

## **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS & RECREATION GROUP**

The Chairman left the NFC when his term of office ended at the end of March coinciding with a change in status being in hand for the NFC. The company now has a new charitable status enabling them to qualify for new funding arrangements. They will remain under the umbrella of DEFRA and the three year funding agreement will remain, but a period of some uncertainty is unavoidable. Sir William Worsley is the new Chairman.

NFC is now working with Sport England with some new projects in mind and with a view to securing funding from them for a pilot project to encourage more physical activity and walking in particular.

The NFC has also starting a pilot scheme to provide volunteer rangers for the National Forest Way directly organised by the Company. An initial 26 volunteers had come forward. They have received appropriate training and will undertake survey work and possibly carry out small repair works / clearance etc.

The NFC have now formed a partnership with Forest Holidays who build and manage luxury cabins in ten forest locations around Great Britain and that company will encourage charitable donations to NFC with any bookings of cabins within this forest.

Roy Denney Representative

### **NATURAL & HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP / LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP**

It seems the NHEP is defunct as the County and the Districts are discussing different ways of working together. The LNP was one and the same group in a different role and still technically exists but there have been no meetings since our last meeting and it seems unlikely to meet in the near future. A large group of LNPs are engaged with DEFRA discussing the future of these bodies which cannot see a way forward without funding.

The only successful examples appear to be where major companies have sponsored them and taken an active role.

Roy Denney Representative

### **CHARNWOOD FOREST STEERING GROUP**

The steering group agreed changes to the make up of the group with the creation of four working sub groups with the steering group sitting above them as the strategic body and John Howells and I are to attend the first meeting moving the group in that direction. This main group will now probably only meet twice a year and there will still be a stakeholders meeting annually. We hope for a role on the Environment Working Group and the Tourism Working Group which will include sport and recreation and John Howells and I may take one each, covering for each other.

The lead organisation for Tourism and Economy, will be Martin Peters of LeicesterShire Promotions, - Social and Historic, Julie Attard of Charnwood Roots, Environment, Michael Jeeves of LRWT, and Development, Sam Lattaway of the National Forest Company.

The other major issue to be discussed will be the appointment of a coordinator to prepare a new lottery bid.

Roy Denney Representative