



Town Development Manager Report
For Town Council Meeting 31st March 2025

1. Neighbourhood Plan Review –

Neighbourhood Plan – Informal Public Engagement

March saw the Neighbourhood Plan go to informal public engagement on the 10th - 21st March. Advertising was circulated via posters in the local community, print and pop-ups in local press and publications, posts on social media and via New Milton Town Council. A dedicated website to the Neighbourhood Plan hosted the proposed new and modified policies, maps and an online survey inviting comments from the public. Drop-in sessions were also held at the Town Hall on the 14th and 15th March and received a welcomed turnout. Members of the working party met and discussed the NP in face to face meets with members of the public. Policy maps were displayed on presentation boards, printed information and packs were available to view and the dedicated website was displayed in large view via a projector. A laptop was provided with help from working party members for those who needed assistance in completing the online survey. Genuine interest and a wealth of questions and pleasantly led conversations led to an open interactive discussion on the proposed updates and changes to the Neighbourhood Plan, along with its complexities. Packs were distributed at the Memorial Centre, Town Hall, Community Centre and Library for those who prefer paper reading. Results of the engagement will be used as evidence base during the review process.

Next steps

Next steps will see the Neighbourhood Plan go to a formal engagement period this mid-year, presented to statutory consultees including the district council.

2. New Forest Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan –

New Forest National Park Authority – LCWIP update

One key point raised by NFNPA to the Government Consultation for a Mayoral Combined Authority mentioned potential travel benefits. For example, having the Combined Authority with responsibility for transport across the whole area may be more effective than the current situation where different authorities have their own responsibilities. Active travel measures and the implementation of the New Forest Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) are cost-effective ways to reduce transport emissions, and it is recognised that a Combined Authority has the potential to improve delivery.

The Cycle Working Group met on 17 January 2025 and discussed a range of topics including the LCWIP which has been through a public consultation process and hopefully will be approved at the next HCC Cabinet meeting in June. As part of the Active Travel England (ATE) feasibility studies, the NFNPA commissioned the A35 safer crossings and off-road cycle network wayfinding studies. Now, in conjunction with ATE National Parks Capability fund, NFNPA are seeking a consultant to deliver a third feasibility study on the route from Lyndhurst to Lymington, identified as Route 120 in the draft LCWIP.



Comms Officer Report

For Town Council Meeting on 31 March 2025

Update on New Website

- Online forms for Grant Aid application and Allotment Waiting list have been designed and tested.
 - The Event Booking form is currently in design and will be tested in due course.
 - Citizen of the Year and Job Application forms will be designed and uploaded later in the year.
 - A meeting has been arranged with Rejuvenate and Juice to talk about installing the online payment function on the new website. This will include a discussion about ensuring compliance standards and enhancing website security.
 - In-house training to be arranged for Admin Officers to use the editing function of Word Press to enable meeting information documents to be uploaded and managed.
 - Expect launch of new website early April.
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News Articles/Press Releases

April 2025	WIP – Planting our disease resistant elm trees
April 2025	Outcome of the Youth Services Forum Meeting
April 2025	Confirm performers for afternoons of music
April 2025	Monthly E-news sharing meetings, events, community news
April 2025	Launch of new website
April 2025	Celebrate Citizen of the Year nominations and young achievers
April 2025	Promote Annual Assembly Meeting 7 May 2025
May 2025	Announce Chairman and Mayor's nominated Charity after 13 May 2025

Local Government Reorganisation

Members are invited to an LGR event being hosted by NFDC and NFALC from 6pm to 8pm on Monday 28 April 2025 at the Lyndhurst Community Centre. All 37 Towns & Parishes within the New Forest District have been invited. An official agenda is yet to be issued but Sarah Goudie, Member Services Manager, Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC), will be a speaker on the night. We have an allocation of 5 spaces for attendees.



Community Engagement

1. Dementia Community Allotment

- We expect our opening date to receive visitors to be late April – weather dependent.
- Plans to arrange 2 special sessions inviting the Coda Memory Band to join us again after the success of last year's session.
- Further donations will be sought and gratefully received to enable this year's entertainment.
- We were very grateful to Cllrs Geoff Blunden, Steve Davies and Fran Carpenter for grants which contributed towards a replacement shed, and setting up last year's activities.
- We will continue to work with our team of volunteers to ensure we offer a delightful environment for the Dementia Community to enjoy during the summer months.

2. Youth Services

- **Youth Services Forum**

The Youth Services Forum, taking place on 3 April, will welcome a selection of Youth Services providers to the Ashley Youth and Family Hub with an opportunity to network and share news and services.

- **Arnewood School**

Following on from a welcome meeting recently with the Arnewood School, we hope to arrange an annual meeting between our Town Council members and the Student Council. We are keen to strengthen our continuing relationship with the school and its young people, encouraging engagement, as well as participation at our civic events, and we'd like to develop and offer work experience opportunities here at NMTC for the students.

3. NP Engagement

Working with Chiara to complete a Comms Plan promoting the NP engagement period from 10 – 21 March 2025. This included:

- Messaging via targeted and general community emails
- Direct mailshot to local groups, clubs, large employers, schools etc
- Messaging on social media and our website
- Advertising posters in local magazines, NMA&T, noticeboards, and post offices