

## **Press Release by ONE VOICE, New Forest**

### **NATIONAL PARKS**

The new coalition government will:

- ABOLISH a number of non-department government bodies and limit the powers of other quangos (Public Bodies Bill)
- Will review the governance arrangements of National Parks in order to increase local accountability (Programme for Government)

Please help us to ensure that the coalition government's promise to review the governance arrangements of National Parks is not lost by the media because of "bigger fish".

This is a golden opportunity for those who live and work inside our National Parks to have their say on how and who run these parks in the future.

Take a look here at how our own (New Forest) National Park Authority behaves and you will get a flavour of just how damaging a quango can be.

<http://www.onevoice.officeoverload.com/FormalComplaint091208.pdf>

<http://www.onevoice.officeoverload.com/documents/FormalComplaintComments.pdf>

The New Forest National Park Authority have 'appointed' themselves as advisors to the newly-designated South Downs National Park Authority because it believes they have the right answers and relevant experience to pass onto a 'fledgling'. If nothing changes through the new coalition then the views of residents and workers in the South Downs will be ignored by a quango who will change the goalposts at the drop of a hat.

The New Forest quango (and one assumes the same of all other National Parks in England) has spent taxpayer's money frivolously over the past 5 years, mainly on re-inventing the wheel and, for the New Forest; spending time on such projects as the launch of the New Forest Mountain Rescue Team. If you ever visit the New Forest for a spot of mountain climbing in the comforting knowledge that there is a rescue team at hand should things go wrong, you would have a wasted journey – THERE ARE NO MOUNTAINS IN THE NEW FOREST! Ironically, this was launched on April Fool's Day this year!

On a more serious note however, the NFNPA has suppressed an anonymous letter from staff about the unprofessional behaviour of the [then] CEO who eventually resigned because of the allegations. Our organisation (and others) were threatened with legal action if we did not remove a copy of the letter from our websites. Naturally the letter remains on file with us should an opportunity arise to place it back in the public domain.

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