

MINSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs P Osborne, Clerk to the Council

Curtle Cottage, Minstead, Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7HA

Tel: 023 8081 2375 email: clerk@minstead.gov.uk

To: NFNPA (Mark Holroyd, Alison Barnes); Forestry Commission (Richard Burke, Nick Tucker); HCC (John Sorrell, Cllr K Mans, Cllr Sean Woodward). Verderers (Sue Westwood, Barry Dowsett); NFDC (Cllr Mrs Andrews); Dr Julian Lewis MP; Rt Hon Desmond Swayne MP; NFALC (Neal Martin - Cycling Representative)

2 May 2014

Conclusions from Minstead Parish Council Annual Assembly Discussion of Local Cycling Provision – March 19th 2014

The presentations from Mark Holroyd of NFNPA and Richard Burke of the Forestry Commission were well received, and it was much appreciated that they had agreed to speak on this contentious issue. They illustrated very clearly the complexity of trying get changes made to cycle routes, given the number of bodies involved in decision making.

There was a general regret that HCC and the Verderers had chosen not to attend, particularly HCC who are probably the single most important body when it comes to provision of safe cycling routes. This lack of engagement in what was a constructive discussion adds to the sense of frustration surrounding this issue.

In specific terms there was comment that, whilst there are excellent cycling circuits within the New Forest, these do not join up in a meaningful way, and don't represent practical routes to get from settlement to settlement. In particular, for us, there is no safe route from Minstead into Lyndhurst, and provision of one is top of the list for Minstead Cyclists. The best route seems to be a dedicated cycle lane down the side of the A337 – this is the shortest route and it is not grazed land (all other routes have problems that cannot realistically be overcome - the route down the C17 involves a very difficult section in Emery Down where there is no possibility to widen the road or improve visibility). If similar cycle lanes were available onwards from Lyndhurst to Brockenhurst and Lymington, in addition to the existing Ashurst route, this could become the core of a cycle network that offers a true alternative to the car for local cyclists.

Cycle route planning in the New Forest needs some serious strategic thought rather than the short termism that we currently have.

We are happy to contribute to any further discussions in this area.

Minstead Parish Council