

From: Minstead Parish Council

September 2013

To: New Forest National Park Authority – Alison Barnes/Chris Gregory
Hampshire County Council – Keith Mans/Sean Woodward/Tim Lawton
Forestry Commission – Nick Tucker, Head of Recreation and Public Affairs
Verderers of the New Forest – Dominic May
Julian Lewis MP

Support Local Cycling in the New Forest

Cycling in the New Forest has been in the news a lot recently as the NFNPA has secured government funding to encourage visitors onto bikes. We support the promotion of cycling as a healthy and sustainable means of transport, and as a leisure activity that doesn't damage the environment.

However, amongst all the publicity we feel that the cycling needs of local people have not received the attention they deserve. We get repeated comments from our parishioners that they would like safe cycling routes between settlements which can be used year round: safe for our children and grandchildren; safe for those who want to commute shop or visit; and safe for those who want to stay fit. If provided they could offer a real alternative to the car for travel in the Forest.

We do not feel any of the current projects (community routes and family friendly cycling), adequately address this issue. There are many unsafe 'pinch points' in towns – particularly Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst. Forest gravel tracks cannot be used by road bikes and are of limited use in winter months due to weather and short daylight hours. Major settlements are not properly linked – how do you get from Brockenhurst to Lymington safely?

We would ask all those involved, NFNPA, HCC, the Forestry Commission, and the Verderers, to give this issue the attention and funding it needs to provide a viable long term solution for those who live in the Forest.

Minstead Parish Council