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Mr Mike Seddon
Chief Executive
Forestry England
Coldharbour Lane
Bristol
BS16 1EJ

Sent by email to: michael.seddon@forestryengland.uk

27 July 2026

Dear Mr Seddon,

New Forest parking charging scheme

Thank you for your letter of 22 June 2026.

We note your confirmation that Forestry England is now reviewing the New Forest parking charging scheme and will work with DEFRA as the review progresses. We welcome this development and the opportunity for the issues raised to be considered carefully.

Having reflected on your letter, we would be grateful for clarification on one point.

Should the review conclude that changes to the charging scheme are appropriate, it would be helpful to understand the process Forestry England envisages before any decisions are taken.

In particular, could you please outline how Forestry England proposes to engage with local councils, representative organisations, disabled people and other persons or organisations likely to be affected by any revised proposals. It would also be helpful to understand how that process will reflect the Minister's Mandate for the New Forest and how any updated Equality Impact Assessment, together with the evidence supporting it, will be published for full consultation before any decisions are taken.

As you will appreciate, Beaulieu Parish Council's concern has never been whether Forestry England should, in principle, introduce parking charges. Rather, our consistent

position has been that any such scheme should be developed and implemented lawfully and transparently, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, Minister's Mandate and other relevant public law duties.

We believe that a clearly planned, open, transparent and inclusive process, in which those persons and organisations likely to be affected can understand and comment on any proposed changes before they are finalised, would be in the best interests of both Forestry England and the communities of the New Forest.

Accordingly, we should be grateful if you would please confirm that Forestry England does not intend to implement any material amendments to the charging scheme until those persons and organisations, including New Forest Town and Parish Councils, likely to be affected have had a reasonable opportunity to consider and comment on the proposed changes and the evidence on which they are based.

We would therefore be grateful if you could please outline the process Forestry England currently anticipates following DEFRA's review.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Hubbard

Cllr. Nick Hubbard
Chair

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Nicky Deering

Nicky Deering
Clerk

Contact details above

CC: The Rt Hon Mary Creagh CBE FCIL MP, Minister for Nature
The Ministerial Contact Unit, DEFRA
Rt Hon Sir Julian Lewis MP
Rt Hon Sir Desmond Swayne TD MP
Cllr. Dan Poole, Hampshire County Council & New Forest District Council
Victoria Mander, NFNPA Chair
Brian Tarnoff, New Forest Consultative Panel Chair
Brice Stratford, New Forest Association of Local Councils
Edward Heron, Official Verderer
Hilary Harper, New Forest Commoners Defence Association
Craig Harrison, Forestry England
Richard Burke, Forestry England