

LETTER TO LYMINGTON TIMES

Sirs,

The National Park Authority have now published their revised Recreation Management Strategy (RMS) and it is available on their website. There is to be a period of 3 weeks public consultation and feedback. The same period of consultation was afforded to the revised Management Plan, and our organisation was successful in persuading the NPA to hold a public meeting, which took place last September. However, on this occasion, the NPA have given less 'weight' to the RMS consultation process and I write to inform your readers that, despite our calls for a public meeting, the NPA have decided not to hold one, purely because of the costs involved.

On the 'up' side of this, the NPA are to hold a one-off "Drop-In Session" at Lyndhurst; armed with their clipboards and 'feedback forms' in an attempt to engage with the public. This will be an informal affair as the NPA have said people sometimes feel intimidated at public meetings and may not wish to stand up and ask their questions. In my experience, many people go to these public meetings not just to **hear** the questions put by others but more importantly to **see** the decision-makers stand up and be accountable to the very people who may be affected.

My question to the NPA is this: "How is an 8-hour "drop-In Session" less expensive than a 3-hour formal public meeting?" Answers on a postcard please!

Sue Baillie
ONE VOICE
Tiptoe

25.1.2010