

20 years
2005
2025



Greener, Wilder and More Accessible

Consultative Panel

4 December 2025

Nigel Stone
Head of Resources



New Chair & Deputy

20 years
2005
2025



At our Annual General Meeting in October, Victoria Mander was elected as Chair of the Authority and Keith Mans as Deputy Chair.

We also welcomed 3 new Members



Adarsh Parekh



Ella Mason



James Wylor-Owen



FE Car parking scheme

Forestry England announced proposals to introduce parking charges across its 129 sites in spring 2026.

Understanding the need to raise income, we have asked for:

- All income raised in the Forest to be reinvested in the Forest
- Robust measures to counteract displacement parking
- A local concession scheme
- Minimal infrastructure that would impact the character of the Forest.

A nationwide FE parking membership is available, currently at £94/year or £2 a week. There will be exemptions for those working in the Forest.



Current Position

20 years
2005
2025



Where are we – Quotes from David Bence, our Former Chair:

‘Now we stand at a crossroads: with devolution, local government reorganisation, climate transition, and agricultural reform all converging at once.

‘These bring serious challenges, but also rare opportunities: to reinforce protections for the Forest, formally recognise its unique culture, support a vibrant green economy, and shape a resilient future for both nature and people.

As the National Park looks to the future, he said the challenges ahead include:

- Climate change continues to threaten our delicate ecosystems.
- The future of commoning which sustains the landscape.
- Increasing visitor numbers challenge our wildlife, habitats, and historic landscapes.
- Housing and development pressures which test the balance between conservation and community need.
- Ensuring that access to the Forest remains inclusive and sustainable for all
- Reducing resources.



NPA Updates

**SPECIES
SURVIVAL
FUND**



Funded by
UK Government

Heritage
Fund

Commoning – NFLAS livestock workshops, FiPL grants to Commoners, meetings with key stakeholders such as ministers, local MPs and Foundation for Common Land.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – paper to our Authority meeting in July setting out our position. Keeping an active watching brief on updates and the current consultation.

Species Survival Fund – £1.3m scheme, nearly complete, improving 250ha over 20+ sites with six partner organisations.

Buckler's Hard excavation – Working with University of Southampton, the Shipyard Trust and 20+ volunteers, to uncover the historic shipbuilding slipway.

NPA Updates



YouCAN – 500 attendees for first New Forest Thrive festival (Ringwood) and the Youth Board completed over 600 volunteer hours in one year.

Rangers – Engaged with over 6,000 this year, including community events, Walking Festival (45 events during Oct/Nov) and Operation Mountie (animal accident reduction campaign). Statutory consultee on PSPO extensions.

PEDALL – Excellent turnouts / support at NF Show and the Pass the Pedall fundraising event in Brockenhurst.

Transport Summit – hosted by NPA on 20th November but independently chaired, attended by around 100 stakeholders from parishes, community groups, businesses and local organisations. Key themes included Active Travel, Sustainable Public Transport and Travel To/From Attractions, with discussion about the newly-agreed LCWIP too.

NPA Updates



Partnership Plan Leaders Panel – Met in November, hosted by NFDC.

Initial focus of the meeting was around **Devolution** and **Local Government Reorganisation**.

Panel discussed **progress against actions** within the current 2022-27 Plan (moving into its last c18 months) and **began the process to start the next Plan from 2027-32**.

National Park Authority – Will soon be drafting its own **Work Programme for 2026/27** (following confirmation of our grant from Defra) and will derive its own future new **five-year Business Plan actions** from those within the wider Partnership Plan.

Any initial **comments on the current Partnership Plan** or **what should/shouldn't feature in the next** iteration to Nigel via email.

HCC Update

Notice of Motion HCC 27th November 2025

b) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Mocatta regarding the protection of natural landscapes.

Protecting Our National Landscapes

Hampshire is home to beautiful and nationally important landscapes, including the South Downs National Park, the New Forest National Park, the Cranborne Chase National Landscape and the North Wessex Downs National Landscape.

These landscapes play a vital role in protecting wildlife, biodiversity, combatting climate change, promoting public health and wellbeing, and sustaining local economies through tourism and sustainable land management.

- The Government's independent Landscapes Review (the 'Glover Review') recognised the need to strengthen protection and management of these special areas.
- Continued national protection is essential if these landscapes are to thrive and continue to benefit future generations.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Urge the Government to maintain strong legal protection for National Parks and AONBs (now known as National Landscapes);
2. Support the implementation of the Landscapes Review recommendations, where appropriate, to strengthen the role of protected landscapes in nature recovery and public access; and
3. Continue to work to promote and protect Hampshire's unique natural heritage.

Devolution Announcement Today



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

- Six regions set to get their own mayors through devolution will share almost £200 million every year for three decades, to build more of the 1.5 million homes promised, enhance high streets and revive their communities.
 - Hampshire and the Solent Combined County Authority: £44.6 million per year
- All six regions will also receive £3m each as a minimum over the next three financial years, in addition to an initial £1m payment in the coming months, to help with the costs of establishing the new mayoral authorities.
- Ministers are also considering moving some inaugural elections to 2028 so areas can finish reorganising their councils and help mayors hit the ground running.

In order to make sure strong foundations are in place ahead of devolution, Ministers have today confirmed they are considering holding inaugural mayoral elections in these areas in May 2028, with areas completing the reorganisation process before Mayors take office.

This would ensure that new mayors come into office with effective and empowered local government already in place, helping them hit the ground running from day one.

Thank You



**A slightly early...
Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year
from our Staff,
Members and
Volunteers**

Any Questions??

Contact Me:

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