



Friends of the New Forest

NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION

PLANNING and TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Reply to: -

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01590 623935 planning@friendsofthenewforest.org

Sent as attachment to Email only

10 April 2018

Ann Braid
New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington SO41 9ZG

Dear Ann,

**Application: 18/00139 SANDY BALLS HOLIDAY VILLAGE, FORDINGBRIDGE, SP6 2JZ
Use of land for the siting of 108 holiday lodges (static caravans) including the relaying of 108 bases, access roads, parking spaces, refuse enclosures and associated landscaping**

1. New Forest Association (NFA) objects to this application.
2. By the Authority's own admission the biodiversity and ecological value of the New Forest National Park is declining¹ and the cause would appear to be visitor pressure² and therefore the site upgrade by reducing visitor numbers would appear to be beneficial. NFA therefore has no objection to the site upgrade in principle. However the supposed reduction in visitor pressure is illusionary.
3. NFA objects to the time extension. The ecological impact assessment presented with the application fails to consider the impact of extra visitor numbers for a month on the New Forest generally and in particular the designated areas surrounding the application site. Further study is required.
4. NFA objects to the loss of 225 controlled touring spaces at Sandy Balls. There is every reason to suppose, and this is implied by the applicant, that the occupants of the 225 touring spaces will simply relocate elsewhere in the New Forest, thus if granted the application will increase rather than decrease visitor pressure.

Of particular concern is that many of the 225 will relocate to uncontrolled (28 day) sites. Many of these sites are at very damaging locations, as unsuitable as the Forestry Commission sites at Hollands and Denny Wood. There are, for instance, three sites on nearby Fords Farm. The problem of uncontrolled (28 day) sites is recognised by the Authority in the Submission Draft Local Plan para 8.29 which states:-

Recently there has been a large increase in 28 day 'pop up' campsites which account for some extra 7,000 overnight stays in the Forest. If this trend continues consideration will be given to the use of an Article 4 Direction to ensure this type of development is properly planned.

¹ Submission draft Local Plan para 5.8

² Liley, D. & Lake, S. (2015) Research recommendations relating to impacts of recreation on ground-nesting birds in the New Forest National Park. Unpublished report by Footprint Ecology for the New Forest National Park Authority.

If the 225 displaced tourers spend only 31 nights at uncontrolled (28 day) sites, then the 7000 overnight stays quoted would DOUBLE.

Were the Directive in place, the Authority would regained control of the situation and might be able to claim that with careful planning elsewhere, application 18/00139 would not result in more increased visitor pressure on, and therefore damage to, the National Park in contravention of the First Principle.

5. NFA does not consider the loss of 120 uncontrolled (28 day) sites at Sandy Balls any advantage. There is no reason to suppose the 120 families will not re location to another uncontrolled (28 day) site at a more damaging location.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graham Baker".

Graham Baker, NFA Planning Committee
Registered Charity 260328