

## **COPYTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH 2025**

### **Item 9 - To receive and approve a report on Parish Council Engagement with NFNPA & NFDC Local Plan Reviews.**

#### **BACKGROUND**

Earlier this year both the NFNPA and NFDC (the Local Planning Authorities for our part of the country) began reviews of their Local Plans.

In broad terms, a Local Plan guides decisions on future development proposals and addresses the needs and opportunities of the area. Topics that Local Plans usually cover include housing, employment and shops. They also identify where development should take place and areas where development should be restricted.

The first consultations on both reviews focused in general on the “Scope and Direction of Travel”. The Parish Council’s responses to these consultations (known as Regulation 18, Part 1) are available on the “Planning” Page of our website:-

<https://www.copythorne.org.uk/planning/>

More information on the Local Plan reviews can be found via the following links:-

- [New Forest National Park Authority](#) – Local Plan
- [New Forest District Council](#) – Planning Policy

#### **CURRENT POSITION – NFDC**

On October 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, NFDC issued the following statement in relation to their Local Plan Review:-

*The Local Plan review had been scheduled to enter its next consultation phase in November 2025. However, with the government’s Local Government Re-Organisation (“LGR”) consultation, also expected to begin in November, it has been concluded following discussions between officers and members that progressing both consultations simultaneously would not be helpful.*

*Cllr Jill Cleary, Leader of New Forest District Council, said:*

*“Running a statutory Local Plan consultation at the same time as the government’s LGR consultation would not serve our communities well. This is a vital moment for residents, partners, and neighbouring councils to help shape the future of local government in the Forest.”*

*“Pausing now is a responsible and sensible step. It allows us to reflect on the implications of LGR and ensure that when we move forward, our Local Plan is fully aligned with the long-term needs of the Forest and its communities.”*

*“It is important to emphasise that this is a pause and the Council remains committed to delivering a Local Plan that reflects the Forest’s character and supports sustainable, well-planned growth.”*

#### **CURRENT POSITION – NFNPA**

On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2025, the NFNPA approved the next stage of the review process, known as Regulation 18, Part 2. Details of the papers presented can be found on the NFNPA website at this location:-

<https://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/documents/authority-meetings/new-forest-national-park-authority-meeting-16-10-25/>

Following the approval mentioned above a non-statutory “Regulation 18 – Part 2” consultation is planned to commence on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2025, running for a period of six weeks ending on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2025. During this period members of the public; Town and Parish Councils; and various other bodies will be able to comment on the draft Local Plan review documents.

Within Annex 1 of the documents referred to above are details of a proposed site allocation for around 55 dwellings (50% affordable housing) within Copythorne Parish. This is titled “Policy SP38 – Land to west of Winsor Road, Bartley (pages 112-113) and lies beyond the houses opposite Bartley School. Connected to this is a recommendation to designate part of the Parish as a “Defined Village” (currently titled within the documents as “Cadnam-Bartley”). This recommendation is titled “DP27 – Residential Character of the Defined Villages” (see pages 87-89).

The NFNPA are planning a series of “Drop In sessions” where local people will have the opportunity to see the proposals in more detail and help them to form an opinion on them. Given the impact of the specific policies mentioned above the Parish Council asked the NFNPA for one of the sessions to be held in the Parish. We were advised that this was not possible as the NFNPA had been told that Copythorne Parish Hall was not available during the planned period for the sessions. We were further told that:-

***“..there was no conscious decision to not hold one for this round of consultation in Copythorne – I gave our administration team a list of potential venues and asked them to book two out of Landford, Copythorne and Ashurst & Colbury.”***

***“When we contacted the Copythorne Village Hall Committee we were informed the hall was not available for the dates we are holding the events in and therefore we have completed the bookings with the Landford and Ashurst venues (both of which are villages with proposed Local Plan housing site allocations)”.***

***“The venues at Lyndhurst (3.5 miles), Landford (6 miles) and Colbury (3 miles) are close to the Cadnam and Bartley areas and we are also considering holding an online event that would be open to the public.”***

The Parish Council has decided to arrange its own “Drop In Session” on the evening of Monday November 24<sup>th</sup> 2025 (actual hours yet to be agreed) using materials to be supplied by the NFNPA.

#### **REQUIRED ACTION - NFNPA**

The “Timeline and Parish Council Engagement” with the NFNPA “Regulation 18, Part 2 consultation” from this point is suggested to be as follows:-

##### **November 5<sup>th</sup>**

Consultation goes live (online link:- [nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is](https://nfnpalocalplan.commonplace.is)) – NFNPA publicise the consultation across press and social media channels. Parish Council will share the publicity through noticeboards, website, newsletter and Facebook.

##### **November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Clerk reports to Parish Council (this report).

**November 12<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Parish Council members individually review in rotation sections of the “Regulation 18, Part 2 consultation documents”; send those comments to the Clerk; Clerk shares comments with all members”. These comments along with feedback received from residents will then be collated into a draft response to be shared with all members in readiness for a final discussion at the December 9<sup>th</sup> 2025 Parish Council meeting.

**November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Council holds a local “Drop In Session” at the Parish Hall using NFNPA materials. Public invited to attend; view materials; discuss with parish councillors; and encouraged to submit comment to NFNPA.

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

NFNPA hold an online “drop in session” open to all between 4.30pm - 5.30pm via Microsoft Teams. For further details of how to access the session see [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/LocalPlan2025)

**November 28<sup>th</sup>**

Parish newsletter (and Stanley’s Own) published reminding people that they only have a few weeks left to comment and providing details of the NFNPA “Drop In Sessions”.

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>**

NFNPA hold five “Drop in Sessions” open to all as follows:-

Tuesday 2 December 2025, **Redlynch Village Hall**, Vicarage Road, Redlynch SP5 2PG

Thursday 4 December 2025, **Colbury Memorial Hall**, Main Road, Ashurst, SO40 7EL

Friday 5 December 2025, **Sway Village Hall**, Middle Road, Sway SO41 6BB

Tuesday 9 December 2025, **Lyndhurst Community Centre**, Lyndhurst, SO43 7NY

Friday 12 December 2025, **Landford Methodist Hall**, Lyndhurst Road, Landford, SP5 2AF

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Council at its monthly meeting agrees response to the NFNPA (Clerk to submit by December 19<sup>th</sup>)

**December 11<sup>th</sup>**

Any attendees to the monthly “Cllr, Drop In Session” are reminded that the consultation is ending soon but that they still have time to submit comments.

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Consultation ends.

**REQUIRED ACTION – NFDC**

No action required until NFDC advise that work is to restart on their Local Plan review.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That members approve the timeline and Parish Council Engagement Process for the NFNPA Local Plan Review as detailed above.
2. That members note the position regarding the “paused” NFDC Local Plan Review

**David Rigby**

**Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council**

**November 5th 2025**