

NEW FOREST CONSULTATIVE PANEL

**Minutes of the Meeting held at the Linden Hall, Lyndhurst Community Centre,
Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY
on THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER 2025 at 7.00 pm**

Those present:

Brian Tarnoff (Chair)
Nigel Stone (NFNPA)
Craig Harrison (FE)
Richard Burke (FE)
Derek Tipp (NFDC)
Antony Pasmore (Verderers)
Vicki Gibbon (Panel Secretariat)

1. Presentations

1.1 Resilience for the High Street in the face of LGR – Nicola Carass, CEO – Go New Forest

Nicola Carass gave an overview of Go New Forest citing that they were a destination management organisation for the forest promoting forest businesses and destinations via their website. She explained that even though they were a small team of three they had a significant influence on visitors coming to the New Forest. Ms Carass expressed interest in collaborating with more Parishes to help promote local communities. Interested parties were advised to contact her directly for further details.

1.2 New Forest National Park Local Plan Review – David Illsley - NFNPA

David Illsley delivered a presentation on the New Forest National Park Local Plan Review, explaining that all local planning authorities were required to maintain an up-to-date Local Plan outlining their local planning policies and proposals for land use.

He noted that an initial public consultation on the scope of the New Forest National Park Local Plan review was held earlier in 2025, which identified key challenges such as increased development pressure, the climate emergency, and socio-economic factors, as well as options for meeting housing needs while preserving the special qualities of the National Park.

Mr. Illsley advised that the Authority was now in the consultation phase on the initial draft Local Plan, which runs from 5 November to 19 December 2025, supported by a series of online and in-person drop-in sessions across the Forest. This would be followed by the pre-submission publication between July and September 2026, allowing further comments. The draft Plan will be submitted to the Government for independent

examination in December 2026 and the aim is to have the final Plan adopted by December 2027.

A copy of the presentation is available on the Panel's website.

<https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/documents/consultative-panel/consultative-panel-04-12-25/>

The Chairman thanked the above representatives for their presentations.

2 Apologies for absence

Rob Dewing – NF Business Partnership

Pete Brown – Camping and Caravanning Club

Tara Dempsey – NFA

Pamela Keen – Norleywood Society

Diana Kitcher – WI

3 Approval of Minutes from the meeting held on 4 September 2025

3.1 The minutes were approved.

4 Matters for Reporting

4.1 Forestry England Update – Craig Harrison / Richard Burke

Craig Harrison provided the Panel with a comprehensive update on Forestry England's activities over the past quarter. Key areas of work included bridge repairs, ongoing maintenance of forest tracks, ranger recruitment, continued efforts to address fly-tipping, and heathland restoration.

Richard Burke then presented an overview of the car parking charges scheduled for implementation in 2026. He confirmed that detailed consultations with statutory bodies have been completed, alongside engagement sessions with landowners and public communications. Discussions with the British Parking Association have resulted in an agreed dispensation to minimize visual impact. A mobile payment system would be introduced to reduce reliance on physical pay machines and associated equipment.

Mr. Burke also highlighted that risk assessments have been undertaken to identify potential hotspots for verge parking, with mitigation measures planned prior to the introduction of charges. A dedicated parking team would be recruited to monitor car parks and manage verge parking issues.

A copy of the presentation with more detail can be found on the website - [Consultative Panel 04/12/25 - New Forest National Park Authority](#)

4.2 NFNPA Update – Nigel Stone

Nigel Stone provided the Panel with an update on the Authority’s activities over the past quarter. Key developments included the appointment of a new Chair and Deputy Chair at the October Authority meeting: Victoria Mander as Chair and Keith Mans as Deputy Chair. The Authority also welcomed three new Secretary of State members: Adarsh Parks, Ella Mason, and James Wylor Owen.

Mr. Stone highlighted several strategic areas of focus, including Commoning, Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, the recent Transport Summit, and the National Park Work Programme for 2026/27.

For more information please see the PowerPoint presentation which is available on the website - <https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/documents/consultative-panel/consultative-panel-04-12-25/>

4.3 NFDC Update – Derek Tipp

Derek Tipp provided an update on the recent Government consultation regarding Local Government Reorganisation proposals, which runs from 19 November 2025 to 11 January 2026. He encouraged Panel members to review and respond to the consultation, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-hampshire-isle-of-wight-portsmouth-and-southampton>

Mr. Tipp noted that, as a result of this consultation, NFDC had postponed the next stage of consultation on their Local Plan review until February/March 2026.

He also reported that the introduction of the new waste policy, which initially experienced some teething issues, was now operating effectively.

4.4 Verderers Update – Antony Passmore

Antony Passmore informed the Panel that the Verderers have no authority over the introduction of car parking charges by Forestry England; however, they do have control over the installation of parking meters and signage. He noted that, following a meeting at the Verderers’ Court, permission for installation was granted subject to conditions, including agreement from Natural England and completion of a habitats assessment.

Speaking in a personal capacity, Mr. Passmore expressed concern that insufficient consideration had been given to the impact on adjacent commons and suggested that the decision appeared rushed. He felt the changes could have a detrimental effect on local residents.

5 Any other business

- 5.1 The Chair thanked the Secretariat for arranging teas and coffees and thanked Nicola Carass for providing the Shortbread donated by Tracy Thew of New Forest Shortbread (<https://www.newforestshortbread.co.uk/pages/about>).
- 5.2 The Chair noted a request from the WI representative Diana Kitcher to make December meetings online or hybrid, due to the hours of darkness being an impediment to travel. The Chair reminded the Panel that there is already a provision for online meetings in emergency or hazardous circumstances, and will undertake framing the question for possible future debate, should the suggestion gather panel support.
- 5.3. The Chair reminded Panel members that the March meeting includes election of the Panel Chair, stated that he would stand for the role again, and invited others to nominate or come forward as candidates. (New Forest Consultative Panel Chair Opportunity)

6 Date of next Panel Meeting.

- 6.1 Dates of the next Panel Meetings - 5 March, 4 June, 3 September and 3 December 2026.