

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils
Held at the Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington on 18 September 2014 at 7.00pm

Parish/Town Council	Name
Boldre	Jane Coe
Bramshaw	Sue Bennison Ian Davies
Brockenhurst	John Korbey
Copythorne	Stuart Bullen-Jarvis
Denny Lodge	Mo Dawkins
East Boldre	Kim Penna
Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley	Jim Spark
Hordle	Sue Bown Marion Still
Hyde	Jane Arigo
Hythe & Dibden	Brenda Smith
Minstead	Helen Bennett
New Milton	Goff Beck – Chairman Graham Flexman (Clerk) David Hawkins (Mayor)
Redlynch	John Blocksidge
Sandleheath	Vicky Eden
Whitsbury	Peter Kirby
New Forest District Council	Bob Jackson
Apologies	
Dave Yates	NFDC
Sally Arnold	Ashurst & Colbury
Peter Turner	Breamore
Neal Martin	Burley
Mike Derrick	Copythorne
Emma Lane	Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley
George Bisson	Lyndhurst

In addition to the above, apologies were given by other members on behalf of Maureen Holding (Brockenhurst), Bill Dunn (Redlynch) and Marchwood has a council meeting.

1. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed representatives from towns and parishes, with Bob Jackson in lieu of Dave Yates speaking on CIL. The Chairman also welcomed Lisa Kirby from HCC who would give a talk on fracking.

Hampshire County Council has to make budget savings of 12% by April 2015. The Library Service has reviewed various options to make its required savings through a management restructure, a reduction to the Mobile Library Service, withdrawal of the Family Library Link service and a change to the way library services are provided in some areas. Instead of four mobile libraries, from January 2015 there will only be three vehicles and as a result approximately one third of mobile library stops will be withdrawn. These stops all have poor usage and over half of the current 345 mobile library stops are underused.

The Chairman announced he will be attending the next HALC Board meeting in Winchester this coming Saturday 20 September 2014, and the HALC AGM with Graham Flexman in Hartley Wintney on Saturday 4 October 2014.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 24 July 2014 were approved by those present.

3. **Presentation on Fracking**

The Chairman introduced Lisa Kirby, Project Manager (Planning Policy) from HCC who gave an interesting presentation on fracking in Hampshire, covering the following items:

- Oil & gas – the basics
- Conventional & unconventional gas
- Hydraulic fracturing (fracking)
- Areas of concern
- Oil & gas licencing
- The planning system
- Role of other regulatory agencies
- Shale oil or gas extraction in Hampshire

The Chairman thanked Lisa Kirby for enlightening members, and copy slides are attached.

4. **Reports of Ambassadors**

In the absence of Mike Steele, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

5. **Reports of Focus Groups**

- a) **Dibden Bay** – in the absence of Alison Hoare, this matter was deferred.
- b) **Broadband** – In the absence of Jim Mitchell, this matter was also deferred.
- c) **Cycling Liaison** – Similarly, in the absence of Neal Martin this item was deferred.
- d) **Light Pollution** – In the absence of Emma Lane, Jim Spark from Ellingham, Harbridge & Ibsley spoke on this matter and mentioned self-build projects complying with Building Regulations code level 4 super-insulated homes, and EHI are looking at planning applications and considering light attenuation issues, eg. velux blackout blinds and making light attenuation glass a planning condition.

6. New Forest District Council

Bob Jackson, Executive Director of NFDC said CIL will be replacing s106 contributions. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money will be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the district council, local councils and communities want - for example, new or safer road schemes, park improvements or new community facilities.

The system is very simple. It applies to most new buildings and charges are based on the size and type of the new development. New Forest District Council formally approved the adoption of a CIL Charging Schedule at a meeting on 14 April 2014 with implementation to start from 6 April 2015. Development permitted from 6 April 2015 onwards will be liable to pay the levy as per the charges set out in the Charging Schedule; until this date the existing S106 tariffs will remain in full force and effect.

The levy is charged in pounds (£) per square metre on new floor space (measured as Gross Internal Area). The Charging Schedule sets a rate of £80 per square metre for residential which will apply in all areas of the District. Larger sites of over 50 dwellings will be required to provide the equivalent of 8 hectares per 1,000 people of suitable alternative natural green space (SANGS) either on or close to the site.

When it was announced that CIL would replace 106 agreements for raising monies used to improve Amenities and Highways, it brought with it restrictions on how existing s106 monies could be used. This was done deliberately to encourage Councils to adopt CIL. However, the Government agreed a moratorium on the restrictions until 5 April 2015 in order to allow Councils to look at how best to use existing monies.

Whilst NFDC have an agreed CIL regime, they have used the transition period in order to identify the best way to use existing 106 monies. Most people see the 106 monies as being two large pots of money, one for Amenities and one for Highways. In reality, the pool of money is made up of many individual contributions related to discrete building projects and consequently some of the contributions are small.

The key restriction introduced with CIL was to limit a Council to collating no more than 5 contributions together as a way to funding any one project. Essentially, this makes the use of 106 monies unworkable and pushes Councils into adopting CIL. It is important, that while we have the freedom to use the existing system, that we identify suitable projects to provide much needed facilities for our communities. The deadline is 5 April 2015, and in the meantime Dean Brunton has provided each local council with a summary of 106 monies available asking towns and parishes to confirm proposed projects by 3 October.

In regard to CIL, NFDC might raise as much as £800k in a good year, but £300k of this has to be used to provide SANGS (suitable alternative natural green spaces), improved connectivity between SANGS, monitoring and possibly wardens. This was a condition imposed by the Inspector regarding the recent adoption of the Local Plan Part 2: Sites and Development Management DPD (Development Plan Document). A total of 15% of CIL money will go to the town / parish where the money was raised. At the moment, all money is held by the District Council as the Planning Authority, so this is a significant change. The money cannot be used in lieu of the precept and must be accounted for annually. If there is an approved Town or Parish 'Neighbourhood' Plan in place, the money increases to 25%, while 5% is retained by NFDC for administering the process.

Any remaining money is held centrally by NFDC and can have a wide range of uses. However, other bodies can make a claim on the money, eg. If a large housing development in say Ringwood is agreed, which increases the population to a point where a further doctors' surgery or school is needed, NFDC can be asked to contribute.

7. New Forest National Park

In the absence of Steve Avery, this matter was deferred to the next meeting.

8. Speed Watch Scheme

The Chairman read out the following email dated 12 August 2014 from Judy Venables, Assistant Commissioner (Policing & Safer Communities) to Sue Bennison of Bramshaw:

Cllr Beck and I met yesterday to discuss the Commissioner's commitment to supporting Community SpeedWatch. During that meeting he shared with me your concerns about the scheme. I am very pleased to hear that you have a collaborative scheme running between 3 of your parishes and I would urge you to keep them going if at all possible. The volunteers are doing an excellent job and without knowing it have probably averted more than one accident. I do understand that it is difficult to find volunteers for these sorts of role but it would be a great shame if your scheme were to cease – it is always heartening to hear about communities taking personal responsibility for their problems, especially in these financially straightened times. I too live in a village that is a "rat run" between 2 main roads so am fully sympathetic to the issues raised by speeding.

Perhaps you could suggest to your scheme co-ordinator that they vary the times of the day that they monitor the traffic – they may catch some of those that you refer to as 50+'s. The scheme does allow for an early visit by the police if the recorded speed is far in excess of the legal limit for the area. Details of the scheme can be found in the Commissioner's Decision Notice at <http://www.hampshirepcc.gov.uk/Transparency/Decisions/Decisions.aspx> - near the bottom of the 2014 list of decisions you should find the one relating to Community SpeedWatch. You may find it helpful to discuss this with your local Inspector to check that they are aware of the provisions of the scheme (see Section 2 – How the Scheme Works in the Decision Notice).

9. Bike Hire Scheme

The Chairman referred to the attached article regarding Cllr David Harrison's initiative.

10. Any Other Business

Dean Parker gave a presentation on proposed NFALC website which was well received.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the New Forest Association of Local Councils will be held on Thursday 15 January, 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst SO43 7PA.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.00 pm.

Chairman

Date