

ONE VOICE Statement to Members of the New Forest National Park
Annual Authority Meeting Thursday 25 June 2009
Forest Lodge Hotel, Lyndhurst

Outstanding Replies

At the last Authority Meeting on 28th May 09 I raised the issue of the need for a second Socio-Economic Working Group meeting. The Draft Minutes available today states that the Chairman would ask officers to provide a written response on the question. May I expect a reply within the week?

Sight of Revised Park Plan

Staying on the subject of last month's Authority Meeting: in answer to another question I put to the Authority, the Chairman confirmed that the revised park plan would be placed in the public domain at the same time as the October authority meeting agenda. This will, in effect, amount to only 5 working days notice. Much time and effort had gone into the recent 6 working group meetings; not to mention the extra cost to the public purse by using the consultants "Dialogue Matters" for 2 of them. Numerous people participated for the first time in the consultation process in good faith and felt they had put forward many common sense ideas and workable suggestions for the revision of the plan.

Equally, the Authority must allow them; the public; and its members more time to read in detail the revisions made; and afford them the opportunity to respond to the revised document prior to presentation for approval. There is no further consultation mechanism available for this particular document, and some reports that a further 6 weeks consultation will be forthcoming is a **red herring** – as I believe that is reserved for the Public Enquiry stage of the Core Strategy and other documents. I therefore ask the Authority to extend the timing of the revised document's public availability ideally to one month but no less than 14 days. Furthermore, I appeal to all members here not to approve a document of this magnitude unless you are certain that those most affected by it, and yourselves have had sufficient time to read it thoroughly and respond where necessary.