

ONE VOICE Statement to Members of the New Forest National Park
Authority Meeting Thursday 28 May 2009, South Efford House

Parish Council Hosted Meetings

On behalf of many New Forest Residents and Visitors I wish to ask the Authority what arrangements are, or have, been made to engage with the public on the current revision of the Park Plan? We have been led to believe as far back as Last November that further engagement with the public will be forthcoming – see handout

To date, there has been no notification of PC hosted meeting arrangements on the NPA website nor reference to meetings in villages. We have contacted a number of PC's to find out about these meetings and it appears that to date only 7 meetings that we know of have been arranged, and the majority of these will be too late to feed into the revisions now being made to the park plan.

This ad-hoc situation is a direct result of the NPA's *suggestion* at the recent PC quadrant meetings that NPA representatives could be available *only by invitation* to attend PC meetings and discuss any revisions or suggestions. It is now time for the authority to put a stop to this tedious cat and mouse game and give New Forest residents their equal opportunity to participate instead of placing the burden onto PC's. This strategy has in effect placed residents as the 'meat within the sandwich' and demonstrates that a considerable number of New Forest residents will be disadvantaged if their PC has chosen not to hold such a meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPLY: We have had an exemplary and engaging process with Parish Councils

Sight of Revised Park Plan

Can the Authority please confirm if the *draft* revised park plan will be available to working group participants **and** members of the public **before** it is presented for approval?

CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPLY: This will be available in the usual way [According to the NPA's Standing Orders p12; 16.1 Notice of Motion - this will be 7 days before the Authority Meeting, i.e. 22 October 09]

Timeframe for approval and impact on Core Strategy submission

Can the Authority also confirm that the timeframe for approval of the revised park plan is still 25 June 09? If not, does the Authority have any idea of a date for approval and how a postponement of approval will impact on the core strategy and DPD submissions?

CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPLY: Because of local elections in June followed by summer holidays, the revised park plan will be presented to the 29 October 09 Authority Meeting for approval

Need for 2nd Socio-Economic Working Group Meeting

As a participant of the Socio-Economic working group meeting I wish to inform the members that page 5 of the working papers was omitted from the discussions in error and that any matters already put forward for consideration by the authority on Objective C3 and Policy DC1: Control of Development can have no substance unless a second meeting is arranged to discuss page 5 in detail.

CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPLY: I was not made aware of this statement beforehand so will get back to you with further details

To request Replies via Letter or Email as Minutes will not be available until 2-3 days before the June Authority Meeting.