

## NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NFALC)

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of NFALC held at NFDC  
Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Thursday 4 June 2026 at 6.00pm**

### Parish/Town Council

### Name

Ashurst & Colbury	Sue Robinson/Caroline Hubbard(on-line)
Beaulieu	Sami Blastock – Commoning Rep
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison (on-line)
Bransgore	Jacque Lay (on-line)
Brockenhurst	John Korbey and Gale Pettifer
Copythorne	Graham Chillcott, Sylvia Wiggins and Sherri Johnstone
East Boldre	Bev Hawker
Fawley	Paul Saunders
Hordle	Maggie Hill
Landford	Mary Davies – Vice Chair
Lymington & Pennington	Sue Bailey & Martina Humber (on-line)
Lyndhurst	Brice Stratford – Chairman
Milford on Sea	Sue Pepper
Minstead	Helen Bennett & Tim Cook
Netley Marsh	Adrian Johnstone & Mike Welbourn
New Milton	Graham Flexman – NFALC Coordinator
Sway	Katie Walding, Peter Dance plus Justine Thurgood and Estella Smith (on-line)
Totton & Eling	Alison McGowan and David Harrison (on-line)
Wellow	Mike Richardson
NFNPA	David Illsley, Head of Planning & Place
NFDC	Kate Ryan - Chief Executive (on-line) Jeremy Heron – NFDC Portfolio Holder - Finance and Corporate (on-line) Joe Reilly, New Forest District Councillor Neville Penman, HCC / NFDC Councillor Daniel Reynafarje – NFDC ICT Officer Liz Mockeridge, NFDC Waste Manager
<b><u>Guests:</u></b> Brian Tarnoff James & Emily Hartley-Binns David Millar (LCP)	New Forest Consultative Panel New Forest Together Head of Comms, Lane Clark & Peacock
The Rt Hon Sir Julian Lewis	MP for New Forest East
<b><u>Apologies:</u></b> David Orme	NFALC Cycling Rep

## 1. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed 45 attendees to this hybrid meeting with 20 on-line participants from various local councils in & around the New Forest including Kate Ryan, NFDC Chief Executive with guests from New Forest Together plus Rt Hon Sir Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East.

The Chairman apologised to the consultative panel, whose chair was present, Brian Tarnoff, because we unwittingly overrode the day of their meeting that's now rescheduled to the 11 June.

## 2. Annual Review

The Chairman referred to Appendix 1, and members unanimously approved the Review.

## 3. Elect a Representative to HALC

The Chairman clarified each district association is able to nominate a representative to HALC, and Brice said he was happy to continue. This was unanimously agreed by those present.

## 4. Minutes

The Chairman referred to Appendix 2, Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 25 March 2026 and these were unanimously agreed as a correct record by those present and duly signed.

**Matters Arising** As far as the Cultural Council is concerned, the campaign to get the New Forest Commoners national minority status under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities has been successful. It's a really big win, and we've got a letter from MHCLG confirming that the Commoners' self-identification is recognised as fulfilling the criteria under the convention and are afforded the rights and protections enshrined in the convention.

The Chairman was contacted by the UK Flag Institute and can confirm that our historic New Forest flag (**attached**) has now been officially recognised and been added to the National Register of Flags. The flag, by the way, will have its official launch ceremony, if indeed you launch a flag, at the New Forest Show. The timing is really fortuitous because this year's president of the show is the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, who was instrumental a few years ago in getting the Hampshire County flag recognised and registered. So, he will be ceremonially raising the flag for the first time, which would be good fun. And it's hoped the flag will be able to play a prominent part at the 150-year celebrations next year.

The Chairman then introduced Gale Pettifer from the New Forest Association who explained:

*Some of you may know that the New Forest Association began in 1867. It's one of the world's oldest conservation groups and was set up specifically to protect and conserve the New Forest at a time when it was under severe threat of enclosure and the parts that couldn't be enclosed were threatened with a sell-off.*

*So, some local landowners got together, they held an exhibition in London, an art exhibition, and they decided that they would take to London pictures of the landscapes that were threatened with loss. As a result of this campaign, the government changed its mind and instead of selling off and enclosing the forest, they decided to preserve it.*

*The culmination of this was the 1877 New Forest Act and next year, we celebrate 150 years of the act that actually preserved the forest, and we will be encouraging people to celebrate this landmark.*

## **5. Presentation by the Rt Hon Sir Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East**

To the main event of the evening, the Chairman moved on to the man who needs no introduction, a presentation from the Right Honourable Sir Julian Lewis, MP for New Forest East. Thank you, Julian.

*I want to set out a brief sequence of events of the way I see things going before handing over to James and Emily of the New Forest Together Campaign, who will make a more detailed presentation, which has so far done so much to mobilise public opinion and to give expression to the huge opposition that there is to the government's decision to go against their own criteria and adopt a plan for local government re-organisation that is most definitely not in the interests of the New Forest and the waterside and certainly is not in line with all the feedback from public opinion in our area.*

*I would also just like to say congratulations to you, Brice, and everybody else who was responsible for getting the special status for the New Forest Commoners. Believe me, if this isn't prevented, what we're discussing tonight with the reorganization, the Commoners, and all of us are going to need every bit of special protection that we can get.*

*And I have to say, Gale's explanation, which I had not known of the origins of the public uprising, as it were, to save the new forest, could not be a more appropriate introduction to what we're trying to do now to save us from a very, very serious threat, which looks like bringing the prosperity of the whole area into question, not to mention the culture and the traditions now, which implied to me a very specific reason for interfering with boundaries in precisely the way that this Southampton proposal does, seeking to grab boards from areas controlled and represented at the moment by existing borough and district council.*

*So, we wrote back to the Minister, and we praised those criteria and we said that whatever they decided basically, we were concerned that there should not be a disintegration of the existing boundaries and the building blocks and that we felt reassured by what he had said. And we certainly hoped that they would not entertain any such proposal just because a prominent city authority was led by people of the same political complexion as the government nationally.*

*And it was interesting that this letter was co-signed by the leaders of not only the Conservative group on New Forest District Council, but the Liberal Democrat group leader, the Independent group leader and the Green group leader, who all co-signed this letter to the Minister with me and he replied, obviously being non-committal about what decision they would make, but nevertheless stating, yes, these were the basis on which they generally intended to continue.*

*And when he was replaced by the present Minister, Alison McGovern, we made a point of resending the same letter and making the same points to her. And what happened, lo and behold, the decision came down from "on high" and it was, guess what, that the Southampton City Council proposal was the one they'd selected.*

*And was there any really strong reason why they'd gone against their criteria about the building blocks other than that it had been requested by a council, a powerful council and people from their own political party? I couldn't detect one. There were vague generalities about economic prosperity for the area and blah which you could say, frankly, in response to any proposal that you wanted to foist on people. So where are we now with this?*

*The key point really is that you must never give up, and this was the lesson of Gale's presentation, which I was pleased to hear.*

*You must never give up - from a belief - that governments can be persuaded to change their minds. I believe this government could be persuaded to change its mind. It's got an awful lot on its plate. If it thought it was going to have to fight a long, drawn-out legal case, which I know NFDC feels a bit unprepared to take on and they've received sort of not particularly encouraging advice, so I gather.*

*I personally think on the basis of even what you've heard me say today, that a formidable legal team could make something significant out of the way in which the government has ignored its own criteria in the way that it's behaved. And I believe that if Hampshire County Council proceeds as it appears likely to proceed with fighting this tooth and nail in the courts and elsewhere, there is every chance that in the end the government will say this is not worth the candle. We really do not need this. And what's more, we are not alone.*

*There are similar outrages taking place in other parts of England in particular, and possibly elsewhere in other parts of the United Kingdom. And it's important to try and reach out and try and make a bit of a concerted effort, because it may well be that the same principles are at stake in every area, and that it would be useful to consolidate everything into a single legal case. But whatever the outcome of such a case, the very fact that it was going on might well delay matters. And the longer this goes on, the more likely it is the government will think better of it.*

*And to bring matters to a conclusion and hand over to James and Emily, I would just say, apart from the fact that they have done a brilliant job so far, I'm doing my bit. I've raised it so far on the floor of the House of Commons on 6 occasions since December last year, most recently this morning. And you might be interested to hear this exchange because once a week there's something called the business question where you can raise any subject you like under the pretext of asking for a government statement or debate. And the leader of the House of Commons is a particularly influential figure called Sir Alan Campbell, a member of the Labour government.*

*And so I asked him, I said, may I appeal to the Leader of the House to use his considerable common sense and influence to get the government to revisit something that was not in their manifesto, namely local government reorganisation, and to come forward with a statement that recognises the huge opposition with nearly 23,000 signatures online so far to the tearing apart of the New Forest at the behest of party politicians in Southampton City. I would love to be able to go to the New Forest Association of Local Councils AGM tonight and tell them that the government are going to reconsider this partisan matter for which they had no mandate at the general election.*

*And Sir Alan replied in part, I cannot give the right honourable gentleman that assurance to take back this evening, but I can assure him that if he wishes to raise that directly with ministers to put right or wrong as he describes it, I will arrange a meeting. So, there are opportunities for dialogue with government.*

*And I hope that by not being too political about it and by trying to appeal to their reason and sense of fair play that they might realise that this has been a step too far. I hope that has helped people have a broader understanding of this matter that is of such concern to all of us.*

The Chairman thanked Sir Julian, saying "We really appreciate both the question you asked and your being here this evening to update us all. Unless there are any questions we'll move on to the New Forest Together campaign and have a larger LGR questions session after that".

## 6. New Forest Together Campaign

The Chairman introduced James Hartley-Binns from the New Forest Together Campaign.

*James thanked NFALC for the invitation to come and speak today, extending his thanks generally for the support received across the New Forest from parish and town councils, explaining the campaign was set up about three months ago now, it's been quite an experience. Things have moved rather fast. So, Julian has touched upon much of the sort of key information we're going to start off with.*

*Evidently, option 1A was selected by the Government which breaks apart the New Forest, as Julian has articulated. This obviously received strong, public disdain. Actually, 97% of all residents did not vote for a preference in the public consultation that would split apart the forest. And indeed, 98% of businesses did not support any option which broke apart the New Forest District. So, our campaign now focuses on three primary areas.*

*One is a legal challenge. Two is the political pressure, working with our MP, as Julian has articulated there, and three is keeping the community informed at a time when there is information going about the place and there is a little bit of confusion.*

*So, with the help of some slides (**attached**) James introduced his presentation by thinking about what is fundamentally wrong with option 1A. And admittedly, their actions moving forward are not just going to be about why we don't like it. That doesn't stand up in law. But I think it's worth framing some of the thoughts and discussion tonight.*

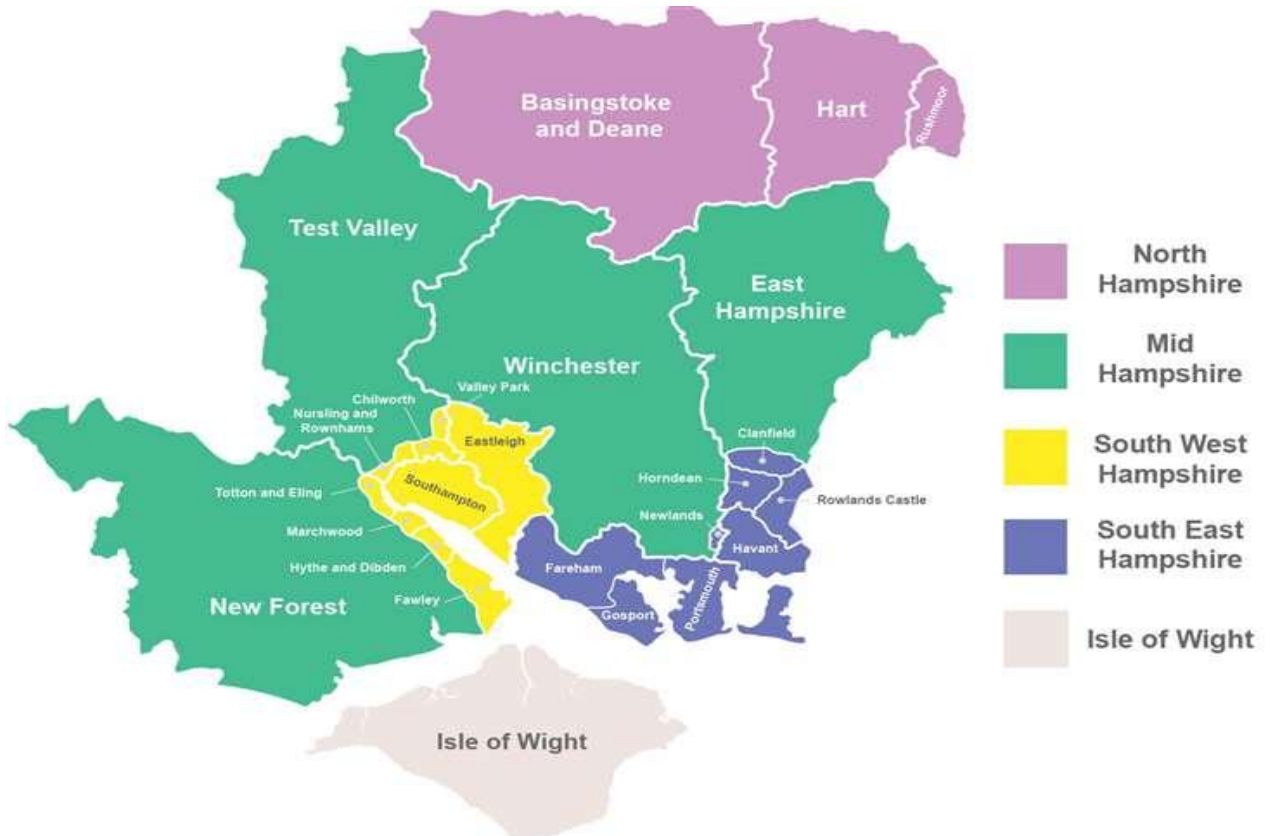
*Taking the case to Westminster, something which Julian touched upon clearly, we're working with him to ascertain whether or not we might be able to obtain Westminster Hall time. This is not about a House of Commons debate, but a Westminster Hall debate where Julian can obviously present this particular issue in amongst a wider debate about local government re-organisation. To that end, we've created a dossier for Julian and other members of Parliament from across the political divide whose areas are impacted by local government re-organisation and whom we know are not happy with some of the outcomes from LGR to build, as we say that cross-party consensus in Westminster.*

*We are, obviously, with Julian and other MPs, trying to keep pressure on ministers in the format and the way in which Julian articulated, but I'm going to come on to that in a little bit more detail later. But we want to make clear through this process through the Westminster Hall debate, through the communications we shall have with the ministers and the Secretary of State, that there is a significant impact on our residents. This is not an easily done thing. There is business disruption to a £6.3 billion economy, undoubtedly, that will happen and it is being done without the consent of local people or our communities.*

*So, re the legal position, there are differing views, and this is why we as a campaign group are trying to get clear information out there, because the public will be confused undoubtedly. New Forest District Council has not sought to pursue a judicial review. In the minds of some, that's the end of the matter. But let's be clear, as Emily was in this chamber yesterday, it is not an end of the matter. We are grateful to New Forest District Council. They did listen to our petition and we've had a good open dialogue with them, but their counsel's opinion has suggested that there is no legal avenue worth pursuing.*

*New Forest Together has obtained our own independent legal advice from a barrister of 20 years' experience in this very area. She has articulated to us that she thinks there are legal avenues worth exploring through a judicial review, and preliminary advice received by HCC is mirroring ours.*

**7. New Forest District Council**



**Option 1A - The area is due to be split into two unitary councils from April 2028**

The Chairman welcomed Kate Ryan on-line asking her to address LGR issues in the first instance.

*“I guess a lot of this is quite political. I’m going to give just a factual update as an officer from New Forest District Council. Absolutely, I think the feeling at the cabinet meeting yesterday was an acknowledgement and a support and a thank you to the campaign group and for the work that Sir Julian’s been doing to our collective efforts. You know, there’s been an absolute joined up approach through the last year as we’ve been doing the work along the way that Sir Julian was referring to about keeping the forest whole in the campaign. But unfortunately, you know, the consultation appears not to have been the thing that was driving the government’s decision. I won’t particularly get into commenting politically, but clearly, we were devastated with the decision and have been assessing whether we could challenge the decision.*”

*We will be publishing our legal advice in due course because we think it’s in the public interest. But I do recognize the point that we spoke to Counsel and then we escalated even higher to King’s Counsel and they came back with a strong similar view, that they didn’t feel that they had been able to justify a Judicial Review, but we don’t want to prejudice if another organisation or another Council or another Council in a totally different area finds grounds to challenge.*

*I think the whole unanimous view of New Forest District Council is absolutely that we do not want to see option 1A (illustrated above) go forwards. We think it’s a horrendous mistake. And the cabinet view was very supportive of ongoing support for the campaign and for making the case. But as a district council, the view that was taken on the basis of the two bits of legal advice the cabinet didn’t feel they could then take the decision to move forwards with a judicial review. And so you know, we’re left with really wanting to think through how do we continue to work with partners? How do we continue to work with our communities? How do we make sure the New Forest has a voice?”*

*The Chairman thanked Kate for LGR update and asked her to provide the rest of the NFDC updates.*

*"Thank you. As you can imagine, it's been a bit busy for us at New Forest, not only with local government re-organisation, but also with some key pieces of service work. And it's not that long since we delivered the elections for the County Council earlier in May as well. We have a by-election for one of the district councillor seats on the 18th of June and are preparing for that. And then from a service perspective, I just wanted to introduce Liz Mockeridge, NFDC Waste Service Manager, because one of the key things that has been happening is the third phase of our waste rollout and Liz will provide an update. From my perspective, I think each phase we've learnt a lot and each phase has gone more smoothly. And, you know, I think we're working much better with partners and residents and so on. But I think if you are interested Liz is able to give you more detail.*

*Yesterday I held my quarterly meeting with clerks and talked about LGR. We also talked what it means in terms of moving forwards, because whilst there is the campaign and general opposition to LGR, we also have a timeline that MHCLG set for us to take forward local government re-organisation. And as the council's involved, we have to respond to their deadlines. So, the phase we are at the moment is around mobilising, getting ready to have joint committees, looking at the legislation that's going to be put in place by government to make this happen. At the moment they're looking potentially to September for what would be the Structural Change Order that would implement the Secretary of State's decision. So, there's a number of conversations due and meetings that will be taking place and clearly for the New Forest now we're trying to make sure that we're represented in two different conversations through that whole process.*

*And despite their political views, the county council's chief executive is responsible by law for delivering local government re-organisation. So, there's a whole sort of Chief Exec-led programme that's set up across the whole of Hampshire. I'm happy to take any questions, but I think it's probably worth hearing now from Liz about the latest waste roll-out update.*

After hearing from Liz Mockeridge, the Chairman wished to pledge NFALC support for keeping the New Forest from being split. So not necessarily supporting New Forest Together campaign per se, but the principle that NFALC is against the New Forest being split. With two abstentions, the motion was that NFALC support the campaign to keep the forest together was overwhelmingly supported by NFALC members, both in the room and on-line. It was then overwhelmingly

**RESOLVED: That NFALC supports the principle of the New Forest not being split**

The time being 7.30pm, the Chairman invited David Illsley from the NFNPA to provide an update.

## **8. New Forest National Park**

*Good evening, everybody. Just for those who don't know me, I'm David Illsley, Head of Planning at the New Forest National Park Authority. Good news. I've only a handful of slides (**attached**) and I don't have anything that you have to vote on. So, I'll just give you a brief update but thought I'd start off with a map of the National Park, by way of context, given that what we've spent the last 90 minutes discussing LGR.*

*To our west in Dorset, obviously that was unitarized about five years ago now. To our north in Wiltshire, that was unitarized 15 years ago. And I know there's been a lot of work done, certainly looking at the experiences of those authorities, I think it's fair to say, some examples work better than others. In terms of the geography of the national park, which is the outer brown boundary shown on the slide, we are currently a national park that covers 3 local authority areas. So, we have bits of Wiltshire, bits of Test Valley, bits of New Forest District, and then Hampshire as well, so probably 4 authorities in total.*

*Under the government's preference for LGR, we would continue to be a national park with land within three local authorities. It would just be 3 slightly different ones that we've got now. As a national park authority, we are an apolitical body. We don't have direct elections for the national park authorities. But as a full authority, we did discuss the government options for local government re-organisation. We did recognise the real genuine benefits of keeping the New Forest together.*

*That's probably about as far as we go as an organisation, as an apolitical body. But I thought that map would be helpful just to illustrate the fact that we are already a national park that straddles 3 local authorities. My main update, as head of planning is about planning, but I will briefly mention some other things. But it's mainly about planning. It's a key statutory function we're given by the government. Some of the bullet points on the right-hand side just sort of encapsulate how the New Forest is a coalface where the natural, and built environment, come together. We have the highest proportion of any national park covered by nature conservation designations. We also have a huge housing need.*

*Referring to the next slide, it shows where we are at with our Local Plan. We are conscious that New Forest District Council are preparing a local plan for the area outside the National Park. Many of you local councils will have land covered by both planning authorities within both local plans. Looking narrowly from my remit at the National Park Authority, that's our timetable for our local plans. We've all got this sort of looming deadline that by December 2026, on New Year's Eve, we have to have submitted our draught local plans. Otherwise, in the government parlance, we will have to pivot. and go to a new style local plan making system, which nobody really wants.*

*So, there is a lot of pressure on planning authorities to get their local plans completed by December. Just really for the benefit of this room today, any town or parish councils, here, are in the jargon a Statutory Consultee on our local plan. August-time you will be receiving an e-mail from me and my team telling you that our next draught version of our local plan is ready. You'll have another six, or seven, weeks window for you to make any comments you want on that plan. And then the way the planning system works, we then submit our draft plan and all of the representations that everybody makes, whether that's a town or parish council, whether that's a resident, a landowner, all of them go off to the government who will probably spend most of 2027 looking through that draught plan.*

*Just a slight anecdote here, most years the government receives about 25 or 30 local plans to examine. By December, they're expecting to receive 150. So, I hope the Planning Inspectorate is geared up for a huge spike of local plan submissions. Once we submit our local plan, the timetable is out of our hands; it'll be interesting to see how they cope.*

*Re the next slide, about the A326 planning application, some bits of its length are in the national park boundary. That planning application or planning applications, plural, which I'll explain in a minute, have now been received, registered and validated by the National Park Authority and Hampshire County Council. Slight peculiarity in the planning system here is that when you submit a planning application, with a boundary that straddles 2 planning authority areas, just over half of the A326 works are within the National Park Authority, who I work for and for whom four of our members are here today, will be determining that element of the scheme. The element outside the National Park, because it's known as a cross-boundary application, will actually be determined by Hampshire County Council, which is a slightly weird dynamic where the applicant is also the determining authority. But that's the national system we work within.*

*That means New Forest District Council and the five town and parish councils along that corridor are consultees on that application but are not decision makers. And hopefully by the end of tomorrow, you will have received a notification from the National Park Authority saying we've got that application in, signposting it to the planning application webpage where you can view all those documents.*

*And the next slide, you won't be able to read the details on this, but if you squint, you can probably get your geography of Totton up towards the M27, just off the top of the map, coming down to Marchwood. Just off the bottom of the map would be the Applemore roundabouts. So, we have a planning application where around half of it sits within the national park, and just over half of it outside. Looking at various junction improvements, that's something that might interest quite a few people here. Good news is there's still over a month for you to make a comment on it. And as I say, there are two applications, ours and the Hampshire County Council one, with references to both shown on the slide.*

*Just a final couple of slides from me now. I've talked a little bit about this. So, a lot is happening on the waterside, whether it's the A326, whether it's LGR, whether its other things including the Fawley Power Station former site. The plans for that site continue to move forward with the new landowners there. So, the previous scheme, the residentially led scheme, was withdrawn on viability grounds. That's 49-hectare brownfield site, by far the biggest brownfield site in the New Forest, one of the biggest in the southeast of England. Again, a unique geography.*

*The Power Station site itself is almost like a "polo" of New Forest District planning land surrounded by the national park. The 2 planning authorities are working with the developers there to bring forward an employment led scheme. And again, there will be some public consultation on that taking place in the next few months. And I always have to remind myself to call it Solent Gateway 2, also known as the Strategic Land Reserve, aka Dibden Bay.*

*The ABP proposal there has slowed, or they paused their work on it, for reasons that will become clearer. I think they are looking at what they can do within the existing port boundary land. They can do a lot on the Southampton side under permitted development without needing planning permission. The proposal on this side of the water would be in planning jargon a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) that will be determined by the government.*

*Whatever local authority we have down the waterside in the future will probably not be determining that proposal should it come forward. It will be a government proposal. That's the system they brought in following Heathrow Terminal 5 that took something like 12 years to get a planning decision on. The National Park Authority has engaged in both of these sites, with New Forest District Council, very carefully working closely together.*

*And then the final slide, highlighting a visit by Baroness Young in the middle, with our Chief Executive, Alison Barnes on the left, and on the right-hand side is Craig Harrison, the deputy surveyor at Forestry England. Baroness Young of Old Scone, who is a member of the House of Lords, is the current chair of the Forestry Commission, as well as having quite a few other roles. We invited the Baroness down, just to help her understand a little bit about the sort of pressures in and around the New Forest. I know Mary was involved in that visit as well. I think it was a useful visit.*

*At previous meetings of NFALC we discussed Forestry England (FE) proposed car parking charges. It wasn't purely about car parking charges that we invited her down, but I think it was a chance to highlight the pressures on the New Forest and certainly, and we did again touch on LGR. We said at the moment you've got people feeling pressured and threatened that they're being told they're not part of the New Forest. And then you've also got people being told that they now have to come and pay to visit it. And I think we did emphasise that and she was quite receptive.*

*Mary Davies may add a little bit in a minute, but I think that was a useful visit. We talked about how Government bodies work - National Park Authority and Forestry England - and the need to work together rather than FE unilaterally introducing parking charges or the National Park Authority's budget getting cut massively. Perhaps a bit more of a joined-up sort of budget for the whole place rather than for individual organisations within it. So, it was quite a positive visit, and we'll see what comes out of that. I'll probably finish at that point because you've had a long meeting, but Mary might want to just add a word or two just about that visit shown on the final slide.*

*Mary Davies agreed, saying "it really was a more than worthwhile visit, especially in meeting Baroness Young, walking around certain parts of the forest and some parts that she really wanted to visit. And a lot of work can be done when you're not sitting across a table. It really did come over loud and strong, that she very much would like to be working with us jointly rather than segmented and let's see how we can take things forward. She was aware of our concerns of LGR. Obviously, she could not make any statement of a political nature, but she understood the concerns and she knew the path that we were looking to take with New Forest Together and working as a campaign, but with non-political bias. There'll be much greater support going forward, but the visit was absolutely more than worthwhile."*

The Chairman asked for any questions for David Illsley.

Helen Bennett from Minstead asked about parish briefings, as they seemed to have disappeared. David explained the pressure on the planning team has meant some officers don't have capacity to provide them for some areas, while some areas such as Beaulieu and Lyndhurst received their planning briefings. Sue Bennison from Ashurst said it's important that information from the case officer is received before planning application is due to be discussed.

Peter Dance from Sway said there is considerable delay in processing enforcement asking why this is? Some of them have been going on for years. David Illsley replied "our planning enforcement team have never had as high a workload as they've got at the moment. We have got hundreds of planning enforcement cases. Without naming them, we've got one landowner with 13 planning enforcement notices on them at the moment.

We have brought in some additional resources to help our team of four. The frustration with enforcement is its discretionary, so you don't have to take enforcement action. The national planning system requires you to try and seek a positive solution to enforcement."

Graham Chillcott from Copythorne is pursuing his request for contacts within Forest England and National Trust via the Northeast Quadrant meeting that is chaired by Mary Davies, who is supportive of the idea.

Graham said: "That's the direction of travel that I'd like to take. Let's push it through to the northeast quadrant to start with, because with Mary as Chair, it's an open door. It gives me access to at least one or two members of the National Park Committee at the same time, which is a bit of a benefit. And then if we can spread it around the other quadrants. That's why I've mentioned it here at NFALC, as it covers everybody."

**9. Next Meeting – Date re-instated, as follows:**

**Thursday 23 July 2026 6.00pm** NFDC Appletree Court Lyndhurst SO43 7PA

**10. Future Meetings - All held at NFDC Council Chamber Appletree Court, Lyndhurst. SO43 7PA**

**Tuesday 22 September      Wednesday 18 November**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and contributing, then closed the meeting at 8.00pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....

Date.....