

## **NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NFALC)**

### **Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting of NFALC held at NFDC Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Tuesday 22 September 2026 at 6.00pm**

#### **Parish/Town Council**

#### **Name**

|                   |                                                                 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashurst & Colbury | Sue Robinson (on-line)                                          |
| Bransgore         | Jacque Lay (on-line)                                            |
| Copythorne        | Sylvia Wiggins                                                  |
| Boldre            | Jo Humphreys                                                    |
| Exbury            | Alison Tilbury                                                  |
| Fawley            | Paul Saunders                                                   |
| Godshill          | Richard Fell (on-line)                                          |
| Landford          | Mary Davies – Vice Chair                                        |
| Milford on Sea    | Lynn Wylde (on-line)                                            |
| Netley Marsh      | Mike Welbourn                                                   |
| New Milton        | Graham Flexman – NFALC Coordinator                              |
| Ringwood          | Gareth DeBoos                                                   |
| Sway              | Estella Smith (on-line)                                         |
| Wellow            | Mike Richardson                                                 |
| NFNPA             | David Illsley, Head of Planning & Place                         |
| NFDC              | Sophie Sajic, NFDC Strategic Director,<br>Housing & Communities |
|                   | Daniel Reynafarje – NFDC ICT Officer                            |
|                   | Neville Penman, HCC / NFDC (on-line)                            |
|                   | Joe Reilly, New Forest District Councillor                      |
| David Orme        | NFALC Cycling Rep                                               |

#### **Apologies:**

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brockenhurst                  | John Korbey and Gale Pettifer |
| Fawley                        | Stephanie Bennett             |
| Hordle                        | Maggie Hill                   |
| Lyndhurst                     | Brice Stratford - Chairman    |
| Minstead                      | Helen Bennett                 |
| Sway                          | Katie Walding                 |
| NFDC Community Safety Officer | Nikki Swift                   |

#### **1. Chairman's Announcements**

In the absence of Brice Stratford, Mary Davies chaired the meeting and welcomed 20 attendees with 6 on-line participants from various local councils in and around the New Forest together with David Illsley from NFNPA, Sophie Sajic from NFDC and David Orme NFALC Cycling Rep.

## **2. Minutes**

The Chair referred to Appendix 2, Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23 July 2026. The minutes were agreed as a correct record by those present and will be signed by Brice Stratford at the next meeting, noting Mary Davies did not attend the last meeting.

## **3. Matters Arising**

David Orme, NFALC Cycling Representative provided the following report:

- Following from comments on the A326 Waterside Improvements made at the last meeting by David Illsley, NPA Head of Planning, and with the help of a NF Cycle Working Group colleague who lives in the Waterside area, we produced a report on serious deficiencies in the currently proposed scheme regarding Active Travel. This report was sent to David via NFALC but, to the best of my knowledge, we have not yet received a response to this.
- It is noted that a number of housing developments are planned for the Hordle area, including the 350 homes King's Farm estate off the Everton Road and adjacent to the proposed LCWIP Primary Cycling Route 200. David pleased to liaise with Hordle Parish Council regarding these.
- Following the issuing of my summary of cycling events for the year in the New Forest District, East Boldre Parish Council has expressed concerns regarding those events that pass through East End – specifically the New Forest Classic (2 days), New Forest Tour (2 days) and New Forest Gridiron (1 day). I looked at alternative routes for next year to reduce the number of days affected.
- David's been in contact with the Safety Advisory Group (Ben) and UK Cycling Events (Ryan). Ben said SAG does not determine whether events can take place, set participant limits, or authorise road use, but it can provide advice and recommendations to event organisers. Ryan has said UKCE "will ensure that the strong messaging of respect for the communities in the forest is enforced for this year and will explore the alternative routes that have been suggested for 2027". The result of this correspondence with UKCE has been copied to Ben and NFALC.

## **4. New Forest Cultural Council**

In the absence of Brice Stratford, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

## **5. LGR Judicial Review**

The Chair referred to Appendix 2 - being latest news on LGR from the Government, and played a video of proceedings in the House of Commons on 7 September, as below

Dame Caroline Dinenage, Conservative MP for Gosport, hit out at the government after Communities Secretary Angela Rayner announced she was withdrawing the decision to approve plans for local government reorganisation in the county.

The U-turn by Ms Rayner due to new legal advice comes less than six months after her predecessor Steve Reed signed off the proposals to create four large unitary authorities to run all council services. Speaking in the House of Commons on Monday 7 September Dame Caroline said she was confused about what the secretary of state's announcement meant for the county. Dame Caroline said:

"When it comes to Hampshire, is this a pause or is this a cancellation?"

"When will we know if this titanic waste of council taxpayers' money is actually going to re-emerge?"

“The government’s top-down reorganisation plans have cost councils across Hampshire so much time, so much money at a point where finances are already stretched to breaking point. Has she calculated the cost of this? Will local authorities be reimbursed for the time and money already spent and when are we going to know what’s in the plan?”

Ms Rayner told MPs the withdrawal of the approval decision based on new legal advice came at a time when the government was facing a judicial review from Hampshire County Council.

In response to Dame Caroline, the Communities Secretary said: “I said we would work at pace, but I want to be able to review these decisions to ensure myself that the decisions are the right ones and respecting the court process.

“That means that the way to do this is to withdraw and to consider afresh. In terms of the issue around costs so far, I recognise that a lot of work has gone into the financial commitments that have been made and this work is not wasted and the government has committed to providing transitional funding.”

In response to the above, Kit Malthouse (North West Hampshire) (Con) said:

“I have to confess to the Secretary of State that I am even more confused now than my Hon. Friend the Member for Gosport (Dame Caroline Dinenage) was 40 minutes ago. Could the Secretary of State just be clear with my residents that the combined authority elections due next May are off, and the borough council elections are on, but the combined authority elections might be on if she gets her skates on and the borough council elections might be off? If the combined authority elections are off, when will they be on, and is the mayoral election in 2028 on or off? If it is off, what is going to happen to police governance?

Angela Rayner responded saying that the review is on and the elections are on, and I am ready to get on with it. I am sure that the right Hon. Member will work with me to make sure we get it sorted—and it is on.

## **6. LGR update from NALC**

The Chair referred to Appendix 3 being NALC’s response to the recent LGR announcement.

NALC expressed disappointment that the future direction of local government reorganisation has become uncertain, particularly given the significant time and effort parish and town councils and county associations have already invested in engaging with the process.

NALC have consistently supported the government's ambition to simplify local government structures where this can strengthen local services, improve accountability and support effective devolution. However, it stressed that the government should use the review as an opportunity to reaffirm the role of parish and town councils within the wider programme of local government reform, and that they must be recognised as essential partners in delivering local services, representing communities and ensuring that devolution reaches the neighbourhood level.

NALC will continue to engage with ministers and officials throughout the review and will work to ensure the interests of parish and town councils are reflected in any future decisions.

## **7. New Forest District Council**

Sophie Sajik, Strategic Director for Housing & Communities updated members as follows:

### **Local Plan**

Cabinet recently agreed a new direction for preparing our *Local Plan* so that we can move into the government's new planning system and continue progressing the plan in a way that can adapt to the ongoing national changes. Officers are currently reviewing the latest planning reforms, including the new planning policy framework and assessing what these mean for future housing requirements and plan making in the district. Importantly, our current local plan does remain in effect and continues to be the starting point for planning decisions whilst working on the new plan progresses.

However, significant recent national and local changes mean that we are no longer able to proceed with the Local Plan review as previously envisaged in Local Development Scheme and following Full Council on Monday 14 September 2026, NFDC will be moving from preparation of the new Local Plan under the current plan-making system to preparation of a new Local Plan under the government's new planning system.

### **Scheme of Delegation**

In terms of the changes to the planning regime, the Council is continuing its preparation for the implementation in the end of October. We are seeking approval by full Council on the 12th of October to make the necessary changes to our scheme of delegation in our constitution. As with a number of other local councils, the planning committee last week did not support the proposed changes at its meeting, but we do still need to make necessary changes to our legal governance to ensure that those legislative changes can be made.

It is quite a significant change in regime. Our officers are planning appropriately for it. We've had a further executive management team update that says we're prepared and we have the resources to be able to manage that at this point in time. But there are a significant number of changes, and I know that towns and parishes are directly affected by that. In terms of the planning policy changes, a letter has gone out to all towns and parishes within New Forest, so hopefully you've seen sight of those. My colleague Mark Wyatt provided an update at the Clerk's meeting last week with some slides that will be available as well, all as attached.

### **A31 Picket Post heathland fire**

Local organisations involved in the response to the Picket Post heathland fire are working together on the longer-term recovery of the New Forest impacted areas.

The fire, which started on 9 August 2026, affected more than 100 hectares of internationally important heathland and led to the closure of the A31 with significant disruption for residents, businesses and visitors. After the A31 reopened, the focus moved to looking at what actions can be taken to support the affected communities, businesses, and landscape and ensure future resilience to prolonged droughts and wildfires.

NFDC is continuing to work with town and parish councils, alongside community and voluntary sector partners, to strengthen community preparedness and resilience. Following discussions with key stakeholders, wider engagement will take place to identify impacts, opportunities for learning and actions that will help build long-term resilience across the district.

There has been a recovery coordination group set up on the back of the emergency incident, and that is being led by New Forest. And there are a number of themes within that and a number of working groups, including a business and economy working group looking at the impact of specifically the A31 closure and how we support businesses to recover. That's being led by our strategic director for corporate resources and finances and supported by our economic development manager, Jeannie Satchell. There is also an environment working group that's being led by Forestry England and an infrastructure working group as well as a community working group that's looking at how residents were impacted and what we can do to help.

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

David Illsley said Sophie talked about the NFDC Local Plan timetable. Obviously, the National Park Authority is legally the planning authority for the National Park area.

NFNPA prepares a separate **Local Plan** for the area within the National Park boundary. I know a number of towns and parishes have been to some of our drop-in sessions recently, so we've just done over 32 hours of local plan drop-in sessions spread across the national park as well as an on-line consultation.

It won't be the Secretary of State, MP Rayner herself, who will look at our local plan. She will appoint an inspector or two inspectors to review our plan and that will be a process that will probably take most of 2027 to complete. And just a reminder, at the end of that process, that inspector's report will be binding on us.

But I note next on the agenda we've got, and Sophie's touched on it a bit, the **National Scheme of Delegation**. I think Sophie's colleague Mark Wyatt did a lot of the legwork on the joint letter, that went out to all town and parish councils in New Forest District, most of which also include land within the national park. If you're a protected landscape, if you're within one of 10 national parks in the country, including the New Forest, your planning committee arrangements at the NPA, and we've got some of our planning committee members here this evening, and Brice is another one, the NPA's planning committee won't change as a result of these national changes. These national changes are applying outside protected landscapes.

And I'm not defending the changes. I do understand why the government are trying to do them and why they're trying to free up planning committees to look at bigger stuff rather than sometimes getting a little bit bogged down in neighbour disputes or very, very small-scale development. I sort of get the logic. I think within protected landscapes, we made the New Forest and the other nine of us jointly made a pitch that if you bring in these thresholds where it's only major development that goes to a planning committee, if you look at our 900 or 1000 planning applications a year, not many of them would be above that threshold.

Our committee would probably be meeting a couple of times a year it would mean that the vast majority of our applications were delegated. And planning is important everywhere, but particularly within a protected landscape, that kind of cumulative small scale-changes that can happen. We were quite wary of actually having only a very limited number going to committees. We successfully fought to not have that change implemented in our 10 National Parks.

There's been a little bit of coverage around a **potential review of the National Park boundary**. Now, I'll be honest, this is, and I'm being minuted here, so I'll choose my words carefully, this was something that got raised at a National Park Authority committee meeting that Mary and I were at by one of our Cllrs; it was slightly left field. And I get the logic. His view was that the National Park boundary was established in 2005. Then they're not set in stone, so the government can change National Park boundaries, and have done so elsewhere (Lake District & Yorkshire Dales) noting other national parks are considerably older than the New Forest Park.

I'll speak honestly from my view as head of planning. I'm not sure now is a great time to be talking about boundary reviews. I've just spent 32 hours doing public drop-in sessions and it's not a criticism of the public, but their understanding between devolution local government re-organisation (paused and/or cancelled) is limited.

And their knowledge of national park boundaries is also limited. And I don't blame them. I get confused. They sort of merge in their minds, and this has been raised by one of our members as something that should NFNPA not be asking the government to look at. The answer would be national park authorities can't initiate a boundary review. We don't have that remit. We have no say over our boundary whether we think it should be bigger or smaller is irrelevant. We don't have a remit. The government and Natural England do have a remit - and they do periodically review national park boundaries.

The criteria for extending a national park are landscape character and natural beauty and opportunities for open air recreation. They are not, and I'm speaking slightly informally here, they are not to "stop development happening" or because of a concern about local government re-organisation. It's an interesting idea that one of our members has raised.

We might sort of test the water a bit at our quadrant meetings. Is this something that town and parish Cllrs think we should be asking the question about or not? So that might be something that might provoke a bit of debate in this room and be an interest of people. But yeah, the criteria are the same as they were when we were designated. They are not an anti-development tool, they are that natural beauty and that opportunities for open air recreation. I'll probably pause there; I've talked quite a lot.

## 9. National Scheme of Delegation

The Chair referred to Appendix 4, being useful HALC guidance about changes from 31 October

The Government has published its response to the recent consultation on planning committee reform, that will come into force from October 2026. The proposals relate to changes around planning committee size with a maximum of 13 and the use of a national scheme of delegation. While these changes apply to local planning authorities rather than parish and town councils directly, they are of interest to local councils that regularly comment on planning applications.

Parish and town councils will need to adapt for future changes affecting local democratic oversight, planning committee decision-making and the way applications are considered. There are also changes being introduced through the new local plan-making system, with some local planning authorities now moving into the new process. This may be relevant for councils with an interest in local plans, neighbourhood plans or future development in their area.

Attached are copies of the slides presented by Mark Wyatt - NFDC Service Development Manager - at the NFDC Council Clerks Meeting held on 17 September 2026, and also a copy of the joint letter dated 20 August 2026 from Mark Wyatt and David Illsley of the NFNPA that was sent to all towns and parishes in the NFDC and NFNPA Planning Areas. At the end, it points out that there are five towns and parishes entirely within the New Forest District Council area; 21 towns and parishes split between New Forest and the National Park; and 11 towns and parishes entirely within the New Forest National Park. Quite a diverse mix, that David commented upon.

## 10. Any Other Business

The Chair referred to an incredibly important item received too late for inclusion on the agenda. It's from Nikki Swift who normally comes to one of our meetings each year to talk about the **Annual Community Safety Consultation**. Nikki's the NFDC Community Safety Officer who leads the Safer New Forest Partnership. Nikki wrote on 17 September 2026 to remind towns and parishes it's required to undertake an annual community consultation regarding crime and disorder. The community safety team have recently completed their annual community engagement events across the New Forest, engaging with local residents, regarding crime/ASB. Further to the success of these events, they would also like to hear from town and parish councils with their views and thoughts on their local areas. This will help to support and inform the annual strategic assessment, based on the following three questions. What is going well in your town or parish? What are your concerns, if any? And finally, what could improve your area? Nikki Swift seeks your support and replies by 9th October, as over the page.

The Chair also referred to the forthcoming **PEDALL event** at the New Forest Showground this coming Saturday 26 September with riders being invited to join a cycling celebration and 10 km fundraiser for the New Forest inclusive cycling charity. David Orme added a couple of points. One was, David noted there's a number of housing developments planned for the Hordle area, including the 350 homes Kings Farm Estate off Everton Road. This is adjacent to the proposed LCWIP Primary Cycling Route 200. David's very happy to liaise with Hordle Parish Council regarding that if they wish to talk about that. And his only other point is following the issue of the summary of cycling events that he sent out some time ago, East Boldre Parish Council has expressed concerns about events that pass through East End. There's *A New Forest Classic*, over 2 days, and *New Forest Tour*, which is 2 days, and the *New Forest Gridiron*, one day. Looking at alternative routes to reduce the number of days affected, David contacted SAG, the Safety Advisory Group, and has also been in contact with the organizers, UK Cycling Events.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 18 November 2026** at 6.00pm at Appletree Court Lyndhurst SO43 7PA

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, and contributing, then closed the meeting at 6.55pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....

Date.....

**From:** Nikki Swift <Nikki.Swift@NFDC.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 17 September 2026 12:48

**To:** x-Parish Councils on Email <ParishCouncils@NFDC.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Safer New Forest <Safer.NewForest@NFDC.GOV.UK>

**Subject:** Annual Community Safety Consultation

Dear All

The Safer New Forest Partnership is required to undertake annual community consultation regarding crime and disorder.

The Community Safety Team have completed our annual community engagement events across the New Forest, engaging with local residents regarding crime and anti-social behaviour.

Further to the success of these events, we would also like to hear from Town & Parish Councils with your views and thoughts on your local area. This will help support to inform our annual strategic assessment.

Please could I ask that you consider and answer the following three questions:

1. What is going well in your town / parish?
2. What (if any) are your concerns for your town / parish regarding crime and anti-social behaviour?
3. If you have outlined concerns within question 2, what could improve your area?

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to hearing from you, preferably by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026. Please could you reply to [Safer.newforest@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:Safer.newforest@nfdc.gov.uk).

Many thanks

Kind regards

Nikki

**Nikki Swift**

Community Safety Manager

New Forest District Council

Tel: **02380 285106**

**My working days are Monday - Thursday**

Your email address

[www.newforest.gov.uk](http://www.newforest.gov.uk)





## **Planning - Development Management**

**Manager:** Mark Wyatt

To all Town and Parish Councils in the New Forest District and National Park Authority Planning Areas.

My Ref:  
Your Ref:

Date: 20 August 2026

By email only

Dear Town Council / Parish Council Clerk,

### **Subject: National Changes to Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation**

We are jointly writing to advise you of forthcoming national changes to the planning application decision-making process, including the introduction of a National Scheme of Delegation (NSD) and revised arrangements for planning committee referrals. The implications of these changes will vary depending on where the planning application is submitted, as the NSD will not apply within the New Forest National Park but will to all other areas of New Forest District outside the National Park.

The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 gave powers to the Secretary of State to control the function of Planning Committees, the type of applications that they can consider, their size and their training requirements.

The Government's stated aim behind the NSD is to ensure that there is greater clarity and consistency about the role of planning committees in planning decision making. Committees should focus on the key proposals that matter to an area, enabling other, often more minor and technical, decisions to be made by planning officers.

The changes are due to come into effect on 31 October 2026 and will apply to all local planning authorities except development corporations, the Homes & Communities Agency, national park authorities and the Broads Authority. These exceptions are obviously highly relevant in the New Forest context and further detail is provided below on what the introduction of the NSD means for New Forest town and parish councils.

In the areas of New Forest District outside the National Park, the NSD proposes a two-tier approach clearly defining applications that must be delegated to officers and those that "may" be referred to planning committee subject to passing through a gateway test.

**[newforest.gov.uk](https://newforest.gov.uk)**

Appletree Court, Beaulieu Road, LYNDHURST, SO43 7PA

The government is quite clear that Planning Authorities are expected to have made appropriate arrangements over the summer of 2026 such as adjustments to their constitutions to ensure that planning committees can comply with the Regulations when they take effect. Failure to comply with the Regulations once in force may expose LPAs to legal challenge, including where committees determine applications that should have been delegated.

**So what does this mean for the way a Parish or Town Council responds to a planning application in the New Forest District Council outside the National Park area?**

Currently you are invited to respond to a planning application using one of five options, namely:

**PAR1: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.**

**PAR2: We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.**

**PAR3: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below.**

**PAR4: We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed.**

**PAR5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.**

One of the most significant changes for town and parish councils in the District Council planning area outside the National Park is that comments submitted in response to planning applications will no longer be able to automatically trigger referral of an application to the Planning Committee should officers come to a different view to the opinion expressed in your response (responses currently using PAR3 and PAR4).

As such the existing PAR1 to PAR5 response categories will require review as they are no longer relevant, together with consideration of the ongoing necessity and relevance of the parish briefing notes that currently support the process.

The new arrangements will also remove the ability for Members of the Council to refer planning applications to the Planning Committee where such referrals would be outside the scope of the national scheme.

There are no transitional arrangements associated with the implementation of the new requirements. This means that any planning application which remains valid and undetermined as at 31st October 2026 will be determined in accordance with the new National Scheme of Delegation, regardless of any comments received previously under the PAR categories.

Accordingly, applications that remain undetermined on 1 November 2026 cannot continue to be referred to Planning Committee solely on the basis that comments have been submitted which, under the current arrangements, would otherwise have triggered a committee referral. To do so would create a risk of legal challenge to the decision-making process.

The Council is working throughout the summer to review and amend its local Scheme of Delegation to ensure that it is aligned with the national requirements and is fully operational ahead of the implementation date.

It is important to emphasise that comments received from town and parish councils will remain a material consideration in the assessment and determination of planning applications. Whilst such comments will no longer automatically result in a committee referral, they will continue to form an important part of the decision-making process and will be carefully considered by officers when applications are assessed.

### **What does this mean for the way a Parish or Town Council responds to a planning application in the National Park area?**

The Government has confirmed that the NSD will not apply within National Park areas. This follows lobbying by national park authorities – including the New Forest National Park Authority – which highlighted the impact the NSD could have on decision-making within nationally protected landscapes.

The legal provisions relating to the introduction of the NSD confirm national park authorities are exempt and therefore town & parish councils within the National Park will continue to: (a) be consulted on all relevant applications submitted to the National Park Authority; (b) be invited to respond using the existing options outlined on page 2 of this letter. The current triggers for applications being considered by the Authority's Planning Committee meetings (including a contrary town or parish council view, or a 'call in' by an Authority member of local councillor) will remain.

For ease of reference, Annex 1 to this letter sets out the parishes that are entirely within New Forest District for planning purposes (where the NSD will apply); those that are entirely within the National Park for planning purposes (where the NSD will not apply at all); and those 'split' towns and parishes where the location of the application will dictate whether the NSD applies or not.

Further updates and guidance will be provided as the Council's review progresses. In the meantime, thank you for your continued engagement and contribution to the planning process.

Yours sincerely

Mark Wyatt  
Service Manager – Development Management  
Development Management  
Place, Operations and Sustainability  
02380 285604  
[planning@nfdc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@nfdc.gov.uk)

David Illsley  
Interim Head of Planning & Place  
01590 646672  
[david.illsley@newforestnpa.gov.uk](mailto:david.illsley@newforestnpa.gov.uk)

You may hear about local government reorganisation (LGR).  
This is a national change and does not affect your council services at this time.  
You can find out more at [www.newforest.gov.uk/LGR](http://www.newforest.gov.uk/LGR)

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## Annex 1 – List of town and parishes within and outside the New Forest National Park

| <b>Town and Parishes entirely within New Forest District for planning purposes where the NSD will apply to all applications</b> | <b>Town &amp; Parishes ‘split’ between New Forest District and New Forest National Park for planning purposes where the NSD will apply to applications submitted outside the Park</b> | <b>Town and Parishes entirely within the New Forest National Park for planning purposes where the NSD will not apply to any applications</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Martin                                                                                                                          | Breamore                                                                                                                                                                              | Woodgreen                                                                                                                                    |
| Damerham                                                                                                                        | Fordingbridge                                                                                                                                                                         | Godshill                                                                                                                                     |
| Sandleheath                                                                                                                     | Hale                                                                                                                                                                                  | Bramshaw                                                                                                                                     |
| Rockbourne                                                                                                                      | Hyde                                                                                                                                                                                  | Minstead                                                                                                                                     |
| Whitsbury                                                                                                                       | Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley                                                                                                                                                         | Beaulieu                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                 | Ringwood                                                                                                                                                                              | Exbury and Lepe                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Sopley                                                                                                                                                                                | East Boldre                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                                                                                 | Bransgore                                                                                                                                                                             | Lyndhurst                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                 | New Milton                                                                                                                                                                            | Brockenhurst                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                 | Hordle                                                                                                                                                                                | Sway                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                 | Milford on Srea                                                                                                                                                                       | Burley                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                                                                 | Lymington and Pennington                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Boldre                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Fawley                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Hythe and Dibden                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Marchwood                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Totton & Eling                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Netley Marsh                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Copythorne                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Ashurst & Colbury                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                 | Denny Lodge                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                              |

# Town and Parish Council Clerks Meeting:

Committee reform & National Scheme  
of Delegation (NSD)

17 September 2026

# Committee reform & NSD



- Joint Letter from NFDC / NFNPA
- removal of member call-in powers
- no opportunity for a town/parish council comment on an application to trigger a referral to the planning committee.
- Does **not** apply to the NPA area – BAU in the NP

# Committee Reform and NSD

13 Committee Members maximum

Two schedules of applications;

- Schedule 1 – all delegated
- Schedule 2 – start delegated and pass through the “gateway” process to determine if they go before committee or remain delegated

Regulations are “made”

Implemented by **31<sup>st</sup> October 2026**



# Committee Reform and NSD

| Schedule 1                                                                    | Schedule 2                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Householder Applications                                                      | LBC (and Sch 1 PP) & s.19 applics                                                                     |
| Minor Commercial Development (no increase in GIA or CoU)                      | Major applications and apps not in Sch1                                                               |
| Minor Resi development (upto 9, >0.5ha)                                       | Advert Consent                                                                                        |
| Reserved Matters (Where it is related to a small outline planning permission) | Reserved Matters (Where it relates to a phase of development in a large* outline planning permission) |
| Discharge of conditions                                                       | Tree Works applications                                                                               |
| Prior Approvals                                                               | LPA own application                                                                                   |
| 106A – for schedule 1 permissions                                             | Officer / Member applications                                                                         |
| Certificates                                                                  | 106A – for schedule 2 permissions                                                                     |
| NMA                                                                           | S73A                                                                                                  |

\*large outline planning permission (i.e. over 500 dwellings or 50,000 square metres of floorspace)

# Schedule 2 applications

For applications falling into Schedule 2, a case can only go to committee if:

- It meets at least one statutory significance test under Regulation 5(2) or is an application made by or on behalf of the Local Authority, or member or officer of that authority or an entity owned or controlled by that that authority or any of its members or officers (Regulation 6), **and**
- a nominated planning officer and nominated committee member both agree to refer it
- If they cannot agree, **the application stays with officers.**

# Does it meet at least one statutory significance test??



- A significant planning matter in relation to the development plan or material considerations;  
or
- A significant economic, social, or environmental issue for the local area
- The [guidance](#) says cases are **unlikely** to justify committee referral if they broadly **comply with an adopted local plan** and **technical concerns** (e.g., highways or flooding) have been **resolved**.

# Changes for the NFDC Area

- PAR1: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.
- PAR2: We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.
- **PAR3: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below.**
- **PAR4: We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed.**
- PAR5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

# Changes for the NFDC Area



- PAR1: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.
- PAR2: We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed, but would accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.
- **PAR3: We recommend PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below.**
- **PAR4: We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed.**
- PAR5: We are happy to accept the decision reached by the District Council's Officers under their delegated powers.

# Changes for the NFDC Area

## **-TC/PC Comments still count!**

- Material Planning Considerations.

### **For schedule 2....**

- Need to reference “significance tests” in the Regulations and Guidance



# Changes for the new forest



- A significant planning matter in relation to the development plan or material considerations;  
or
- A significant economic, social, or environmental issue for the local area

# Its coming....so, next steps

Reports to:

- ~~– Planning Committee (9<sup>th</sup> Sept);~~
- Council – 12<sup>th</sup> October

... **31<sup>st</sup> October implementation.**

(Gov't review – 31/10/28)



| MONDAY                         | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                                                           | SUNDAY |
|--------------------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
|                                |         |           | 1        | 2      | 3                                                                  | 4      |
| 5                              | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10                                                                 | 11     |
| 12<br>FULL COUNCIL<br>FOR NFDC | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17                                                                 | 18     |
| 19                             | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24                                                                 | 25     |
| 26                             | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31<br>IMPLEMENTATION<br>OF THE NATIONAL<br>SCHEME OF<br>DELEGATION |        |

# Committee Reform and NSD



Schedule 1  
- delegated

Schedule 2  
– start  
delegated

“gateway”  
referral to  
Committee

# Committee Reform and NSD



Removal of  
member call-in  
powers

No TC/PC  
power to refer  
items to  
committee

Excludes  
National Park  
Authorities

Questions? /  
discussion