPA's initial response.

David referred to the **NPA Local Plan** work, noting the two planning authorities obviously prepare separate local plans covering their own areas, but there are many common issues across our two administrative areas. There is a full National Park authority meeting due on Thursday 16 October.

That will be the meeting where a report updating Members on the local plan will be presented. Assuming acceptance, the plan will then open to consultation from 5 November - 19 December. All town and parish councils within the National Park are Statutory Consultees, informing them what we're doing, and notifying them directly, providing an opportunity for local councils to comment within that window.

And exactly as with the NFDC timetable, you will get to do it all again next summer, when there's a further round of consultation before both of our respective plans are submitted to the government by their deadline of December 2026. Both local plans have a lot of challenges to try and address, and a lot of difficult matters to try and balance.

Reference **Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution**, the National Park Authority is perhaps less affected, in that our main powers as a National Park authority are not initially affected by it. But even in our work, and the sort of work we do with our partners, the membership of the National Park Authority will evolve and change as a result. And there may be some of the devolution proposals that would sit with the mayoral authority.

Hampshire-wide, it will impact two national parks. Things like the mayoral "call in" power with the mayor having the ability to look through planning applications for example. So even though the NPA will retain its planning function set out in primary legislation, the new mayoral authority will have some powers that will sort of begin to interact with our work a little bit.

Finally, the NPA is working with the District Council, Hampshire County Council and Go New Forest regarding local **tourism board** for the area. They will be holding a **transport summit** on Thursday 20 November in Brockenhurst Village Hall from 0915-1600 looking at some of the transport issues in the National Park and wider New Forest area.

Further details are attached.

8. PEDALL & New Forst Tour 2025

David Orme, NFALC Cycling Rep referred to Appendix 4 – *Pass the Pedal* event taking place at New Park Showground on Saturday 27 September to celebrate *Cycling for All*. Everyone is invited to keep the Pass the PEDALL baton moving from dawn until dusk around the circular one-kilometre track at New Park Showground, Brockenhurst.

The challenge aims to raise £10,000 for PEDALL, which supports people with disabilities and additional needs to enjoy the National Park on their fleet of specialist cycles. Funds will support hundreds of new riders, PEDALL’s ongoing project costs, fund ride leaders, and build, maintain, and repair its cycle fleet.

David also provided feedback on the **New Forest Tour 2025** event that took place without major incident last Saturday 20 September. Organised by UK Cycling Events, there was long correspondence with the Operations Manager before the New Forest Classic earlier this year.

David said “UK Cycling Events has improved control basically, making sure that people minimised any racing or bunching and things like that. And I think we came to a good conclusion on that. I haven't heard anything untoward and I'm hoping the New Forest Tour last weekend went without incident.” David Chillcott referred to a local accident at Copythorne.

Post Meeting Note: There is reference to an accident along Ornamental Drive – as attached.

David also briefly mentioned the final **NF LCWIP** document and showed a reduced route map (as attached) which was approved by Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services on 18 September. David will produce a report on this for NFALC at its next meeting.

9. Next Meeting

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA

10. Future Meetings

Subject to confirmation and availability of the Council Chamber, 2026 meetings as below:

Monday	26 January	Thursday	23 July (AGM)
Wednesday	25 March	Tuesday	22 September
Thursday	28 May	Wednesday	18 November

The Chairman suggested Richard Burke from the Forestry England be invited to our next NFALC meeting, after Richard Fell from Godshill and David Millar from Fordingbridge both commented on an apparent lack of litter picking by local authorities / landowners along roads in these areas.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 6.45 pm.

Chairman

Date

Graham Flexman

From: Debbie Copping <Debbie.Copping@newforestnpa.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 October 2025 14:31
To: Ann Sevier; Brice Stratford; John Adams; Mary Davies
Cc: Parish & Town Clerks - North East Quadrant; Parish & Town Clerks - North West Quadrant; Parish & Town Clerks - South East Quadrant; Parish & Town Clerks - South West Quadrant; Jim Mitchell
Subject: New Forest National Park Transport Summit

Dear Quadrant Chair

Please see message below which I have been asked to pass onto you from Jim Mitchell.

New Forest National Park Transport Summit, Brockenhurst Village Hall, Thursday 20 November 2025

We are hosting a 'Transport Summit' on Thursday 20 November 0915-1600 at Brockenhurst Village Hall, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, NFDC and Go New Forest.

We would like to welcome at least one representative from each Parish, organised via the Quadrant rep. We are very keen to get representation from across the Forest at the event.

It will be a flagship event for community groups, businesses, public transport industry leads, elected representatives and local organisations to help create a vision and strategy for how people move around the National Park in ways that protect and enhance our special, working landscape. Without collective action, we will see increased congestion; road safety will worsen over time, air quality may suffer in areas of the Forest where development is planned, and transport will have a negative impact on the special qualities we love about the Forest.

We have a unique opportunity to shape a fresh vision, which gets people where they need to in a way that is sustainable, healthy, and above all, protects our National Park.

We are working on an exciting agenda that will include a mix of hands-on workshops, panel discussions, Q&A, active travel demonstrations, and site visits.

Please find out more and your representative can book their ticket at this link-
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/new-forest-national-park-transport-summit-2025-tickets-1651150508619?aff=oddtcreator>

The ticket cost covers the food and refreshments on the day.

Debbie Copping
Executive Assistant
01590 646648

Working hours – Monday to Thursday 12.30 – 5pm