

**ONE VOICE Statement to Members of the New Forest National Park Authority
Meeting Thursday 28 January 2010
Moorhill House Hotel, Burley**

Last September's public meeting on the Management Plan and Core Strategy proved to this authority that engaging with the public in such a setting was extremely positive. Residents behaved well, were polite, had an equal opportunity to speak - and there was no "bun fight". Questions were raised and immediate answers were given. Any misgivings the authority may have had prior to this exercise were proved wrong. The general public came away from the evening with a sense of being included - and democracy prevailed. Although the RMS was not on the agenda, recreational questions were raised. A member of the public was assured that the new Equine Forum would shortly have a website so residents could follow their progress. This has not materialised.

It is with great disappointment that I find myself addressing this authority **again** on the subject of public meetings – this time, for the draft RMS. Final confirmation of the drop-in session only reached me 72 hours ago and I was given a copy of the NPA poster only yesterday. The rest of this 3-minute slot deserves to be given over to residents' support for a public meeting following our news update of less than 48 hours ago:

(See list of support comments)

Ladies and gentlemen, I make no apology if I have gone over the allocated time but it is imperative that you are informed of the most up-to-date opinions of our members – the general public. I urge you to re-think your approach in this matter. Thank you.