

20 years  
2005  
2025



# Consultative Panel

5 June 2025



Greener, Wilder and More Accessible



# Introduction

Nigel Stone, Head of Resources (Chief Finance Officer)

- Been at the NPA for 18+ years
- Member of the Executive Leadership Team (with CEO and Head of Environment & Rural Economy)
- Core background in finance, legal and governance
- Lives in the National Park
- NPA Team – Finance, Legal, Facilities, Fundraising, HR, ICT, Health & Safety, Administration, Members & Stakeholder Engagement.

Will be main contact for the Panel & Quadrants (parishes); but will bring along other NPA staff & members.

Contact me:

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# NPA Position

## Who does what?:

Steve Avery left the Authority in April 2025, interim arrangements are currently in place:

- David Illsley – Interim Head of Planning & Place  
Structural change to have a Principal Planning Officer and two Senior Planning Officers
- Myself – Health & Safety, Quadrants, Consultative Panel
- Paul Walton – Ranger Team, Recreation Management
- New Monitoring Officer – Gareth Hale – starting 16<sup>th</sup> June.

# NPA Position

## Finances:

- Following five years of a flat-cash grant (i.e. not taking account of inflation), we have had a 9% cash reduction in our revenue grant from Defra for 2025/26 in March
- The Authority set a balance budget for 2025/26, but with shortfalls for the following years
- Defra settlement for the next 3 years will be set out within the Comprehensive Spending Review on 11<sup>th</sup> June; we are unlikely to hear our potential funding until at least the Autumn

## Facilities:

- NPA lease of Lymington Town Hall runs out in November 2026 (less than 18mths!)
- Currently considering our options and would welcome any suggestions / discussions about potential sites.

# NPA Updates

Please respond to the Hampshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation.

Application for new NPA Members has closed, interviews in June.

Successful New Forest Awakening Festival held in Spring – 4,000+ enjoyed walks, talks, tours & events and 1.4m received messaging about climate & nature emergencies (370k engagements – likes, comments, shares).

## Planning:

- A326 Works planning application expected from HCC in late 2025
- Recently met with Fawley owners & NFDC, we will need to set out an approach in our respective Local Plans
- Local Plan Review - evidence gathering underway / reviewed initial consultation from Jan-March, further detail at our Authority meeting in October, followed by a public consultation in Nov/Dec
- 6-week consultation now closed for Copythorne Parish Design Statement
- 17 June Planning Committee cancelled, next is 15 July

# NPA Updates (cont)

Met with defra Protected Landscape officials in May to brief them on wonders and issues within the Forest, very useful session about future of Commoning in Verderers Hall with Craig Harrison, Lyndsey Stride, Andrew Parry-Norton

Key projects well underway – YouCAN (Youth for Climate & Nature), Species Survival Fund, Generation Green

Worked with FE to open an upgraded and accessible trail to the Knightwood Oak (using capital funding from Defra's Access to All scheme)

‘Enjoying the New Forest’ survey launched and open until 30 September. Joint project with FE and Go New Forest to find out how people are accessing the New Forest and how they spend their time here. See  
[www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/enjoyingtheforest](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/enjoyingtheforest)

NPA held stakeholder sessions in March & April looking at a ‘Landscape Connections’ application to the Lottery – would be a 10-year programme worth up to £10m. Currently reviewing the inputs and drafting the bid.

# Vernon Dene

## Campsite in North Ripley (between Bransgore & Ringwood)

National Park Authority revoked a Certificate of Lawfulness on the site in October 2023

Taken to a hearing in the High Court in April 2025, with the case won by the Authority

Site owners have applied (appealed) for the Supreme Court to hear the case.

# Thank You

## Any Questions??

Contact Me:

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