

REPORT TO PLANNING, TOWN & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
9TH APRIL 2010

New Forest National Park Authority Local Development Framework
Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document

1. The New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) has prepared a revised Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD). This follows consultation on the draft National Park Plan in 2008 to which the Town Council responded, expressing serious concerns. In particular, the Members were concerned that the proposals would undermine the existing uniqueness of the Forest and lead to economic decline, an ageing but wealthy population and fewer residents with a real interest in the Forest.
2. The NFNPA intends to submit the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD for public examination to the Secretary of State after the closing date for representations on 12th April 2010.
3. It should be noted that this is not another consultation document. It has been published to allow formal submissions to be made to the NFNPA. Any representations received as a result of publication of the DPD will be considered at the public examination of the document held by an independent Planning Inspector.
4. At the examination, the Inspector will be checking that the DPD complies with legislation and whether or not the plan is 'sound'. To be 'sound', the DPD has to be 'justified', 'effective' and 'consistent' with National Policy. Representations have to relate to the 'soundness' of the document.
5. It appears to your Officers that it would be difficult to identify areas where the NFNPA has stepped outside National Policy in the preparation of the DPD and, notwithstanding the fact that it does not address the failure to adequately provide for the employment and housing needs of residents, it cannot be said that the DPD does not comply with National Policy. It is not possible to argue with National Policy on housing and employment issues through representations on this document.
6. The DPD has already been considered by New Forest District Council (NFDC). NFDC has given its support to the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD as it would appear that the serious concerns raised by that authority to the original National Park Plan have been resolved in this revised document.
7. In the circumstances, it is suggested that the Town Council should now simply note publication of the DPD and perhaps express concern that the policies will not provide for the needs of residents in terms of new housing and employment opportunities.

The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD is available to view in the office or at <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/planning/pl-policy/corestrategy.htm>.

The report considered by NFDC's Cabinet on 3rd March 2010 and the minutes of that meeting are available to view in the office or at <http://213.166.17.180/index.cfm?articleid=615&articleaction=DisplayDocuments&ctte=cab>.

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