

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY MEETING

Held at 2.00pm on 18 December 2018 at the Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

Present:

Alun Alesbury	Heather Baker	Ken Bodfish	Tim Burr
Norman Dingemans	Chris Dowling	Janet Duncton	Neville Harrison
Daniel Humphreys	Roger Huxstep	Helen Jackson	Doug Jones
Gill Mattock	Graham Morrison	Russell Oppenheimer	Margaret Paren (Chair)
Ian Phillips	Anthony Watts Williams		

South Downs National Park Authority Officers:

Trevor Beattie (Chief Executive), Andrew Lee (Director of Countryside and Policy Management), Tim Slaney (Director of Planning), Nigel Manvell (Chief Finance Officer), Louise Read (Monitoring Officer), Alan Brough (Head of Business Services), Robin Parr (Head of Governance), Richard Sandiford (Senior Committee and Member Services Officer).

OPENING REMARKS

119. The Chair informed those present of general housekeeping matters.

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

120. Apologies were received from Sebastian Anstruther, Jo Carr, David Coldwell, Mark Dunn, Barbara Holyome, Tom Jones, Robert Mocatta and Pete West.

ITEM 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

121. The following declaration of interest was made:

- Janet Duncton – Agenda Item 10, Public Service Interest as a member of the Rural West Sussex Partnership.

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2018

122. The minutes were approved as a correct record of the Authority meetings held on 16 October 2018 subject to the following amendment:

- The heading of “Annual General Meeting” to be removed.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

123. 16 October 2018 meeting, minute 66 – Members requested further details of when the locations of the National Park entry signs would be circulated.

124. Members were advised that once some final matters with contractors had been resolved the list of locations would be circulated.

ITEM 5. URGENT MATTERS

125. There were none.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

126. There were no public speakers.

ITEM 7. NEED FOR PART II EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

127. Members were asked to indicate if they wished to discuss any matters under Agenda Items 13, 14 or 15 including the Part I and Part II minutes of the National Park Authority (NPA) meeting held on 7 November 2018.

128. As no Members indicated they wished to discuss any of these matters, Agenda Items 13 and 14 were noted by the Authority and the minutes of the NPA meeting held on 7 November 2018 were approved as a correct record.

ITEM 8. AUTHORITY CHAIR UPDATE

129. Authority Members considered the report from the Authority Chair (Report NPA34/18).
130. The Authority Chair updated Members on the following:
- The Authority Chair was due to meet with Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and Highways England (HE) for further discussion on M3 Junction 9.
 - At the last meeting of the Shadow Board for Transport South East a paper on the board's proposed responsibilities was considered. The powers requested would be of a strategic nature to look at, for example, reducing congestion and strategic usage of the transport network. The Board also considered a report on the Memorandum of Understanding between National Parks England (NPE) and HE and discussed that, under the auspices of the Board, a similar protocol would be useful between the Protected Landscapes and Highways Authorities across the South East.
 - Having attended all sessions of the Local Plan hearings Members were thanked for their contribution and officers were commended for their work. The examiner's report would be with the Authority mid to late January 2019 with a view to adopting the Local Plan at the May 2019 or July 2019 NPA meeting.
131. Members made the following comments:
- Members of the Authority had attended the first meeting of the A27 Arundel Liaison Group and reported that the NPA was not seen as having delayed the process and that HE had spoken of "constructive challenges" being encountered so far.
 - The Chair was thanked for her extraordinary commitment in attending all sessions of the Local Plan hearings. The hard work and professionalism of officers was also endorsed.

ITEM 9. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S PROGRESS REPORT

132. Authority Members considered the report from the Chief Executive (Report NPA35/18).
133. The Chief Executive updated Members on the following:
- HE had confirmed that the reconsultation on the A27 Arundel would take place after the May 2019 local elections and that all 5 options would be included at full stage depth. HE agreed to include their design review panel as early as possible. The Authority's environmental enhancement statement produced for M3 Junction 9 was discussed and a similar document would be produced for A27 Arundel.
 - The SDNPA Future of Farming Pilot proposal was approved by Defra. This was good news and further details would follow.
 - A Net Gain Consultation was issued by Defra on 3 December 2018 running until 10 February 2019. National Parks in England as a group would respond and a working group with the necessary expertise would be brought together to provide a collective response.
134. Members made the following comments:
- Paragraph 4.3, additional detail including expected size was requested on the possibility of the green bridge. Would the proposed green bridge form part of the Winchester Landscape Study and would there be consultation on this?

- Paragraph 7.4, the collaboration with the New Forest NPA was supported. Was there the possibility of further development of this collaboration into joint procurement or commissioning?
- Paragraph 4.4, additional detail was requested on the expansion of Southampton Airport?
- Paragraph 4.2, additional detail was requested on the extension of the non-motorised user route (NMU) east of Lewes. Also, if the decluttering of the dark skies along the A27 could include the Beddingham Roundabout?
- Had there been any discussions with Highways Authorities about the potential impact of Brexit on Newhaven Port and the subsequent possibility of increased traffic through the South Downs National Park?

135. In response to questions Members were advised:

- The aspiration was for a green bridge of substantial size which would form part of the Winchester Landscape Study. No agreement had yet been reached, however, HE had expressed the wish to do this from their designated funds as part of the Smart Motorways Scheme which would include consultation.
- The collaboration with the New Forest NPA on a HR was a trial. There was potential for the future; any proposals would be brought before Members at the appropriate time.
- It was understood the expansion of Southampton Airport was an extension of the runway to support increased traffic.
- Dark night skies considerations would be fed into considerations on all section of the NMU which was planned to continue through to Eastbourne.
- No discussions had been held on Newhaven Port, this would be a matter for HE to consider with the Highways Authorities. There were also no discussions on this at the Shadow Board for Transport South East.

136. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved to note the progress made by the South Downs National Park Authority since the last report.

ITEM 10. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES

137. Authority Members received the report on the Rural West Sussex Partnership (RWSP) (Report NPA36/18).
138. The Director of Countryside Policy and Management informed Members that the Authority was in regular contact with the Director of RWSP and future tie-ins to the SDNPA were under discussion.
139. Members made the following comments:
- Were there any plans to replace the removed telecoms masts?
140. In response to questions Members were advised:
- The issues had only recently been identified and the masts had been removed without full consideration of the impact on rural communities. Next steps were being considered.

ITEM 11. SDNPA RESPONSE TO THE GLOVER LANDSCAPES REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE

141. Authority Members considered the report from the Director of Countryside and Policy Management (Report NPA37/18) along with an updated appendix I which was tabled at the meeting.

142. Members made the following comments:
- Q9, did the transfer of responsibility only relate to National Nature Reserves (NNRs)?
 - Q17, under “new sources of funding” ask, wording should be changed from “disadvantaged groups” to “underrepresented groups”.
143. In response to questions Members were advised:
- Transfer of responsibility could relate to any designated sites, NNRs were given as an example due to their high profile.
144. All involved in the production of the response were thanked for their efforts. Members who also belonged to other organisations who were submitting a response were encouraged to share that organisation’s response with the Authority in order to build a snapshot of thinking on National Parks in this area. The final report of the Glover Review was likely to come out in Autumn 2019, however, some indication of main themes may come out of the NPE round table discussion in February 2019.
145. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved:
1. To agree the SDNPA response to the call for evidence as set out in the updated appendix I.
 2. To delegate authority to the Director of Countryside Policy and Management, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority, to make any minor, non-substantive changes to text prior to submission.

ITEM 12. CHANGES TO PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN TASK AND FINISH GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

146. Authority Members considered the report from the Head of Governance (Report NPA38/18).
147. **RESOLVED:** The Authority resolved to agree the change to the Terms of Reference of the Partnership Management Plan Review Task and Finish Group as set out at paragraph 3.1.

ITEM 13. PLANNING COMMITTEE

148. Authority Members noted the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 11 October 2018 and 8 November 2018.

ITEM 14. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

149. Authority Members noted the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 27 September 2018.
150. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.36pm.