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New Forest National Park Revised Management Plan

This document sets out a clear vision for the next 20 years, as did the original management plan launched in August 2008. Most people will be happy to see that there are no controversial policies in the revised management plan but we are concerned that the document fails to clearly define **any policies** – unless the “priority actions” can be loosely interpreted as policy. We would have expected to see reference to clear priority actions or policies in managing recreation within this document, but there is little reference to the RMS other than in objective 7 “*The Recreation Management Strategy will contain a more comprehensive list of actions*”

It appears that the ‘meat in the sandwich’ will be contained within the Core Strategy and we shall have to wait for the document’s release on 3rd December to read it. It is disappointing that the general public will only have 5 working days to read what will inevitably be a large set of papers before it goes to the Authority for review on 10th December - the same day that the management plan is set for approval.

After the public meeting in September, many of our members were left asking, “where’s the catch?” In retrospect, the NFNPA did not do the public any favours by pre-empting our petition for extra time to see the revised management plan when they may have already known that the core strategy could hold the sting in the tail. We hope the NFNPA will prove us wrong and we look forward to seeing the *definitive policies* at some point in the near future.

ENDS

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