

# **New Forest National Park**

## **Comments made by Members of the Southern Area Committee**

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### Councillor Randall

- The New Forest Heritage Area will no longer exist when the National Park comes into being. What we need to know about is continued protection for areas on the periphery of the New Forest.
  - A large area of Landford that was within the Heritage Area is not going to be within the National Park.
  - There will need to be arrangements made between the National Park authority and the adjacent local authorities in order to protect the edges of the Forest with respect to winter grazing for commoning stock.
  - A consideration could be made at this stage of the possible devolution or delegation of planning to local authorities. In particular, any Government directives or advice with respect to planning in the National Park.
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### Councillor Leo

- If the current strategy favoured by the Secretary of State is followed through, the planning decisions will be made by the New Forest Authority. How would Salisbury District Council comment on planning applications? Would Members have to do so individually or would the Southern Area Committee comment on behalf of Salisbury District Council, or, would officers put together responses without reference to ward Members in the same way that Wiltshire County Council does for Salisbury District Council planning decisions currently.
  - If I have a comment on a planning application in my ward I would want the maximum weight given to those comments, but it may be difficult to get Members and officers views together within the timescales and the Southern Area Committee would not normally meet frequently enough to be able to be used as a channel for comments.
  - Members of the public may also contact Salisbury District Council or its Members on planning issues. Would their comments be forwarded on to the National Park Authority or be considered first by Salisbury District Council?
  - If the Southern Area Committee has a view on what its future involvement should be on New Forest issues we should make them to the Cabinet before the Cabinet adopts a position on behalf of the whole council.
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Councillor Anderson

- Who is going to be the ultimate planning authority, Salisbury or the New Forest Committee Members? Second to this, if it is going to be the New Forest Committee, surely the only group of people making the decision should be a committee made up of ONLY elected Members otherwise there is no democratic decision making in the New Forest Area. What right does an unelected official have in making the decisions in the New Forest Area, or for that matter, someone from Lymington have in deciding things in Wiltshire?
  - Policymaking - Who is going to be setting the policy in the New Forest Area? Salisbury District Council or the New Forest Authority? What influence are we going to have in deciding the policy and if we do not agree with it are we going to be able to amend/remove it? Is there going to be a special Wiltshire New Forest Area Plan and Policy?
  - General Permitted Development Rights - what is going to happen to these? What compensation is going to be paid if these are going to be removed?
  - Is the electorate in Redlynch, Landford, Nomansland and Downton going to be able to vote for Members to sit on the New Forest Authority?
  - Is the electorate going to find their Council Tax increasing to pay for this new Authority? Who are they going to be paying their tax to?
  - What are we doing about informing the local people of developments in the New Forest Area?
  - Who is going to be the grant enabling body - the National Park Authority or Southern Area Committee?
  - Who is going to be setting the speed limits in the area: Wiltshire or Hampshire or the New Forest Park Authority?
  - Where are people going to be submitting their planning applications? Is it going to be South West OR East that is going to be deciding planning Appeals?
  - Are the Wiltshire residents going to find that they are the poor relation in the New Forest National Park as we are such a small area that we might easily find ourselves overlooked?
  - Is the New Forest Area in Wiltshire going to be in the South West or South East Government area for all matters Agricultural and forestry and for that matter statistics etc?
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