

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

THE FUTURE OF CHARNWOOD FOREST

Monday 25th June 2007
NSPCC Training Centre, Beaumont Leys

INTRODUCTION

The Draft East Midlands Regional Plan recognises the need for measures to protect and enhance the particular character of Charnwood Forest, potentially through a 'Regional Park' initiative. The aim of this half-day conference, organised by Leicestershire County Council, was to seek the views of organisations with local interests on possible options for the future of this distinctive area.

The conference was chaired by County Councillor Ernie White, the County Council's Cabinet Lead Member for Community Services. The presentations were as follows :

Charnwood Forest - a planning history

Heather Broughton, Head of Environment & Heritage Services, LCC

Why Charnwood Forest is important

Tony Squires, landscape historian

Pressures on Charnwood Forest

Lonek Wojtulewicz, Group Manager (Planning), LCC
and Julia Hawley, Senior Rural Business Consultant, ADAS

Charnwood Forest – options for the future

Geoff Sansome, Regional Director (East Midlands), Natural England

There were also two question sessions and a workshop session.

DELEGATE LIST

Julia Hawley - Speaker	ADAS
Hugh Lucas	Aggregate Industries UK Ltd
Stephen Haymes	Biffa Waste Services Ltd
Sarah Planton	Bowman Planton Ltd
Michael Harrison	Bradgate Park Trust
Dr John N Carney	British Geological Survey
Dr Keith Ambrose	British Geological Survey
Francoise Scire	Charnwood Borough Council
Richard Brown	Charnwood Borough Council
Andrew Shirley	Country Land and Business Association
Joyce Noon	CPRE Leicestershire
Graham Stocks	CPRE Leicestershire
Stuart Creedy	East Midlands Development Agency
Geoff Platts	Environment Agency
Clifford Jones	Friends of Charnwood Forest
Peter Bertram	Friends of Charnwood Forest
Kim Turner	Friends of Charnwood Forest
Gill Weightman	Geological Consultant
Marie Wykes	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Tim Deal	Lafarge Aggregates Ltd
Tony Squires - Speaker	Landscape Historian
Stefan Cabaniuk	Leicester City Council
Mark Evans	Leicester City Museums
David Friesner	Leicester Shire Promotions Ltd
Stuart Holm	Leicestershire & Rutland FWAG
Janet Neaverson	Leicestershire & Rutland W I
Simon Bentley	Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust
Vicky Allen	Leicestershire & Rutland Bridleways Association
Ernie White - Speaker	Leicestershire County Council
Carolyn Holmes	Leicestershire County Council
Peter Williams	Leicestershire County Council
Graham Walley	Leicestershire County Council
Lesley Eddleston	Leicestershire County Council
Dawn MacLeod	Leicestershire County Council
Rosemary Mills	Leicestershire County Council
Sophie Davies	Leicestershire County Council
Heather Broughton - Speaker	Leicestershire County Council
Andrew Shaw	Leicestershire County Council
Lonek Wojtulewicz - Speaker	Leicestershire County Council
Michael Parr	Local Access Forum
Edwin McWilliam	Local Access Forum
Peter Gamble	Loughborough Naturalists' Club

Helen Ikin	Loughborough Naturalists' Club
Paul Tame	National Farmers' Union
Annette McGrath	National Forest Company
Simon Evans	National Forest Company
Rick Keymer	Natural England
Ian Evans	Natural England
Anna Collins	Natural England
David Lepper	Natural England
Martin Heathfield	Natural England
Geoff Sansome - Speaker	Natural England (East Midlands)
Karen Devonport	Natural England (East Midlands)
Ken Waterfall	Newtown Linford Parish Council
Colin Chapman	North West Leicestershire District Council
Dr C J Peat	Open Spaces Society
Tony Andrews	Ramblers' Association
Carol Measures	Ratby Parish Council
Dr Roy Clements	RIGS Group
Christine Radford	Shepshed Town Council
Andy Warren	Severn Trent Water
Neville C Bird	Thurcaston & Cropston Parish Council
Rosemary May	Woodhouse Parish Council
Lady Margaret Martin	Woodhouse Parish Council
Eric Porter	Woodland Trust
Mr E D Snartt CC	Bradgate
Mr Neville A Stork CC	Loughborough S
Mr David A Sprason CC	Markfield, Desford, Thornton
Mr P C Osborne CC	Rothley & Mountsorrel

PRESENTATIONS

WELCOME

County Councillor Ernie White
Cabinet Lead Member for Community Services

Ernie White welcomed all the delegates to the conference, and expressed the hope that they would find both the speakers and the workshops informative and constructive. He went on to say :

'As you will hear from our speakers, Charnwood Forest is, for a host of reasons, a special area and consequently one which requires careful consideration. Whether it be for a Sunday morning walk with the grandchildren in Bradgate Park, a geological foray into prehistory, seeking out a rare spider or lichen, or helping you earn your living, Charnwood has something for everyone.

As some of you may know, these special qualities have been recognised by the East Midlands Regional Assembly in their Draft Regional Spatial Strategy, which proposes a Charnwood Forest Regional Park.

I'd ask you to view today as the starting point for a period of consultation and deliberation which will, in due course, hopefully produce a range of policies and initiatives, which will help Charnwood Forest respond to the pressures it will face in the future.

The County Council will be writing up today's proceedings for circulation to all of you. Thereafter it is anticipated that further rounds of consultation will be needed before a consensus can be reached on how best to plan a future for Charnwood Forest.

Finally, before I pass you over to our first speaker, may I say that I hope that we all enjoy and learn from this event, so that together we can help shape a positive future for Charnwood Forest.'