

Presentment to the July 2026 Verderers Court

Official Verderer and Verderers and the members of public attending court today, I am Sarah Nield, Chair of the New Forest Association. I am giving this presentment on behalf of the association to join the chorus of criticism of the New Forest District Council's (NFDC) waste bins in the Forest.

I do not need to tell this court or members of the public here today of the dangers to stock posed by the food waste bins. I have no doubt that the Commoners Defence Association and the Verderers have made those dangers very clear to NFDC. I wish to emphasise the contradictory and unacceptable attitude of NFDC. The association will also be making a presentment to the next public meeting of NFDC.

In the past NFDC as part of The Shared Forest project agreed with the Verderers and the CDA that waste bags should be placed inside the gate or cattle grid of Forest properties. They produced a clear poster to that effect – see attached. The change in receptacle is no reason to change this sensible guidance when the so-called locks on the food waste bins have proved totally inadequate.

Indeed, the NFDC guidance is inconsistent. The website says one thing and leaflets distributed to residents says another. The latter says bins “should be placed at your property boundary” – that could mean, and this is how I have interpreted it, within my gate. However, online guidance says it should be beyond any gate. Inconsistency is evident also in NFDC's PSPO against feeding stock and their own actions which do just that.

NFDC say they are monitoring the situation and that only a few problems have been reported. It was carnage on Sway Road, Brockenhurst on the first collection day and I have had reports of similar scenes in East End. One incident is one too many given the risks to stock and the public that can so easily be avoided. We ask the Verderers to continue to send the clear message that food waste bins must be inside gates, so NFDC get the

message loud and clear before any further roll out of this scheme which is reported to have cost £5.6 million.