








**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – CHANGING LIVES COMMUNITY STRATEGY
(feedback and approval)**

Summary of Purpose and Recommendations:

To consider amendments to the draft Community Strategy following the consultation period and recommend any changes to the Council on 14 June.

Cost to Council: £*, ***, will be reported at Cabinet meeting **Within existing budget?** Yes

Contribution to Corporate Plan (Minor/Moderate/Major/Neutral):

	+		-		+		-
	Major			Priorities			
	Major			Clean Streets and Public Space	Major		
	Major			Crime and Disorder	Major		
	Major			Housing	Major		
	Major			Managing our Finances	Moderate		

Comments on Impacts on Corporate Objectives and Priorities:

The whole development and delivery of the strategy is partnership based. The process has strengthened existing partnerships and created fresh partnership focus in some topic areas.

It has created a clear understanding of the priority issues facing the District and identified actions to tackle those issues. Each action is partnership based and has been developed to achieve positive benefits in all three areas of well-being. As actions are delivered and future actions developed, the Strategy will have major implications across all three areas in this and in future years. Specific action has been included for three of the four Council priorities. The greater partnership approach should have benefits for achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in the uses of resources including the use of finance.

The role of the Council has been significant in making it all happen. This has enhanced its reputation as a community leader amongst its partners and potentially amongst communities.



Organisation of excellence



Working with public and partners



Economic well being



Social well being



Environmental well being

CHANGING LIVES COMMUNITY STRATEGY – FEEDBACK AND APPROVAL

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has a duty to publish a Community Strategy for the District.
- 1.2 It decided to prepare the strategy through the Changing Lives Partnership. This involved the Changing Lives Conference (July 2002) the Draft Issues Report (Spring 2003) and the publication of a draft Community Strategy, approved by Cabinet in January 2004.

2. CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT STRATEGY

- 2.1 This took place during the whole of March and April.
- 2.2 Over 400 main documents and 3,500 summary documents were made available direct to organisations or through public outlets such as County and District Council offices and libraries.
- 2.3 Community First distributed 200 summary documents direct to their voluntary sector members.
- 2.4 Two copies of the main document were sent to each local council with sufficient copies of the summary for each member.
- # 2.5 42 responses were received from those listed in Appendix 1.
- # 2.6 The responses have already been considered by the Community Action Team (CAT), the LSP's operation group and the various Community Action Networks (CANs) that help support the LSP. Their recommendations were **considered by the LSP** on 13 May and **their recommendations for change** to the draft Community Strategy **are set out in Appendix 2.**
- 2.7 A copy of all responses received together with the comments of CAT and CANs have been considered by all the portfolio holders and are available for inspection in the Members' Room.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Community Strategy is designed to be a three-year document with annual updates to report on progress and to set out the next 12 months action plan.
- 3.2 The cost of producing the full document will be reported at the Cabinet meeting.
- 3.3 Full use will be made of both the Council's website and the Changing Lives Partnership's website changinglivesnewforest.gov.uk to publicise the strategy.

3.4 The process to arrive at this point has been achieved through the use of existing resources.

4. CRIME AND DISORDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The strategy gives strong recognition to the contribution safe communities and a clean and diverse environment make to the quality of life and to the future of this District. This is apparent within the Vision as well as many of the objectives and actions across a wide range of topic areas. The two themes – ‘creating better access’ and ‘taking preventative action’ work together eg preventing crime and disorder partly through providing more opportunities for everyone such as employment, enjoying, understanding and valuing the environment and the communities in which they live and visit. Prevention is a key environmental objective and by encouraging access for nature, the biodiversity of the District can be enhanced for the benefit of all.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The Community Strategy is a reflection of the work put in during the past three years in developing the Local Strategic Partnership. That work has strengthened existing partnerships and created new ones. It has developed a common understanding of what the District should be like in the future; what the priorities are to be tackled; an agreed set of objectives and over 130 partnership based actions during 2004/05 with ideas for next year’s action drafted.

5.2 That was the easy bit! The Council is now in a position to ensure the benefits of community strategy/LSP work are maximised. This will require continued strong leadership to drive the Vision forward in conjunction with all key partners. There is a need to develop the ongoing process with the developing Local Development Framework that is due to replace the Local Plan process, including a focus on community engagement and development.

5.3 The challenge is to make the best possible use of the committed individuals, both members and officers across the Council and the Changing Lives Partnership to make sure the priorities of the Community Strategy are delivered and the Vision achieved.

5.4 The Council is now in a position to make full use of the multi agency resource available through the Changing Lives Partnership, in particular the various Community Action Networks. Members are encouraged to consider their communication channels with those networks.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That subject to the amendments listed in Appendix 2, the Changing Lives Community Strategy 2004 – 2007 with its 2004/05 Action Plan be submitted to Council on 14 June for approval.

For further information

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Background papers

Draft Issues Report
Draft Community Strategy
Responses to consultation
Report to Changing Lives Partnership 13 May 2004

LIST OF RESPONDENTS

Alan Alvey, Resident
Alan Snook, New Forest Bird Group
Alison Bolton, Lymington Society
Andrew Reid, TSE
Annabel Preston, Solent Local Authority Support Trust
C R Treleaven, Ringwood Society
Cllr Roger Neath, NFDC
Col Peter Sweet, Practising Commoner
Councillor Colin Wise, NFDC
Desmond Waight
Felicity Roe, HCC Education
Fiona Burn, Forest Arts Centre
Forestry Commission
HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group
Hythe and Dibden Parish Council
J F M Dodgson
Jack Broughton, New Forest Polo Clubs and others
Jeff Edwards, Hampshire County Council
John Horne, DEFRA
John Wingham, Brockenhurst Parish Council
Karin Gallagher, Pre-school Learning Alliance
Keith Gray, Freightliner Ltd
Laurence Baughan, New Forest Business Partnership
Louise Jackson, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
Michael Clowes, Community First
Monica Collins
Mr and Mrs M Parslow
Mr G R Smith, New Forest Cycling Club
Mrs I Weeks
Mrs M Herbert, Sway WI
New Forest Citizens Advice Bureaux
Nick Evans, New Forest Committee
NRG Clarke, Ringwood Town Council
Patrick Webster
Policy and Plans, NFDC
Richard Manley, New Forest Commoners Defence Association
Rob Waring, Environment Agency
Robert Giddings, Netley Marsh Parish Council
Simon Maggs, New Forest Housing Strategy Board
Steve Marshall, St Barbe Museum
Sue Morse, Youth Offending Team
VA Marlow, Hale Parish Council

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT COMMUNITY STRATEGY (Agreed by the Changing Lives Partnership 13 May 2004)

1. FOREWORD

Update membership to reflect recent changes:

- Add Lee Whitbread, Youth Forum
- Amend New Forest Tourism Association (rep?)
- Amend New Forest Business Partnership (rep?)
- Amend Hampshire County Council? (Cllr K Heron in place of Cllr D Kirk?)

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- Include explanation of how the two themes were arrived at and give greater clarity about those themes.
- Include in diagrammatical form how the topics all link together to work towards improving the quality of life.
- Illustrate the integration principle with a real life example eg Dibden Bay.
- Update National Park reference if decision is known in time and demonstrate its impact through significant implications for management of the Forest, land use planning, aspects of local culture (eg commoning), tourism etc.

3. THE CHANGING LIVES PARTNERSHIP

- Update information on Market Towns Health Checks and Vital Villages Scheme (eg funding streams, delete Godshill and include Hale)
- Include reference to work other than the Community Strategy which the Partnership will be delivering over the next 2 – 3 years eg preparation and sharing of data to help inform decision making.
- Include Partnership's commitment to welcoming and valuing diversity and being supportive to those whose quality of life is, for whatever reason, less good.
- Include reference to Local Development Framework and its future role in the District, in particular how it will work alongside the Community Strategy with the two processes being integrated wherever possible.

4. THIS VERY SPECIAL DISTRICT OF OURS

- Include stronger reference to District's environment being of national and international importance with greater emphasis on the diversity and quality of its landscapes, extent of wildlife habitats, history, culture, coastline and opportunities for recreation. Add relevant facts and figures for the environment and the economy (as already included for social issues).
- Use some thematic maps either in this section or in the topic chapters to illustrate some of the issues needing to be tackled.

5. OUR VISION FOR 2025

- Consider reference to "inclusion"?
- Use stories to help illustrate some of the principles in the Vision eg the link between 'opportunities' and social inclusion.

6. TOPIC CHAPTERS

Children and Young People

No change

Community Safety

- Change action 2.2 to read –“provide a drugs co-ordinator for the district to deliver drug awareness and education – Leads NFPCT & NFDC “

Economy

- Expand action point 1.3 to include generic measures for sectors.
- Delete Action 2.4 (Dibden Bay)
- Amend text to reflect that indigenous businesses need to continually adapt to customer preferences and this has effects which are both quantitative and qualitative. There is a need for a baseline view on where we are now and where we ought to be which can better inform a debate involving economy and environment. The two way flow of information between NFDC and business is ‘the’, not a, key issue.

Environment – Built

- Explain the wide ranging role planning has in issues such as designing out crime and helping to make town centres economically viable as well as environmentally attractive.
- Actions 1.10 & 1.11 add parish and town councils as joint leads
- Action 2.7 parish & town councils to lead
- Action 2.5 add “ to public areas” after “improve grounds maintenance”.
- Amend objective to read “...understanding of towns and villages and the historic built environment across the whole of New Forest District.”
- Action 1.2 – add “Local Plan/Local Development Framework” to the list

Environment – Natural

- Amend priority 3 to read “ integrating recreational uses with the need to conserve the special character of the natural environment”
- Add new actions from the Strategy for the New Forest which best meet the priorities and criteria, when available
- Add to text to highlight the importance of the natural environment both within and outside the proposed boundary of the National Park. Include reference to % of the District covered by SINC's many of which support priority Biodiversity Action Plan habitat eg Ringwood Forest. Refer to the Avon Valley and the coast both of which are of international importance.
- Refer to the Local Development Framework

Environment – Quality/Protection

- Include reference to the Materials Resources Strategy/Natural Resources Initiative under waste
- Replace text on page 24 “DEFRA will only etc” with “ Under the Coast Protection Act 1949, Land Drainage Act 1991 and Environment Act 1995, DEFRA provides grants to flood and coastal defence operating authorities to assist them with the cost of capital flood and coastal defence projects – the building of new and improved defences, feasibility and design studies into possible works and some high-level investigation studies into coastal processes and for shoreline management plans. Such projects must meet DEFRA’s technical, economic and environmental criteria and achieve the threshold priority score for the year”. (Coast/Flooding)
- Action 1.8 and 2.3 remove HCC as joint lead agency (Coast/Flooding)
- Include more specific reference to managing and mitigating global warming and climate change (Home Energy Conservation)

- Add to Action 2.4 “and encourage other partners in promoting renewable energy schemes.” (Home Energy Conservation)

Health

- Action 2.21 add HCC NF Access Committee as joint lead agency
- Action 1.6 add HCC as joint lead agency
- Action 1.8 replace community First with Forest Bus as the lead agency

Housing

- Include reference to Home Energy Conservation, Affordable Housing Sustainable Development Framework and the Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy. Also to explain that the Council installs small renewable schemes in its own stock and that the HECA officer promotes home renewable energy options to residents.
- Include reference to the Forestry Commission’s policy and actions which give priority to key forest workers and practising commoners
- Include reference to Local Development Framework

Leisure

- Add to Current Position section “The District is well blessed with an enormous suite of informal leisure resource ranging from permissive access, freedom of access on foot across the 26,700 ha of Crown lands, and an impressive public rights of way network with the wider Heritage Area
- Reword Action 1.8 to “ Within the overall strategic framework, produce and implement a programme of identified works and establish a mechanism to address issues which include information provision, wardening and the provision of support facilities.”

Lifelong Learning

Comments still awaited

Older People

- Add new action 1.2 “ To improve the opportunities for older people to be more involved in leisure and learning opportunities – lead agencies NFDC, HCC, NFPCT”
- Add new action “ continue to improve arrangements for combating poverty through access to relevant benefits and services – lead agencies HCC, NFDC, Community First, NFPCT.”
- Amend Action 2.1 “Provide support for older people in their home where appropriate to maintain independence – lead agencies HCC, NFDC, NFPCT.”
- Amend Action 2.2 “ Improve provision of a range of affordable housing and residential care provision for older people –lead agency NFDC.”
- Amend Action 1.1 to read “ Ensure people are not discriminated against on the grounds of their age when accessing services.”
- Amend Action 2.4 by adding the word “not” before “smoking”
- Amend para 4 on page 45 to start as “ All statutory and voluntary agencies continue to provide a significant level of services designated for “older” residents of the District. These services are subject to ongoing reviews taking into account the changing needs of the local population. Hampshire Social Services, New Forest Primary care Trust and New Forest District Council continue to develop strategies together that share.....”

Tourism

No change

Transport
No change

7. FUTURE REVIEWS

Include reference to an assessment being done each year of which priorities have been impacted on through action. This will enable specific targeting to take place in year 3 to ensure that all priorities are tackled over the three-year period.

8. QUALITY OF LIFE MEASURES

- Present the measures as a menu from which to start with new ones being developed over time and possibly some dropped.
- Show lead agency that will be responsible for measuring and reporting on individual measures.
- Show the link between each measure and priorities.
- Mention the 1998 State of the Environment Report produced by NFDC which set a baseline from which future trends could be measured.
- Include the absolute and relative levels of weekly earnings as well as a GDP figure at District level

Changing Lives
Draft Community Strategy

CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Q1 The Vision

Do you agree or disagree with the vision

Agree	30	= 81%
Disagree	7	= 19%

If 'disagree' what would you like to change?

Mr and Mrs M Parslow

I preferred the statement in the 1998 State of the Environment where the vision was to improve the quality of life, not just to provide opportunity. The Natural Environment section is potentially misleading. Reworded so as not to imply that Natural Environment is expected to make a significant contribution to the local economy. The Natural Environment will attract visitors, who, if they can be managed sensibly, will bring money into the local economy.; but the Natural environment should **not** be manipulated for the purpose of attracting visitors or business.

Comments of CAT - The proposed vision is about improving the Quality of Life, part of which is about providing opportunities. It is up to people and nature whether they take those opportunities. The concept of the natural environment making a contribution to the other two areas of well being is a fundamental plank to this strategy and to sustainable communities with each area seeking to benefit the other two.

NRG Clarke, Ringwood Town Council

As an upbeat message it can not be faulted – optimism is now a policy! I would have wished to see a more short term, practical statement. 2025, at current rates of change will have a created a new world and, as small actors, the partnership will have changed to.

Comments of CAT – Vision statements are intentionally long term. Shorter-term statements can be found as the objectives in the topic chapters.

C R Treleaven, Ringwood Society

Our Society is primarily concerned with the built environment. The third 'vision' refers to the built environment, but in such a vague and platitudinous way that it is meaningless. We also observe that people have increasingly fewer opportunities to "shape the communities in which they live" if this statement (in the first 'vision') is supposed to refer to town and village plans.

Comments of CAT – Do not consider it vague or meaningless. Opportunities to help shape communities etc is much broader than individual initiatives such as Vital Villages. RECOMMEND – Update reference to Vital Villages on p 6.

Patrick Webster

No thought has been given to the industrial estates and business parks that have sprung up in recent years. The results are much more traffic on ours, more pollution, more damage to our roads, more cars on the school run. We have over 80 years of gravel extraction in the Avon Valley – we need new paths, bird hides, seats, parking area – NOW.

Comments of CAT – the Community Strategy should provide more integrated approaches to future projects.

Rob Waring, Environment Agency

Could be more challenging.

Comments of CAT – but no suggested rewording.

Alan Alvey, Resident

How can anyone disagree with this? What is the point of it all, other than providing employment?

Comments of CAT – no comment.

Keith Gray, Freightliner Ltd

Businesses need to thrive not only within a local economy, but also national and international.

Comments of CAT – Focus is intentionally on the District.

Richard Manley, New Forest Commoners Defence Association

On reading the précis it would be difficult to disagree with the broader aspects of the statement. However, the vision is dominated by the whole document in that it tends to pander to the majority and that is not necessarily good or the best.

Comments of CAT – not intended to be aimed at the majority (urban v's rural?) It is an attempt to make the different aspects of the Quality of Life work better together. RECOMMENDED – illustrate the principle better in the Introduction by using the Dibden Bay issue as an example.

New Forest Citizens Advice Bureaux

From our point of view, we would like there to be a Social Inclusion heading, with some wording in the Vision statement acknowledging that an awareness of and commitment to the principles of social inclusion is part of that vision.

Comments of CAT – Previously discussed at the LSP. Social Inclusion cuts across every topic and was a key driver in selecting the themes. “Opportunities” contained in the Vision are key to a future society where social inclusion is the norm.

Policy and Plans, NFDC

We note a reference to the special environment of the District in relation to the economy, and a mention of the diversity of nature in relation to everyone's health, education and enjoyment. However, the quality of this District's natural environment is outstanding by national, international and world heritage standards, and this could be recognised in the Vision statement, for example in the form of a commitment to conserving and enhancing its special qualities.

Comments of CAT – Rather than extending the Vision with qualitative statements it is RECOMMENDED that the message is strengthened in section 4 – “This Very Special District of Ours”.

Fiona Burn, Forest Arts Centre

The vision itself is great. The wording, however, requires rather a lot of ‘reading between the lines’. Very tricky. I can see to keep to three bullet points and say the same thing.

Comments of CAT – Not sure what is meant. No suggested rewording offered.

Laurence Baughan, New Forest Business Partnership

Hard to disagree with this, but why is this appropriate to 2025 rather than, say 2010, or 2050?

Comments of CAT – it is just something to aim for in about 20 years time which is typical time for a Vision statement.

J F M Dodgson

I disagree strongly with the waste of money spent on this glossy magazine format. No one can disagree with the 'vision' – but the hackneyed platitudes are a turn off. The 'example actions' are what is of interest to the rate payer.

**Comments of CAT – Difficult to engage with everyone without the use of a summary document.
“Glossy” publications are no longer an expensive printing option.**

Q2 The Themes

Do you agree or disagree with the two themes?

Providing better access

Agree 34 = 87%

Disagree 5 = 13%

Prevention is better than cure

Agree 35 = 92%

Disagree 3 = 8%

If 'disagree' what other themes do you feel should be applied to help identify action?

Mr and Mrs M Parslow

It is the implication that 'better' means 'more', better access to nature should mean a better appreciation and more care about damaging the valuable resource. It is confusing to group this issue with better access to jobs, facilities etc. (which we support). Many issues initially identified in the 1998 SOE report remain to be delivered, and then access can be improved. In many cases prevention is already too late, and there needs to be remediation on issues such as loss of small and affordable houses, and pollution by excess light etc.

Comments of CAT – the reference to nature is better access for nature (which is a win for the natural environment). This means better, appropriate habitats to attract appropriate flora and fauna. The prevention theme will help focus attention on some of the issues mentioned.

NRG Clarke, Ringwood Town Council

Once again a note of scepticism – what significant changes can be made to monopoly service providers? Choice is illusory: excellent execution is or should be the primary goal before anything else is attempted.

Comments of CAT – The agenda is not just about service provision but the state and future direction of the District. It is about community leadership and communities doing things for themselves.

C R Treleaven, Ringwood Society

Again, the two themes are too vague to be meaningful from our point of view. For example, for conservation and preservation, what is meant by 'prevention is better than cure'? who is doing the 'preventing'.

Comments of CAT – The themes give the strategy some shape without being too restrictive in their interpretation. In our opinion they reflect the main priorities coming out of the development work done to date.

Steve Marshall, St Barbe Museum

'Prevention is better than cure' needs a little more explanation.

RECOMMENDATION of CAT – Include more detail in Section 2 – Introduction.

Mrs M Herbert, Sway WI

'Providing better access (to jobs ... and for nature)' - this sentence doesn't make sense.

RECOMMENDATION of CAT – include better explanation as part of the Introduction.

Alan Alvey, Resident

Do not agree that providing better access to the New Forest is 'a good thing'.

Comments of CAT – Better doesn't necessarily mean more. It is about finding better access that has positive implications for the environment as well as other areas of well being.

Keith Gray, Freightliner Ltd

Identify the issues that exist today and cure them. Prevent these issues from returning. Be aware of other issues that might occur and put preventative measures in place. A little long-winded but shouldn't be scared to go for the cure.

Comments of CAT – We think this concurs with what the Strategy is trying to do.

Richard Manley, New Forest Commoners Defence Association

I disagree with the wording in its broadest sense as it can be misinterpreted. You are speaking of access to services (jobs etc) and we would support that, however access also engenders physical access, and that we feel is more than adequate at present.

Comments of CAT – See comments above (Alan Alvey)

Forestry Commission

Gives emphasis on pro-active partnership working to prevent issues becoming too established. Better information about and access to services will underpin the preventative approach.

Comments of CAT – no comment.

Policy and Plans, NFDC

We are uncertain how much the division between 'Providing better access' and 'Taking preventative action' contributes to understanding of the Strategy. It might be helpful if the Strategy could explain how these themes have been arrived at, their perceived purpose, and how actions have been ascribed to one or the other.

RECOMMENDATION of CAT – Include explanation in Introduction.

Laurence Baughan

The "prevention" element is difficult for people to understand. Taking remedial action to address current problems is more easily grasped. Identifying changes over the period to 2025 to which we all need to respond would be more appropriate.

Comments of CAT – The theme is designed to make people think more about longer term implications to help create better solutions for all.

Q3 Topic Areas

Do you feel the topic areas adequately cover the important aspects that impact on the quality of life?

Yes	30	= 77%
No	9	= 23%

If 'no', what changes would you make?

Mr and Mrs M Parslow

While the issues cover the area, most are interconnected, and yet this does not seem to be a feature of this strategy, although the complexity and inter-relatedness was stressed in the earlier report. Examples are long term Health is connected to education, life interests, mobility, housing and environment; whilst crime appears to be connected to joblessness, boredom and poverty. These connections were spelt out in the earlier report, but now have gone missing. Is it the document that has dumbed down, or the Partners?

RECOMMENDATION of CAT – Consider some way of illustrating the connections in the design of the final strategy. Diagrammatical form perhaps?

Nick Evans, New Forest Committee

Level of detail of the topics:

Three topics do not fit into the general format and level of detail. 'Environmental Quality/Protection' and 'Health' are very long and detailed, while Tourism has only half a page of text. These topics should be re-assessed to ensure the level of detail is consistent with that included in the document as a whole.

RECOMMENDATION of CAT – Consider a more even approach across the strategy.

NRG Clarke, Ringwood Town Council

Your coverage is wide but is there an ordering of priorities? What needs to be done, what can be done, what can be done and what evidence is there that these are important aspects that impact on the quality of life?

Comments of CAT – Priorities within the topics have not been prioritised against each other. The strategy is in its first year and it is hoped that over the next three years all priorities will receive some benefit from the actions taken. The experience of the first three years should help the LSP decide whether a fewer number of priorities would be a better approach to take.

Keith Gray, Freightliner Ltd

I would comment however, that the topic areas are often inter-dependant. Positive actions in one area could be negative in another and process for dealing with this is critical.

Comments of CAT – Part of the criteria for setting action.

Richard Manley, New Forest Commoners Defence Association

You have again steered it towards a largely urban audience and on the whole ignores the needs of the rural communities. Do not forget that they are the very people who tend to nurture the forest that the majority so want to see and enjoy.

Comments of CAT – as per previous comments under Vision.

Karin Gallagher, Pre-school Learning Alliance

Broadly speaking the topics do adequately cover important aspects.

Comments of CAT – No comment

Fiona Burn, Forest Arts Centre

Although give such a breadth of topics a great deal of crossover is unavoidable.

Comments of CAT – no comment.

Robert Giddings, Netley Marsh PC

More detailed action down to PC level

Comments of CAT – all parish councils' have been asked to contribute their ideas. Hopefully future years strategies will include more action generated by parish councils.

Q4 The Objectives, Priorities and Actions

Do you agree or disagree with all the ... ?

Objectives

Agree 33 = 92%

Disagree 3 = 8%

Priorities

Agree 28 = 76%

Disagree 9 = 24%

Actions – summary document

Agree 23 = 70%

Disagree 10 = 30%

Actions – main document

Agree 20 = 69%

Disagree 9 = 31%

If 'disagree' please set out which changes you would like to see?

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

CAN Lead: Dye Lockyer, Dave Watson

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>We wonder if strategies to meet the needs of young people are likely to have a spatial dimension. This could include, for example, the provision of facilities for children such as play spaces, youth centres, nurseries, and safe transport routes to schools/colleges (e.g. safe crossings, cycle routes and cycle training and training for moped riders). It would be helpful if this was explicit as it could then be translated more directly into work on the Local Development Framework (LDF). <i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<p>Detailed in other plans linked to the Community Strategy.</p>
<p>More emphasis given to early years work and parental involvement. <i>Karin Gallagher, Pre-school Learning Alliance</i></p>	<p>Will be addressed in Communications Strategy</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome the idea of the development of a Children and Young People's Partnership for the district and ask that this work is closely linked to the work of the Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) at HCC. ▪ There is concern that child protection issues will be dealt with by the LSP/ Children and Young People's Partnership for the district and that HCC needs to be fully involved. <p><i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	<p>The link is already being developed.</p> <p>No need for concern. There will be no change in the current arrangements.</p>

COMMUNITY SAFETY

CAN Lead: TBC

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Priority: P4 - Refuge places are low, but we expect the need is there – it should be a priority Action: P4 - Add 'Provide adequate refuge places' <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	<p>Figurewise we provide 0.5 refuge places per 1,000 population (the top quartile nationally is 0.7, Hants is 1.7. "Provide adequate refuge places" is a bit broad brush as the refuge is often at capacity owing to problems with move on accommodation.</p>
<p>The problem is not 'fear of crime' but prevention of crime. <i>Alan Alvey</i></p>	<p>New Forest based statistics and consultation has shown us that the fear of crime outweighs the actual crime experienced so I do not see a need to change the document</p>
<p>We are aware that there is a spatial dimension to work on community safety, as recognised in the existing supplementary planning guidance 'Design for Community Safety'. The police are also involved in scrutinising planning applications. This does not appear to be recognised in the Strategy, and again, with regard to the LDF, it would be helpful if the role of planning in addressing crime prevention could be recognised. <i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<p>Hear, hear. The police hardly ever receive requests for assistance on planning applications these days. They used to. I feel this would be better addressed in the environment part of the Strategy</p>
<p>Raise level of 'Prevent drug/alcohol and crime' to first priority as it impinges on so many other areas. <i>Hythe and Dibden Parish Council</i></p>	<p>No problems with this but the priorities listed have equal weighting</p>

Also : the listed actions regarding education need to be changed as the project is not now HIAS based but we are employing a drug co-ordinator.

ECONOMY

CAN Lead: Neil Miller

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Priority: P5 - Inappropriate business expansion is damaging village centres and Forest Roads, with HGV's and continental articulated trucks delivering to these business, and often staying within the Forest overnight</p> <p>Action: P5 - Add 'Balance business needs with the special needs of the Forest environment'</p> <p><i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	<p>There are very few large scale businesses within the Forest itself and there is no evidence of this being an especially widespread problem.</p> <p>Awareness of this as an issue is already acknowledged in P4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Recommend no amendment</i>
<p>Within the economy topic you may wish to consider two additional possible FC actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make provision for medium term contracts for supply of services to FC, or supply of timber available to local businesses. ▪ Implement an Apprenticeship Scheme providing opportunities for local people to gain practical skills and qualifications necessary to manage an area such as the rural New Forest. Scheme to run 2004-2008. Joint action with National Trust and Sparsholt College. <p><i>Forestry Commission</i></p>	<p>Er....</p> <p>Scheme agreed and funded through LEADER +. Recruitment completed and apprentices in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Recommend expand action point 1.3 to include generic measures for sectors.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Strategy usefully recognises the issue of average incomes and inability to access expensive housing in the District. We wonder whether in this connection the priority issues should include references to key workers, skills shortages and difficulties of recruitment. ▪ There is an obvious link between the economy and tourism, given the proportion of jobs in the district (particularly in the New Forest) that arise from the tourism industry. The Economy section of the Strategy refers to maximising local benefits from visitors, and some form of cross-reference to section j, Tourism, which also refers to 'tangible community benefits from tourism', might be appropriate. <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<p>A difficult issue as there is an awareness that the solution often appears to social housing proposals on a reducing supply of land available to business.</p> <p>Proportion of jobs in tourism in the District is not especially high, although as noted it is the dominant sector in the Heritage Area. The commentary in the chapter is top level and does not discuss sectors, and would need to be expanded considerably to do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Recommend no change</i>
<p>We do not need more business parks until the traffic problem has been resolved. <i>Patrick Webster</i></p>	<p>Do not know if he refers to a local problem. There are likely to be only very limited proposals in the Local Plan to 2011.</p>

ECONOMY cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>This need for affordable housing means there will be an increasing shortage of people to work in the service industries and lower paid jobs yet a higher demand for both from owners of the high costs housing and retirement accommodation.</p> <p><i>Alison Bolton, Lymington Society</i></p>	<p>As above.</p>
<p>Under action 2.4 NFDC should have a role as well in this.</p> <p><i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	<p>Refers to Dibden Bay proposals, therefore no longer relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recommend 2.4 deleted.</i>
<p>Indigenous businesses need to continually adapt to customer preferences, and this has effects which are both quantitative and qualitative. We need a baseline view on where we are now and where we ought to be which can better inform a debate involving economy and environment. The two way flow of information between NFDC and business is the, not a, key issue.</p> <p>Re quality of life measures for economy, changes in the absolute and relative levels of weekly earnings are key indicators and should be included, as also should a GDP figure at District level (if available). Statistics relating to Farmers' Markets are inappropriate in this context. <i>New Forest Business Partnership</i></p>	<p>Amend text accordingly, with commitment to review economic strategy in 2005 and address issues of sectoral changes required.</p> <p>Agreed</p>
<p>However greater emphasis needs to be given to the promotion of sustainable business. Such action needs to be given to the tourism business in the heritage area where it can create a degree of uniqueness to will create a marketable and sustainable business advantage.</p> <p><i>John Wingham, Brockenhurst Parish Council</i></p>	

ENVIRONMENT – BUILT

CAN Lead: Neil Williamson, Paula Freeland, John Ward

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>The only topic area of concern to our society is that of the built environment (page 6). The vague and meaningless statements fail – necessarily – to address key issues such as future relevance of local plans including: a) whether these are to be adhered to; b) degree to which local people have an effective input to their construction and modification; and c) whether in practice future planning will be micro-managed from Whitehall. <i>C R Treleaven, Ringwood Society</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No amendment. ■ These matters are being addressed through current local plan review and will continue to be addressed through preparation of the Local Development Framework in which there will be full community involvement.
<p>Page 6 – Restrain ‘developers’ from destroying houses and buildings of character which are part of the areas history and attraction to visitors. <i>Mr G R Smith, New Forest Cycling Club</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No amendment. ■ Local Plan already addresses this.
<p>Priority: P6 - Vernacular older buildings are being demolished to make way for larger ‘executive’ construction inappropriate to Forest villages. A priority should be a presumption against such demolition. Action: P6 - Add ‘Balance new build against need to maintain vernacular integrity in Forest villages’ <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No amendment. ■ Already addressed as far as national powers allow through policy and planning decisions.
<p>Action 1.10, 1.11 and 2.7 include parish and town councils as leads. New action – make electric wires from above to below the ground in the forest. <i>Cllr Roger Neath, NFDC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2.7 Parish and Town Councils should be lead. ■ 1.10/11 add Parish and Town Councils as joint lead. ■ No amendment at this stage in respect of suggested new action – will be considered in light of national park and availability of resources.
<p>Under action 2.2- this is something that HCC is doing already clarify 2.5 in terms of what grounds maintenance and where <i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In respect of Town Plan for New Milton and statement “this is something HCC is doing” need clarification as to note and what is suggested. ■ Grounds maintenance – add “to public areas.”
<p>Practical experience in our village put the objectives very uncomfortably beside recent NFDC decisions. Recent planning decisions have not taken sufficient consideration of local conditions or views. On street environment/appearance. Under current conditions there must be a serious question mark over the ability to pursue this part of the draft strategy in the villages. <i>John Wingham, Brockenhurst Parish Council</i></p>	
<p>The ‘built’ environment in Brockenhurst is being spoilt by the ‘planners’ going against the Parish Council and residents in permitting construction of completely unsuitable blocks of flats in a forest village. <i>Col Peter Sweet, Practising Commoner</i></p>	

ENVIRONMENT – BUILT cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In terms of the objective, it may be helpful to clarify that its reference to the 'New Forest towns and villages' means those across the whole District. ■ The second key priority issue refers to protection of the special qualities of landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage. There is an identical priority in section d(ii) 'Environment - natural'. For the built environment, this issue perhaps needs to be clarified to refer to the urban context, e.g. urban landscape and cultural heritage. There are hardly any designated nature conservation sites in the defined built-up areas; however, there is potential to encourage biodiversity, for example by management of gardens and open spaces, and the issue might be better expressed in these terms. ■ The future of the Vital Villages and Market Towns initiatives and associated village and town plans may be uncertain given that Countryside Agency support for these projects has ceased. However, if they are to continue, the Strategy should recognise that the initiative for their preparation comes from the local community, who also undertake the analysis of local character, community needs and priorities. NFDC has no role in establishing a programme for these. Our role is merely to offer advice as needed and (assuming they accord with the local plan/ LDF) adopt them as supplementary planning guidance/ documents. ■ Action 1.2 could also refer to the local plan/ local development framework as a mechanism for raising awareness of built environment issues. <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Amend to read "...understanding of towns and villages and the historic built environment across the whole of New Forest District." ■ No amendment – agreed to leave as is. ■ Already addressed in suggested changes to 2.7, 1.10 and 1.11. ■ Add "Local Plan/Local Development Framework" to list.
<p>The existing local plan refers to encouraging the provision of dwellings adapted, or with the potential to be adapted to meet the needs of disabled people. Current revisions to the Building Regulations are introducing further requirements in this regard, and in the actions for future years, it may be appropriate to suggest that the LDF should re-visit this issue.</p> <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No amendment. ■ Local Development Framework will address this.

ENVIRONMENT – BUILT cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Environment - Built/ Natural/Quality. The Board felt that greater reference should be made to the role of housing in shaping the future of the built environment. In particular private sector house builders should be encouraged to follow the lead set by housing association in adopting sustainable development principles eg energy efficiency, lifetime homes. Housing Association should be encouraged to do more. <i>Simon Maggs, New Forest Housing Strategy Board</i></p>	

ENVIRONMENT – NATURAL

CAN Lead: Nick Evans, Bruce Rothnie

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Priority: P7 - Stress importance of integrating conservation with access and recreation Action: P7 - We strongly support schemes to assist commoners and stocking levels on the Forest. Add ' Conservation should not be allowed to change the character of a village or its commons'; We have concern that the pony standards are biased against the local gypsy love of pied animals. <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	<p>This has been emphasised as one of the five priorities Conservation, by definition, should help to protect and enhance the traditional character of the Forest. There are no direct controls over the stock depastured on the Open Forest, although there are incentive schemes to encourage animals which are well adapted to Forest conditions (to improve animal welfare) and which are registered as New Forest ponies (to improve value).</p>
<p>Increasingly this traffic is using unfenced Forest roads, increasing the animal accidents and the quality of tranquillity sought by many people. The conservation of the Forest is about controlling the number of people and the traffic as well as looking after the plants and animals. <i>Alison Bolton, Lymington Society</i></p>	<p>Agree that transport and recreation management are critical issues. The PROGRESS project will lead to a Recreation Strategy for the Forest (as defined by the proposed National Park boundary), with proposals for reducing pressure on the most sensitive areas and pilot projects to test effectiveness. The New Forest Transport Strategy Officer is also working on pilot projects including a 'Quiet Lanes' scheme and road closures to increase the remote areas. However there is no doubt that considerable additional resources (and the support of local communities) will be needed in the future to expand these and other projects across the Forest.</p>
<p>Under action 2.2- this is something that HCC is already doing <i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	<p>Most of the actions for this year are already underway. Action 2.2 (the PROGRESS project) is being led by the Forestry Commission.</p>
<p>Priority issue 3 under the natural environment would be better worded as 'integrating recreational uses with the need to conserve the special character of the natural environment'. This reflects Local Plan policies and the statutory purposes of protected areas (which are likely to apply shortly to most of the rural areas of the District). Selected further actions contained in the Strategy for the New Forest's draft 5-year action plan (suggestions to follow), should be added under this topic where they address the stated priority issues and meet the Changing Lives criteria. This action plan was not available when the text for the Community Strategy was being produced. <i>Nick Evans, New Forest Committee</i></p>	<p>Agree whole heartedly!</p>

ENVIRONMENT – Natural cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Priorities: (page 7) “Integrating conservation with access and recreation”. Conservation is the priority here. The priority should be to ensure that access and recreation do not impinge upon, nor impede, conservation measures. <i>Mrs M Herbert, Sway WI</i></p>	<p>Agree that the focus should be altered (see comments above)</p>
<p>W are LIFE, PROGRESS and LEADER+, how will they ‘provide significant funding opportunities’? Is this an EEC distribution of our own taxes? <i>Alan Alvey, Resident</i></p>	<p>These EU funded projects are described briefly in the full draft of the Community Strategy. The UK and other member states all contribute to the EU budget. <i>(NB As a more general point it may be worth including a glossary in the final document).</i></p>
<p>I worry about the marked reduction in the insect and bird life in the area. Particularly birds that were once ‘common’. <i>Jack Broughton, New Forest Polo Clubs and others</i></p>	<p>There has been a marked decline of many species (bird and butterfly populations are particularly well monitored) across the country. In some cases the reasons are unclear, but for many the loss of suitable habitat and changes in farming practice are the main causes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NFDC is wrong in allowing our meadows to be destroyed by so many grazing horses with stable blocks, menages etc. ■ The New Forest is badly over grazed by horses and cows - this is decimating our wildlife. <p><i>Patrick Webster</i></p>	<p>Planning policies in the Local Plan aim to control recreational horse-keeping, and particularly riding establishments, where these are likely to cause damage to sensitive habitats. English Nature’s view is that the current grazing levels are not causing damage, except in a few specific locations (where action is being taken to encourage a reduction in grazing)</p>

ENVIRONMENT – Natural cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ This section of the Strategy focuses primarily on the landscape of the New Forest at the expense of biodiversity across the whole district. The importance of the natural environment both within and outside the proposed boundary of the National Park needs to be highlighted. Approximately **% of the district is covered by SINC's many of which support priority BAP habitat e.g. Ringwood Forest. The Avon Valley is also of international importance and lies within an ESA. The international importance of the coast also deserves special mention within this section of the Strategy. Whilst much of the coast lies within the National Park boundary, it's management requires additional action totally unrelated to the core habitats of the New Forest. ■ Consideration should be given to the production of a Biodiversity Action Plan for the District. Whilst both the AONB and the National Park will have their own strategies and Management Plans there is still a lot of land outside these designations which require sympathetic management. Much of this land lies around the urban settlements of the district and will be subject to their own pressures and require different actions. The BAP should seek to focus on issues not covered by existing strategies and plans and add value to them. Areas for habitat enhancement should be identified and actions taken to achieve this. ■ The industrial development of the waterside area is a particular issue which deserves consideration within the strategy. The existing impacts resulting from the various industrial developments at Fawley and the potential development of a new port at Dibden Bay require consideration within the strategy. ■ Transport links across the district have also caused habitat fragmentation imposed restrictions on sustainable land management. ■ The additional potential effects of climate change, other than sea-level rise, also need to be considered within this section. <p><i>Jeff Edwards, Hampshire County Council</i></p>	<p>Agree that the variety of habitats and landscapes of the District should be made more explicit in the text and reflected in the actions. The completion of the Cranborne Chase AONB Action Plan and the draft Action Plan for the Strategy for the New Forest makes this easier (see New Forest Committee comments above).</p> <p>Agree that the importance of the whole biodiversity resource should be emphasised (including SINC's). However it should be noted that a relatively small area (some 10%) of the District is outside the AONB / proposed NP (and this is largely covered by urban development).</p> <p>Agree in principle, but there are currently no resources identified for a local BAP. There may be scope for this to be taken forward by a future National Park Authority, perhaps including the additional areas of New Forest District outside the NP boundary.</p> <p>This is included under the more general issue of pressure for built development, which is wider than the Waterside only, and which is primarily addressed through strong planning policies to limit further development.</p> <p>This will be strengthened by National Park designation which (as proposed) will include most of the remaining</p>

ENVIRONMENT – Natural cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Given the New Forest's domination of the District's environment, it is understandable that the Strategy should focus on it - we note that the actions are entirely Forest related. However, there are other aspects of the natural environment of the District that may also be worthy of note in the Strategy. For example, there is the coast, where (amongst other things) NFDC is involved with the preparation of a management plan for the Solent European Marine Sites, and the Avon Valley where NFDC is contributing to a management plan for Blashford Lakes (soon to be the subject of public consultation). There is also the Western Downslands, where the new management plan for the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs AONB (prepared with much local community involvement) could perhaps be mentioned.</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to include in actions for 'Future years' a reference to the role of the LDF in addressing the identified priority issues such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• pressures for built development,• developing sustainable rural economies,• conservation of Forest's special qualities (and those of other areas of countryside and coast), and• raising awareness and understanding. <p>The local plan/LDF also has a role, albeit a limited one, in addressing the needs of commoners, e.g. through the protection of back-up grazing land, seeking to retain redundant agricultural buildings for commoning use, and enabling the development of commoners' dwellings.</p> <p>Consideration may need to be given to the preparation of a local Biodiversity Action Plan; further advice on this is being sought from Hampshire County Council.</p> <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<p>Agree that actions should be expanded (see above)</p> <p>Agree that reference should be made to new planning process/product</p> <p>See comments above</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/PROTECTION

CAN Lead: Doug Wright (Coast),
 Mary Rainbow (Home Energy Conservation),
 Annie Righton (Pollution),
 Roger Sired (Waste Management)

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
Waste	
Page 8 – More sensible to keep ‘Efford Disposal Service’ on present site and only re-site gravel extraction. Most disposal lorries travel east from site! Impress on locals and visitors the ‘Forest First’ means pride in the area and take your litter home! <i>Mr G R Smith, New Forest Cycling Club</i>	Land - fill site will close within about 3 years but household waste recycling centre will remain.
The Strategy could refer to the current HCC initiative to prepare a Materials Resources Strategy, in which issues of waste generation and re-use/recycling are being addressed in considerable depth.	Strongly agree that the current (draft) strategy for waste and recycling needs thorough discussion which should lead to a more sustainable and resource-oriented approach
Pollution	
Priority: P8 - Light and noise are increasing pollutants in the rural areas, we strongly support their inclusion Action: P8 - Add ‘Work with Highways agencies and planning to reduce the amount of light pollution in the Forest from highway and security lighting. <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i>	
Reduce noise levels and smell from Fawley Refinery <i>Alan Alvey, Resident</i>	Environmental Health will be working with the Environment Agency on this issue and assessing its impact on the community
Actions for future years - include extending gas main to all areas (oil burning creates pollution). <i>Cllr Roger Neath, NFDC</i>	Gas burning causes pollution too. Consider instead supporting the introduction of off grid energy use, whether there is mains supply or not.
With regard to pollution, a wider issue of which we have become aware through joint work with the Environment Agency is that of the need to protect aquifers and groundwater from pollution, and the maintenance of a secure water supply. Policy and Plans, NFDC	

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/PROTECTION cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Coast</p> <p>On page 24 of your main report you say that ‘DEFRA will only approve and grant aid coast and flood defence works that have been developed through strategic planning studies and which meet stringent economic, technical and environmental criteria’. This statement is not correct. It would however be appropriate to say: “Defra has policy responsibility for management of flood and coastal erosion risk in England but does not physically build or maintain defences. However, under the Coast Protection Act 1949, Land Drainage Act 1991 and Environment Action 1995, Defra does provide grant to flood and coastal defence operating authorities to assist them with the cost of capital flood and coastal defence projects – the building of new or improved defences, feasibility and design studies into possible works and some high-level investigation studies into coastal processes and for shoreline management plans. Such projects must meet Defra’s technical, economic and environmental criteria and achieve the threshold priority score for the year”. <i>John Horne, DEFRA</i></p>	<p>I think that our wording is a reasonable summary of Defra’s role but to avoid any dispute or confusion I think we should use Defra’s wording without the first sentence, as follows: -</p> <p><i>Under the Coast Protection Act 1949, Land Drainage Act 1991 and Environment Action 1995, Defra provides grant to flood and coastal defence operating authorities to assist them with the cost of capital flood and coastal defence projects – the building of new or improved defences, feasibility and design studies into possible works and some high-level investigation studies into coastal processes and for shoreline management plans. Such projects must meet Defra’s technical, economic and environmental criteria and achieve the threshold priority score for the year.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Under action 1.8- production of Village Flood Plans- this is something that HCC does not do and have no plans to do so as our only statutory responsibility on flooding is in relation to keeping highways open ■ Action 2.3- Again HCC is not responsible for this <i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i> 	<p>1.8 It is correct that HCC has no direct responsibility for producing Village Flood Plans, but the County Emergency Planners took a leading role in producing the template for the Plan, have actively encouraged parishes to produce plans and are collecting together completed plans. Action 1.8 simply tried to reflect HCC’s voluntary role in a useful community initiative. If the HCC strategy group wishes to limit its actions only to those for which it has statutory responsibility, then reference to HCC should be removed from 1.8.</p> <p>2.3 HCC is jointly funding and providing a major input into a new instructional video dealing with all aspects of flooding, including highway flooding. Kevin Fuller is HCC’s lead. Again, it’s not a statutory responsibility for HCC to produce this video but it is designed to be useful to their highway engineers and emergency planning staff when giving presentations on highway flooding and the County’s emergency planning role relating to severe flooding events. However, if the strategy group don’t want to be associated with it then reference to HCC should be removed from 2.3</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY/PROTECTION cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
Home Energy Conservation	
<p>We wholeheartedly support the objective of Home Energy Conservation and we note that NFDC will be working in partnership with SHECANE. As a LASP, we provide the secretariat and website support for SHECANE, and therefore we offer our full support to this endeavour. However we would welcome more specific mention of managing and mitigation of global warming and climate change, which will be critical in addressing the plan's key them of 'prevention is better than cure'. We feel that without some targets and policies towards energy efficiency and carbon saving, preventing climate change and global warming will not be tackled effectively. <i>Annabel Preston, Solent Local Authority Support Trust</i></p>	<p>Agree, (a good source of information if this suggestion is taken up is to found in the national impacts programme's publications, see United Kingdom Climate Change Impact Programme)</p> <p>Agree. (this is why the Council has both policies and targets in place, as required by regulations under the Home Energy Conservation Act, 1995 – guided action to meet targets is supported by staffing and operations budgets also in place)</p>
<p>Action 2.4 refers to partnerships with utility companies to encourage renewable energy schemes - however, these can be promoted by almost anyone, including local communities, so it may be appropriate just to refer to encouraging such schemes. Policy and Plans, NFDC</p>	<p>The council is acting in response to stature when working with utilities to promote renewable energy schemes. It might be more appropriate to add that (whilst we are happy to lead on this) we seek to encourage other partners in promoting renewable energy schemes</p>

HEALTH

CAN Lead: Bob Coates

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Priority: P9 - Health education is missing, most of the expected health issues are due to poor awareness. Action: P9 - Add ' link Healthy life to other areas such as children and young people, life long learning, older people etc. <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	<p>This comment probably relates to the summary document. Health education features explicitly under priorities 1.21, 1.20, 1.23, 1.24, in the main strategy and is integral to many activities in the strategy, e.g. community development</p> <p>The cross - cutting nature of health improvement and health inequalities programmes demonstrates links to other chapters in the community strategy, including education, economy, leisure etc. The health chapter already describes these links, but the summary document has removed any mention.</p> <p>Do you wish to alter the summary document?</p>
<p>We would welcome the inclusion of an objective that addresses fuel poverty, as this is a direct cause of cold-related illnesses and excess winter deaths, particularly in older people who are specified as one of the key priority issues for Health. This issue links with the plan's key theme of 'prevention is better than cure'. We support the key priority issue of Health Inequality since people in deprivation are often in fuel poverty, and therefore cannot afford to heat their homes, leading to the development of cold related illnesses. <i>Annabel Preston, Solent Local Authority Support Trust</i></p>	<p>Fuel poverty is included as priority 1.27 – action in future years, This may have been missed by looking only at the summary document.</p> <p>We have in place an Affordable Warmth Strategy. Actions from this include the development of partnerships to reduce excess winter deaths e.g. Health Through Warmth</p>
<p>Employees and all people over age 80 must have annual check ups. I have a blood disorder allergies etc but no blood test for 2 years. I had to order my GP to look after me. <i>Patrick Webster</i></p>	<p>Access to general practice and chronic disease programmes is dealt with in the local health delivery plan – a NHS strategy for modernisation and the new GP contract. I suggest I refer this issue on to the person leading on this programme of NHS modernisation at the PCT.</p>
<p>Action 2.21 add HCC NF Access Committee to lead. <i>Cllr Roger Neath, NFDC</i></p>	<p>Agree add HCC NF Access committee</p>
<p>Under action 1.6 HCC could play a part in this action through the CYPSP. <i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	<p>Agree add HCC to lead agency</p>
<p>We would ideally like a chapter headed 'social inclusion', and at the very least in the 'Health' chapter an acknowledgement of the link between poverty and ill health. <i>New Forest Citizens Advice Bureaux</i></p>	
<p>Forest Bus leads on gypsy development worker <i>Michael Clowes, Community First</i></p>	<p>Change item 1.8 so the Forest Bus is in a lead position</p>

HEALTH cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Some further clarification of the spatial implications of some of the policies would be helpful, e.g. the land needs of the health agencies, the provision of sport and recreation facilities etc. ■ It seems curious that the encouragement of a healthy lifestyle by provision of accessible sport and recreation facilities is not noted as a priority or an action. ■ The action list seems very long and detailed compared to the action lists for other topics. <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCT community hospital strategy is being developed and consulted on this year, and is required to “fit” around the Lymington hospital PFI scheme which should proceed through the business planning cycle in May/July this year. Final plans are still being agreed, so it is not possible at the time of writing to be very specific about the land needs of health agencies. The wider issue of access to sport and recreation facilities will be considered in the forthcoming obesity and overweight strategy (due late spring/early summer 2004). • Priorities 1.3 (cardiac prevention and treatment) 1.2 (prevention, healthy schools and nutrition programmes including exercise programmes) 1.21 (community healthy heart groups) 2.3 (heart disease management) 2.4 (expand cardiac rehabilitation and exercise referral schemes) 2.8 (development of programmes to tackle obesity and overweight), 2.23 (increase focus on health promotion in areas such as...exercise) all relate to physical activities in different settings. Several of these priorities encourage and in some cases purchase sessions in sport and leisure facilities. Others will promote physical activities in different and largely informal settings. The health chapter does mention exercise and its importance to health. I have not gone into details of different settings for exercise promotion, but then I have not treated the other themes or topics on a settings basis either. • The health chapter is effectively a subset of the New forest Health Strategy. The priorities reflect the 9 different programmes in the health strategy, which is why the list is so long. We could truncate the list of priorities, but this will give a patchy impression of the health strategy, but it would make the strategy format more consistent overall. (Ed. What do you think?)

HOUSING

CAN Lead: Simon Maggs

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>We are concerned that this topic does not offer any objectives towards improving home energy efficiency. Carbon emissions from the domestic sector are now the top contributor to climate change and global warming. The Energy White Paper of February 2003 (Our energy future – creating a low carbon energy) places strong emphasis on energy efficiency and how it will have increasing importance in our future sustainability, and we would welcome specific inclusions into the plan such that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ all new build properties will have a high level of energy efficiency ▪ existing properties will be maintained and improved to a high level of energy efficiency <p>We would also welcome the inclusion of a statement demonstrating support for the development of renewable energy and the use of renewable energy in housing, which links with the objective of creating ‘sustainable communities’.</p> <p><i>Annabel Preston, Solent Local Authority Support Trust</i></p>	<p>Reference is made to the importance of home energy efficiency in the Environmental Quality/Protection chapter – specifically Home Energy Conservation and the Council’s Energy Efficiency and Affordable Warmth Strategy. This should be cross-referenced/mentioned in the Housing Chapter.</p> <p>It is also worth referring to the Council’s Affordable Housing Sustainable Development Framework which sets targets for new development, including energy efficiency. RSLs are encouraged to incorporate innovative features into new schemes, such as water conservation, high levels of insulation and the use of building materials with low-embodied energy. In addition it is a national and regional requirement of affordable housing funding that EcoHomes standards are achieved for new buildings. Standards imposed are often higher than those established by Building Regulations.</p> <p>The decent homes standard for Council properties referred to in the chapter includes requirements to improve energy efficiency e.g. double glazing, insulation, condensing boilers.</p> <p>The responsiveness of the private housing industry to energy efficiency issues (over and above Building Regulations) will be influenced by the market.</p> <p><i>Yes, agree - but the suggestion is not specific, it’s general. In fact the council has specific targets for its own stock of housing and all new build homes are subject toe building Regs – where energy efficiency has been much more emphasised at every change of the Regs in recent years</i></p> <p><i>Agree, that a statement would be useful and perhaps we could mention that small renewable schemes are being installed by the council in its own stock and that the HECA Officer promotes home renewable energy options to residents</i></p>
<p>NFDC is destroying the housing stock by allowing huge extensions and replacement dwellings. <i>Patrick Webster</i></p>	<p>Policies in the District Local Plan restrict the size of replacement dwellings and dwelling extensions in the countryside.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We support the need for affordable housing for key workers in 	<p>The definition of a key worker is established by the Regional</p>

<p>the Housing topic. We suggest that this should be broadened where possible to include practising commoners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FC operates a policy in terms of its own housing stock in the New Forest to give priority to key forest workers and practising commoners. As part of our contribution towards helping to sustain commoning, rents for practising commoner's are subsidised by FC. <p><i>Forestry Commission</i></p>	<p>Housing Board in relation to all schemes that are financially supported by them. This will be the majority of schemes. Where scheme are financially supported by the local authority, or where there is no public subsidy, there is the scope to develop a local definition. One of the targets of the draft Community Strategy is to develop a Key Worker Housing Strategy. This will involve developing a local definition. The needs of commoners can be taken into account in relation to this.</p> <p>The specific actions being taken by the FC are worthy of mention. They demonstrate to other employers the need to be pro-active in helping resolve accommodation problems being experienced by their staff.</p>
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HOUSING cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Increasing the supply of land available for affordable housing can only be detrimental to the conservation of the area. <i>Alan Snook, New Forest Bird Group</i></p>	<p>Affordable housing provision is part of, not additional to, the overall provision which is made for new housing development within the District. Where new housing development is permitted, the objective is to maximise the provision of affordable homes that will meet the needs of local people who cannot afford to buy or rent in the local housing market.</p>
<p>Lack of affordable housing is recognised as a key necessity but while the rate of building of costly flats and houses is so high, particularly in New Milton and Lymington, the imbalance remains considerable and there are many problems which are caused by the enormous increase in population and traffic. <i>Alison Bolton, Lymington Society</i></p>	<p>In making decisions on planning applications the Council considers any negative impacts that new development may have and weighs up the considerations before making a decision.</p>
<p>You need to be a bit more specific about key groups. Where are all the nurses going to live if they can't afford a house. Commoners are key workers – don't forget that please. <i>Richard Manley, New Forest Commoners Defence Association</i></p>	<p>One of the targets of the draft Community Strategy is to develop a Key Worker Housing Strategy. The needs of nurses, commoners and other groups will be taken into account in relation to this. It will be important to balance the relative need for accommodation for key workers with the needs of other groups who are unable to afford accommodation.</p>
<p>Local plan/LDF - Actions could include a reference to the role of the local plan/ LDF in ensuring the provision of an appropriate range of dwelling types and sizes (including small dwellings). <i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<p>An appropriate reference will be added.</p>

LEISURE

CAN Lead: Martin Devine

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Only deals with physical activity. What about developing minds, confidence, sense of place and broadening horizons. MUST mention arts and heritage provision in area and use of countryside by community (as well as tourists). <i>Steve Marshal, St Barbe Museum</i></p>	<p>No change: The text of the “Current Position” is worded to apply to all forms of leisure activity. To specifically mention all strands would be too long and purely a list. As for priorities, it was not raised as such at any point in the development of the Strategy. But of course there is no reason why Actions 1.1 /1.6 or 2.3/2.8 cant have an arts outcome. Countryside – see below</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Informal leisure/recreation appears to be a significant omission from the document. The current leisure topic appears to concentrate more on formal leisure facilities or cycling. The District area is blessed with an enormous suite of informal leisure resource ranging from permissive access; freedom of access on foot across the 26,700 ha of Crown lands, and an impressive public rights of way network with the wider Heritage Area. ■ FC would be happy to offer its programme of walks forward as an action that may contribute towards either the Leisure or Health actions. In 2004 we are running some 60 walks as part of our wider ‘What’s On’ events programme. ■ Suggest leisure priorities needs to reflect the role of informal leisure facilities/land. <p><i>Forestry Commission</i></p>	<p>Addition: The sheer scale of the activity should warrant a mention. Suggest a text reference at the end of the first para under “Current Position”: “The District area is blessed with an enormous suite of informal leisure resource ranging from permissive access; freedom of access on foot across the 26,700 ha of Crown lands, and an impressive public rights of way network with the wider Heritage Area.”</p> <p>No change: There was no demand in the development process for this to be a priority. The actions are about developing programmes – there could be lots of lists of activities from all providers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provision of leisure facilities for older people is not included in the key priority issues. ■ Current Government guidance in PPG17 suggests a need for a complete assessment of recreational provision (all facilities, not just open space) and the needs of local communities. This will have to be reflected in the LDF at some point, and it may be appropriate to refer to this in the Strategy. It will also have to examine the role of commercial leisure and entertainment facilities which so far are not addressed in the Strategy. ■ Might encouragement of cultural activities be included in the remit of the Strategy? <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<p>No change : Because it was not regarded as such. Perhaps the lack of development of the Older Persons framework is a factor and the profile will rise in future iterations.</p> <p>No change: The strength of the current actions is that they are about implementation. Meeting the needs of PPG 17 is important but a “once removed” action.</p> <p>See first box above.</p>

LEISURE cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Priority: P11 - Provision of Leisure facilities for unorganised activity is also important Action: P11 – Add ‘Examine role of leisure provision for reducing boredom and hence crime and premature death.’ <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	<p>Informal recreation is covered in the comment above. No change : There are many benefits and influences arising from participation and a significant list of positive benefits are already in the text.</p>
<p>Greater emphasis on ‘informal recreation’: The range of opportunities for informal recreation in the area clearly makes a major contribution to the quality of life of local people, and also raises important issues relating to recreation management. The latter is addressed to some extent in the natural environment topic. However the level of community interest in informal recreation, and the emphasis given to it in the Local Plan, warrants its inclusion as a key element in the Leisure topic. <i>Nick Evans, New Forest Committee</i></p>	<p>See comment in FC section</p>
<p>Additional priorities and actions required to reflect services offered in the area through partnerships with other organisation – visual arts, performing arts, heritage etc. <i>Steve Marshall, St Barbe Museum</i></p>	<p>See first comment.</p>
<p>Providing better access – add initiative HCC quiet lanes and road closure projects. Action 1.6 – concentrate on rural areas Action 1.8 – add Forestry Commission as lead agency Action 1.10 – include using existing funding for wheelchair access. <i>Cllr Roger Neath, NFDC</i></p>	<p>No change: Specifically where these take place is a matter of needs assessment and the practicalities of provision. There is no generic priority for rural areas. No change: HCC is the best lead as they oversee the whole structure plus, in effect the network on FC managed land is already there in full. Only HCC has the issue of route creation. No change: .A matter for NFALC to consider in the detail of their action.</p>
<p>Under action 1.3 this is something that HCC is already doing Can you clarify what 1.8 means <i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	<p>No change: Agreed but this is about re-inforcing the LSP commitment to the process and to provide for that monitoring and feedback. Amend: Perhaps a rewording would be clearer: “Within the overall strategic framework, produce and implement a programme of identified works and establish a mechanism to address issues which include: information provision, wardening and the provision of support facilities”.</p>

LEISURE cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>There is little mention of the role of ‘arts’ in the main document and none in the summary document. There are numerous agencies and partners currently receiving funding from NFDC that address many of the objectives and actions. We can help. Just a request! <i>Fiona Burn, Forest Arts Centre</i></p>	<p>No change: See earlier comments. There are very few specific references to forms of provision – the text aims to embrace all forms of delivery.</p>
<p>Yes, we want access to our Blashford Lakes and the River Avon. <i>Patrick Webster</i></p>	<p>No change. Agree the sentiment. A known project and there is multi agency work there. Not an issue picked up across responses though.</p>
<p>You ignore completely informal recreation which are widely followed by many thousands of the residents of the forest. I am talking about walking, cycling, horse riding, shooting etc. Most cost very little far less than attending recreation centres. <i>Col Peter Sweet</i></p>	<p>Text added to “Current Position” – see comments above.</p>
<p>Increase the focus on appropriate informal recreation on the open forest. Section 6 natural environment does not give adequate attention ‘life’ projects are limited, and ‘progress’ project needs to be accelerated or stronger management actions put in place until the study is complete. <i>John Wingham, Brockenhurst Parish Council</i></p>	<p>General theme is in the text– see above. The specific need for action was not shared by others in the development of the strategy – perhaps because there is so much attention already being given to this subject.</p>

LIFELONG LEARNING

CAN Lead: Derek Mather/Felicity Roe

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Does it include libraries? If so would like to see increased opening hours, particularly Saturday pm in Ringwood. If you work there are very limited times when you can visit it! le Sat am! <i>Mrs I Weeks</i></p>	
<p>Action: P12 - Add 'Extend the range of non-vocational activities available through school and college sites, especially for older people. <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	
<p>Encourage schools to communicate and interact with their communities rather than be too isolated and inward looking. Enhance delivery of curriculum through partnership with arts, heritage and conservation organisations across the New Forest. The knowledge and skills exist – get the schools and adult learners to make the most of them. <i>Steve Marshall, St Barbe Museum</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consideration could be given to including a commitment to support local schools' bids in seeking specialist college/school status, which attracts significant additional educational funds into the District. ■ The Strategy refers to collaboration between schools and further education establishments, and between both these and the business community. It might be helpful to refer more explicitly to adult training, skills retraining, apprenticeships etc, and (in line with the reference to cerebral stimulation in Action 2.4 of Section i) to meeting the educational needs of elderly people. <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	

OLDER PEOPLE

CAN Lead: Behrooz Vaezi

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Priority: P13 - As there is considerable evidence that an active life is a healthier one there should be a priority for increasing the range and opportunity to participate in healthy leisure or learning activities Action: P13 - Add 'improve the opportunity for older people to be more involved in leisure activity and learning. <i>Mr and Mrs M Parslow</i></p>	<p>This refers to the Page 13 of the Summary document distributed for consultation. It is a valid comment. However, it would be more appropriate to include this in the full document, under Theme 1) for 2004/05 as Action 1.2 (change numbers of the following actions accordingly) to read as:</p> <p>“To improve the opportunities for older people to be more involved in leisure and learning activities”. The Lead Agencies would be: NFDC, HCC, NFPCT</p> <p>It would be useful also if this was also indicated under Section (g) – Leisure.</p>
<p>We would welcome specific inclusion of an attempt to address fuel poverty in older people, as this is a direct cause of cold-related illnesses and excess winter deaths. The excess winter death rate in New Forest is 23% more deaths than in the summer, whereas the average for England is only 19.5%. Disseminating information about government grants could come under the Older People key priority issue of 'information, publicity and access' and link with the plan's key theme of 'providing better access'. The issue has a strong link to the topic area of health, and links again with the plan's key theme of 'prevention is better than cure'. <i>Annabel Preston, Solent Local Authority Support Trust</i></p>	<p>This could be addressed under Theme 1&2 – as relevant to access and prevention – recommend wording as:</p> <p>“Continue to improve arrangements for combating poverty through access to relevant benefits and services”. The Lead agencies are: HCC, NFDC, Voluntary Sector, NFPCT</p> <p>Agree. Each year the HECA Officer targets a range of activities at older people and partnerships have been formed with Help the Aged, Age Concern and the Work and Pensions Agency</p>
<p>Nursing home fees are far to high - more help must be given. <i>Patrick Webster</i></p>	<p>See below as it is directly linked to Capacity / Provision in the area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An acknowledgement in this section that the housing needs of older people are addressed elsewhere in the Strategy may be helpful. ▪ There appears to be no specific reference to care homes, although it may be considered that this is covered by Action 2.2. ▪ Access for elderly people to services and facilities is an issue, but it may be considered that this covered under 'Health' (e.g. Actions 2.12 and 2.22 in Section e) - in which case a cross reference might be appropriate. <p><i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i></p>	<p>The first two points could be encapsulated under existing Theme 2), by amending 2.1 as: “Provide support for older people in their home where appropriate to help maintain independence.” – Lead Agencies: HCC, NFDC, NFPCT.</p> <p>AND by amending 2.2 as: “Improve provision of a range of affordable housing and residential care provision for older people.” – Lead Agencies: NFDC.</p>

OLDER PEOPLE cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Suggest rewording of both actions 1.1 and 2.4 (stopping smoking) <i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	<p>1.1 Amend to read as: “Ensure People are not discriminated against on the grounds of their age when accessing services”. 2.4 Amend by adding “not” before “smoking”.</p>
<p>Very little in way of action plan for this large percentage of the population. <i>Hythe and Dibden Parish Council</i></p>	<p>This comment seems to assume that actions by HCCSSD, NFDC, NFPCT & relevant Voluntary groups are limited to those outlined on page 13 of the summary distributed for the consultation purpose.</p> <p>To help with clarifying this it would be helpful to amend Paragraph 4 on page 45 (of the full document), to start as:</p> <p>“All statutory and Voluntary agencies continue to provide a significant level of services designated for ‘older’ residents of New Forest. These services are subject to ongoing reviews taking into account the changing needs of the local population. Hampshire Social Services and New Forest Primary Care Trust continue to develop strategies that share”.</p>

TOURISM

CAN Lead: Martin Devine/Anthony Climpson

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
Tourism topic appears underweight despite its enormous economic importance. Perhaps some other topics need sliming down! <i>Forestry Commission</i>	An issue, but perhaps something to aim for in future years. Will look for opportunities to include anything of significance in the Tourism chapter that currently is not included.
Areas that could be included under Key Priorities: Against visitor - Increase awareness of the ecological importance of the New Forest, so that visitors value the Forest and treat it respectfully. Against Industry - To continually improve quality of tourism product Against Environment - To engage in sustainable tourism, supporting initiatives in sourcing local produce and supporting local craft industries. And lastly, to support and develop initiatives to increase accessibility (accessibility in the context of disabled people and indeed all visitors and local people that will benefit from increased accessibility). <i>Andrew Reid, TSE</i>	These are matters of detail that are all being picked up in the work being done on tourism. It is a question of whether such detail belongs in the Community Strategy. We feel the strategy is aimed at the higher level and that it is underpinned by many actions and activities that make a contribution towards the objectives and vision. Recommend no change.
There are links that could be made here with transport, life-long learning/ leisure and cultural facilities - also housing issues, e.g. impact of holiday/ second homes on housing affordability and supply, and the economy, e.g. in terms of benefits that might be generated for local communities. <i>Policy and Plans, NFDC</i>	As above.
Try to limit number and educate visitors to the special qualities of the New Forest. <i>Alan Snook, New Forest Bird Group</i>	As above
Priority issues – visitor emphasis should be on quality. Action 1.4 – get the basics right with LA21 Tourism kit New action – Something around CROW Act HCC to lead. As New Forest is likely to be National Park HCC NF Access Committee will become the NF National Park Access Committee. <i>Cllr Roger Neath, NFDC</i>	As above
There is talk of partnerships etc and the ‘visitor’ is put on the list with the ‘environment’ last. This council considers that to start the debate on how to manage tourism the ‘environment’ should be first. <i>VA Marlow, Hale Parish Council</i>	As above

TOURISM cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>I disagree with National Park status and a large increase in tourism or the residents. The increase in traffic already, due to new building in Fordingbridge, for example, is already making life less pleasant – an emphasis on tourism would only make that worse and could endanger the natural environment. <i>J F M Dodgson</i></p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Access to information and education is generally good, but will need to keep pace with advancement and competing areas. Open access to the countryside and heritage area in particular needs to be carefully managed. The forest is not about a cheap camping weekend or day out driving around in your car. Tourist education is urgently needed to promote the need for protection of the environment.</p> <p>However greater emphasis needs to be given to the promotion of sustainable business. Such action needs to be given to the tourism business in the heritage area where it can create a degree of uniqueness to will create a marketable and sustainable business advantage.</p> <p><i>John Wingham, Brockenhurst Parish Council</i></p>	<p>As above.</p>

TRANSPORT

CAN Lead: Nick Hunt

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
<p>Action is urgently needed to reduce traffic on our roads. Along with the noise pollution. We must cut down on light pollution from towns and security lights. <i>Patrick Webster</i></p>	
<p>Implication in example actions suggest more developer encroachment on the area, road safety is not a bargaining tool. <i>Alan Snook, New Forest Bird Group</i></p>	
<p>The Strategy aims to reduce traffic but the ability of the roads to cope with existing traffic, particularly on the routes to and from the south of the Forest, is already inadequate yet hundreds more houses are already planned for this area. It is unrealistic to think they will not increase the traffic. <i>Alison Bolton, Lymington Society</i></p>	
<p>You have failed to include walking as a means of transport. Further more, you have ignored the fact that pavements and footpaths require maintenance. For short distances, walking is an alternative to the private car, but you do need to facilitate walking by improving footpaths and pavements. <i>Monica Collins</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The funding needs to be identified for and research conducted into the demand for additional bus services that are aspired to. ▪ In relation to action 1.11 the expectation is that the NW Cango will offer something new and not just an existing service in different clothing ▪ In relation to action 1.12: informal discussions have been held about extending real time information into Wilts and Dorest's Hampshire operations (eg in relation to services in Ringwood) but any proposals would have to compete for resources with schemes in other parts of the County. ▪ Define what demand management is in relation to 2.2, 2.6 and 2.8 ▪ As a 2004/05 action there should be mention of the Pony Express service which will offer tourist type trips through the forest (Lyndhurst- Beaulieu- Lymington- Brockenhurst) daily from April. This will be operated by SBL and will include facilities to carry cycles. ▪ Suggest that transport is extended to look at accessibility in its wider sense. <p><i>HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group</i></p>	

TRANSPORT cont

Comments Received	Comments/Recommendations of CAT/CANs
No car parking charges for residents. <i>Robert Giddings, Netley Marsh PC</i>	
I would consider that restriction of parking in order to try to force people onto public and other forms of transport would be unlikely to achieve the desired effect and would achieve a negative effect - i.e. that of pushing people to park on public areas causing problems (as with the restriction at Brock college). I wonder if any research has been done to show this would be an effective policy? <i>Desmond Waight</i>	

Q5 Quality of Life Measures

Do you think all the measures listed in the main document are useful in measuring the impact of the Partnership and the community strategy?

Yes	22	= 69%
No	10	= 31%

If 'no' what changes would you make?

Councillor Colin Wise, NFDC

There is no selection of key indicators which means all are of equal importance when patently they are not.

Comments of CAT – The idea is to have a menu to draw from, using data that is already collected but not necessarily currently shared.

Col Peter Sweet, Practising Commoner

No to leisure - You mention nothing under leisure (Q). Do not forget informal recreation this time. It is by far the most practiced.

Comments of CAT – Leisure related QoL Measures will be an area for consideration by the Leisure CAN.

Nick Evans, New Forest Committee

Quality of Life Measures:

The indicators for the environment topics require some further thought and refinement, making sure it is clear what they are designed to measure. It is suggested that there is discussion between relevant officers during the consultation period to identify the most appropriate and practical indicators for the environment topics and ensure compatibility with the headline indicators in the Strategy for the New Forest.

Comments of CAT – Close liaison continues between the two strategies in order to develop QoL Measures that are useful for both the proposed National Park and the District.

RECOMMENDED -Link all QoL Measures to the priorities identified in the Strategy.

NRG Clarke, Ringwood Town Council

As long as the measures are many and not measured in absolute and relative terms, not much will be achieved. That assumes that the quantified measures actually value something of benefit to the populace as distinct from what they say – observe their actions.

Comments of CAT – Important to show the links to the priorities as stated above.

Steve Marshall, St Barbe Museum

It is difficult to measure quality with only quantitative PI's! There should be some qualitative measures included if real impact on people's lives is going to be reflected.

Comments of CAT – Some of the survey QoL Measures are qualitative. Need to consider others as the strategy develops in future years.

Rob Waring, Environment Agency

Again, there may not be sufficient actions to deliver all measures (eg no actions for delivering measure 29).

Comments of CAT – Important to show the link to priorities as stated above.

Sue Morse, Youth Offending Team

Community Safety - There could be a measure in relation to a reduction in the number of young people involved in crime/anti social behaviour.

Comments of Community Safety CAN -

Cllr Roger Neath, NFDC

Quality of life indicators re forest friendly farming – numbers signed up?

Comments of Economy CAN -

Alan Alvey, Resident

It seems to me that there will need to be a massive increase in surveys, in polling peoples opinions. Who is going to pay for all this? I did not see any measure such as 'reduction in council charges', 'improved postal deliveries'. Did not understand no 36, 37a, 37b. What point is being made, or measured?

Comments of CAT – Surveys are an important part of understanding the needs of communities in order to help target resources better. Transport CAN to consider clarity of QoL measures referred to.

Louise Jackson, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

We are surprised that the GOSE/SEEDA/SEERA agreed targets in the regional sustainable development framework have not been used.

Comments of CAT – Draft list is one agreed across Hampshire so that each District can compare its own “performance” with another. GOSE/SEEDA/SEERA targets considered as part of the Hampshire exercise.

Richard Manley, New Forest Commoners Defence Association

There are huge differences between this and the blue print for the National Park – NF committees strategy report - which is a worry as you are key members!

Comments of CAT – The two strategies are different but are designed to work together. Specific work currently taking place on developing QoL Measures that meet the needs of both the proposed National Park and the District.

Forestry Commission

- Too many, it would be helpful to focus on selected measures. Can they all be measured? By whom? Are resources available to monitor them?
- Housing – possible to measure number of properties let/available to key works and practising commoners?
- Area of land freely available for informal leisure use by community (leisure).
- Suggest delete environment natural indicators 38.2, 38.4 and unless resourced 38.5. Suggest 38.1 and 38.3 are valid.

Comments of CAT – some being checked with specific agencies that had not responded to the consultation. Discussions being held re the Natural Environment QoL Measures. Housing & Leisure CANs to consider specific comments.

Mr and Mrs M Parslow

- Actually it is more that many of the measures are wholly or mainly outside the agencies control
- e.g. 8 'Children under 16 who live in low income households' – more a function of government policy, marital instability and market forces
- 15a '% of residents who feel safe' – more a function of the Media, than anything this partnership can do
- While other measures that might indicate progress are missing
- e.g. Proportion of Children under 16 who live in low income households, not receiving additional support
- or Number of women needing refuge places compared to available places
- There is no light pollution measure, there should be one for light spill from highways and one for general house lighting – see for example the odpm website for good practice.
- There are no Quality of Health measures
- We note that lifelong learning apparently ends at 60! There should be a measure of reach of non-vocational provision
- Some just need better definition

e.g.

- 33b New housing for old – surely there are areas in the District where an increase in this measure could be good, and others where it will be a bad indicator (rural villages)
- 37a,b The best measure surely is the proportion **walking** to school

Finally while I like many of the community measures, it appears there is no corresponding section outlining the facts, Priorities or action plans for this aspect of our lives.

Comments of CAT – Referred to appropriate CANs

Hythe and Dibden Parish Council

Economy

- Needs assessment of number of business failures/start up/bankruptcies per annum.
- An assessment of high street rentals would provide a useful comparison of the value of shopping centres with national figures.

Comments of Economy CAN -

Jack Broughton, New Forest Polo Clubs and others

Document well thought out, just hope it can be implemented.

Comments of CAT – no comment

Laurence Baughan, New Forest Business Partnership

For economy, changes in the absolute and relative levels of weekly earnings are key indicators and should be included. As also should a GDP figure at District level.

Comments of Economy CAN -

Robert Giddings, Netley Marsh PC

Investigate why Netley Marsh PC has the highest deprived states in the District.

Comments of CAT – Point relates to the Indices of Social Deprivation.

John Wingham, Brockenhurst Parish Council

Yes, a good plan overall, but potentially there could be too many monitoring indicators to manage/resource. Perhaps some thought could be given to slimming these down without loss of value.

Comments of CAT – Part of the current discussions but aware that most if not all these are currently being collected and that it is part of a wider Hampshire initiative.

Q6 The Partnership

Do you feel the Changing Lives Partnership is going to add value?

Yes	24	= 80%
No	6	= 20%

Do you feel the Partnership is appropriately named?

Yes	20	= 71%
No	8	= 29%

General comments

Mr and Mrs M Parslow

Q6

- a Actually I am not convinced that repackaging many of the things that are already agreed by the individual providers as actions does anything to improve either delivery or value. There are too many actions outstanding from the 1998 Report, to give a great deal of confidence that this rebranding will deliver, even at additional cost.
- b Depends critically on whether these actions perceivably change lives in the District and whether that change is for the better. Many of the partners appear to be changing local lives for the worse, and this will tarnish the reputation of those that are not.

e.g.

FC - Closure of Forest car parks, failure to make up tracks

Constabulary - Withdrawal of police officers to urban sites, more reliance on high, but not that relevant technology (call centres that need a street name and number for the Forest!)

HCC/Market - Closure of rural facilities such as post offices, use of urban buses on rural roads, failure to repair rural roads,

NF management - Loss of commoners and their stock

Health authorities - Changes in GP and Hospital provision rumoured to take away local emergency cases from Odstock and rely on Southampton. Changes in appointments system designed to give faster appointments can lead to more waiting.

We would also suggest revisiting the 1998 report and reviewing where actions had achieved targets and where they are still needed – e.g. whatever happened to the Domestic Violence Forum if we still have too few refuge places?

Comments of CAT – the 1998 report referred to is the State of the Environment Report issued by NFDC. This provided some of the base line information from which to measure progress. An assessment of the actions contained in the SOE Report will take place. RECOMMENDED that the Community Strategy makes the connection with the SOE Report as part of the Quality of Life Measures section.

Andrew Reid, TSE

We found it an interesting document that covers a very broad range of issues that quite rightly interact and impact on Community issues across the New Forest. With regard to the Tourism chapter we have a few comments on areas that could be included within the Community Strategy if you feel they are appropriate or if not covered in other New Forest strategies.

Comments of CAT – no comment

Alison Bolton, Lymington Society

In view of the New Forest District having the second largest population in the country for a non metropolitan district (in spite of the oasis of the crown lands and commons) it appears that more drastic policies may be needed. It is felt that the link between housing, traffic, economy and natural environment has not been co-ordinated.

Comments of CAT – efforts will be made to demonstrate the linkages in the final document. The interaction between the CANs and with the CAT should improve each year and this might be strengthened by the CAN leads working together as part of the overall process. CAT will consider how best to achieve this.

Nick Evans, New Forest Committee

The Committee would like to congratulate the New Forest District LSP on their work in producing the draft, which brings together a great deal of detailed material in a coherent way. They were also pleased to note that many of the comments made by the Committee in response to the draft Issues Paper had been incorporated into the current document.

Relationship with the Strategy for the New Forest:

The Committee noted that the links between the Community Strategy and the Strategy for the New Forest had been considerably strengthened over the past year, and emphasised the need for continued close working, bringing the two processes together wherever possible.

The special character of the District:

The text on page 7 should bring out more clearly the elements which give the area its particular character in the context of South East England, including greater emphasis on the diversity and quality of its landscapes, extent of wildlife habitats, history, culture, coastline and opportunities for recreation. In addition the description of the pressures on the environment could be brought out more strongly by the inclusion of relevant facts and figures, in a similar way to the social well-being issues.

Technical terms and projects:

Every effort should be made to take a user-friendly approach and make sure the final document is jargon-free and easily understood by all interested parties. Particular projects or initiatives, where these are not well known, should be explained briefly either in the topic introduction or within the text of the relevant action.

Ensuring the Strategy meets the needs of rural communities:

More than 80% of the land area of the District is rural, and the rural communities have real concerns about a number of quality of life issues, including the quality of the local environment, hidden poverty and social deprivation. Rural proofing of the Community Strategy would ensure that the actions adequately reflect the needs of those living in the rural areas, particularly for the topics of Economy, Built Environment, Health, Housing and Transport. In addition the current consultation should be used to clarify the priorities of communities throughout the District.

RECOMMENDATION of CAT – agree comments re Strategy for the New Forest & Technical Terms and Projects. The issues re rural proofing and individual community priorities are areas for future development.

New Forest Citizens Advice Bureaux

Whilst the 'Introduction to the Community Strategy' has many commendable ideas and phrases to support the inclusion of such a concept, they are completely missing in the summary.

We would also like to see an acknowledgement of the Council's commitment to welcoming and valuing diversity, and being supportive to those whose quality of life is, for whatever reason and whether long or short term, less good.

Comments of CAT – The summary doesn't attempt to cover all aspects. The issue re the Council's commitment isn't appropriate as it is one body on the Partnership. RECOMMENDED - include the Partnership's commitment to welcoming and valuing diversity as set out above in the final Strategy.

Policy and Plans, NFDC

Linkages

With such a diversity of source information, we fully appreciate the difficulties of arriving at a document structure that satisfies everyone. However, we wonder if some further linkages could be drawn, for example between

- health (of children and older people) and the provision of leisure facilities
- the economy and tourism
- tourism and leisure
- tourism and housing (holiday homes, second homes)
- older people and access to services and facilities

etc (see comments on Strategy sections below).

Local Development Framework (LDF)

Work arising from the forthcoming Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act is mentioned only once in the Strategy in connection with the built environment. However, planning already covers a wide range of subject matter including for example housing, the economy, leisure, tourism etc etc. It is the Government's stated intention that the new LDFs will encompass an even wider range of subjects - indeed, anything that has a 'spatial' dimension. The role that the LDF is to play in relation to the Community Strategy therefore needs to be explored further in the Strategy (see also comments on Strategy sections below).

New Forest National Park

Designation of the National Park appears to be imminent, and is likely to have significant implications for management of the Forest, land use planning, aspects of local culture (e.g. commoning), tourism etc. These are not explored in the Community Strategy. If it is considered that the New Forest Committee's Strategy for the New Forest does this already, then it maybe appropriate to refer to this document and acknowledge the work of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION of CAT – strengthen linkages in the document (as previously stated), include appropriate references to LDF and the National Park in the document.

Councillor Colin Wise, NFDC

Although I agree I found it disappointing that there is not a more balanced involvement across the partners as lead agencies. This was particularly noticeable for community safety which one would have thought the police would feature somewhere.

Comments of CAT – all actions are partnership actions involving more than one agency. The lead agency concept is to be clear about where the onus lies to make sure the action is delivered.

Col Peter Sweet, Practising Commoner

Though I agree in general with your vision, themes, objectives and priorities I find the two documents do not reflect the New Forest I've known for 80+ yrs. In para 4 of the main document you call a very special district. I agree. But the document is slanted at 83% of the population, ignoring three quarters of the area of the district. and the 17% of us who live in it. My comment is that you, as is also inferred in the NFD community strategy regard the forest as an 'urban' district which it is not. Countryside stewardship schemes are only allowed in rural areas. How many people youngish earn the £30,000 necessary to buy a first home. The verderers now offer £29,000 to the officer to manage the countryside scheme where is he going to live.

Comments of CAT – the strategy is not an urban strategy and it doesn't describe the district as urban. It is designed to work with the Strategy for the New Forest as previously stated. It is important that the actions are geared to improving the life of all people. As 83% of people live outside of the Forest area, many actions will indeed benefit them.

Rob Waring, Environment Agency

Perhaps the number of priorities for each topic area should be lower – this will help deciding action.

For the actions, do they fully reflect other key strategies by other key organisations and partnership within the New Forest, particularly the New Forest Strategy.

Are you happy that there are sufficient actions to fully deliver all priorities – for example there do not appear to be any water quality actions to tackle pollution. Such actions do appear within other strategies covering the New Forest already.

Comments of CAT – the number of actions will be an issue to consider following the experience of the first year of the Strategy. All actions should fit in with existing strategies as the initial list of priorities came from partners strategies. RECOMMENDED - An assessment of which priorities have not received any actions should take place each year with a view to making a contribution towards each priority over a period of 3 years.

Louise Jackson, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

- We consider that under the built environment, access to robust, open spaces should be included. We were surprised to see that need to justify the cost of EIA was included.
- Some priorities are ambiguous.
- We disagree with the actions identified as they are already existing actions associated with other projects.
- The community strategy should initiate new initiatives. These should be ambitious and forward thinking.
- Unclear what is meant by 38.4 of main document.

Comments of CAT – first comment referred to Built Environment Leads. The Strategy's actions are a mixture of new actions and existing actions. It is hoped that where they are existing the actions should be delivered better by using the LSP infrastructure, in particular the CANs. Not clear what is meant by the last comment – not aware of a reference as quoted.

Keith Gray, Freightliner Ltd

Having read both the summary and main documents in detail, I believe that too many of the actions are either - too wide ranging, not focused or unable to measure. This may be the next stage, if so I apologise. However, to be successful, you must determine a person within the agency, give them a measurement, the tools, a target to achieve and a timeframe.

Comments of CAT – most of the published actions have behind them more specific actions which came through in the detailed pro -forma from the CANs. The CANs will need to use these as part of their delivery and monitoring roles.

Forestry Commission

- There is potential for actions to deliver across topic areas and some cross-referencing to indicate these might be helpful and demonstrate benefits of LSP.
- This interlinking is cited as a strength of the strategy (page 5), but this needs to be more obvious in action plans for each topic.

Comments of CAT – previously agreed.

HCC Corporate Community Strategy Group

- We welcome the Strategy and congratulate you on a comprehensive and detailed document, which will help significantly in moving the work forward.
- The actions in the draft seem to be activities that are already underway or planned by the partners, there doesn't seem to be a great deal of 'value added' or cross cutting activity. How is the LSP going to deliver these actions in a cross cutting way?
- There is an absence of natural resources references in the document, need to link opportunities via crime and reduction in abandoned vehicles and their reuse as per the Gosport project which has been very successful and is intended to be rolled out countywide.
- In employment theme there is nothing about job opportunities via the need to recover more material by law on waste, it is parochial and does not give HCC any role at all.
- There is a big issue on domestic waste to do it substantially better and on commercial waste to offer services to SMEs and then to provide for the recovery facilities and new jobs.
- With regard to the feedback form when you are asking people if they agree with the vision, etc how are you proposing to respond if people don't agree?
- Suggest to include references to back up the statistics on page 7 and in the topic chapters of the document
- The format of presenting the actions is quite complicated to understand in terms of linking it with the two themes and the key priority areas, with no explanation of how they all fit together.
- The Summary of the Community Strategy is very good but it still has some technical jargon included

Comments of CAT – emphasis is on doing things better rather than doing better things. CANs and CAT should help deliver more cross cutting solutions as their integrated working evolves. Specifics referred to respective CANs. RECOMMENDED – include references to back up statistics, include better explanation about themes and their link to priority areas, remove all technical jargon in any summary published.

VA Marlow, Hale Parish Council

- This is a detailed and optimistic strategy of which the principles are to be applauded.
- If it is implemented, as planned, it should be good for the new forest community.
- It will be costly and time consuming to bring all the topics to fruition. Some of the objectives must be vast projects with immense detail when broken down. Where will the finance and labour come from to organise the implementation of the aims in the document? To fulfil 60-70% of the aims in the next ten years is ambitious.
- The council hopes very much that all that is in the document is achievable.

Comments of CAT – it is about using existing resources better as well as using the Changing Lives Partnership to attract new resources where those opportunities arise.

NRG Clarke, Ringwood Town Council

You asked for a yes/no decision on: -

30 objectives, many of which are major topic areas in their own right – economy, health, housing etc
90 priorities all of which appear to be of similar value!

The whole section is totally flawed by the 'shotgun' approach to approval; how can a judgement, in part or whole, be made on such a disparate set of priorities?

Comments of CAT – the large number of objectives and actions reflect the size and diversity of the District as well as all the potential areas for improvement. The priorities have come out of a process that has enabled a fair amount of input from a wide variety of people.

Simon Maggs, New Forest Housing Strategy Board

More thought needs to be given to developing linkages between various topic areas and identifying common themes that cut across topic areas. This is an issue for the document and for the process by which the issues are taken forward. These linkages are important so there is a coherence to the strategy that demonstrates the chapters have not been written in isolation from each other. The LSP/CAT should be influential in developing cross-cutting themes, particularly where this may require a re-alignment of organisational priorities/resources.

Comments of CAT – part of the future development. The two themes are designed to achieve some common focus across each topic but more could be done to co-ordinate the whole process.

John Wingham, Brockenhurst Parish Council

Actions - To give the strategy the wide confidence of the community there must be greater reference to funding and how the strategy will be converted into a series of costed and hence achievable plans. It is especially noticeable that actions planned for delivery in the current year 2004/05 do not have any reference to funds

Comments of CAT – All actions are deliverable. Many were already programmed into budgets and work programmes. The Partnership should bring about better delivery of these actions. Those that were not previously programmed have been through a process that has identified ways of delivery within existing resources.