

FOREST HOLIDAYS AND CAMPING IN THE FOREST

Purpose

1. To provide the Board with an update on operational developments with Forest Holidays (FH) and Camping in the Forest (CITF) and to help ensure that information on new developments is brought to the Committee at the earliest opportunity.

Forest Holidays and Camping in the Forest update

Finance and Trading

■ A detailed analysis of current market conditions and trends has

Site Selection

4. Selected sites within the southern half of West Forest District were visited on the 10 and 11 April with Forest Holidays, and the follow-up work is being undertaken to establish which sites may move forward as part of a District assessment.
5. To support Forest Holidays within Central Forest District; further scoping has been identified, and this will take place towards the end of June. It is hoped that a complete assessment of opportunity within the district will enable clear decisions on progressing both existing and new opportunities. It is anticipated that this further work will be complete by October 2017.

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Planning

8. Forest Holidays have sought advice from their planning QC in relation to the options for appeal at Delamere following the recent refusal. It is likely that an appeal will follow the written representation route – however this will not be confirmed until after 8 June.
9. The target date for submission by Forest Holidays of a planning application for a site in Beddgellert has been met, with the hope that the planning committee can consider the application at its 24 May meeting. Signs are very positive that it will go through
10. Following unanimous approval by the National Park planning committee, progress is being made to finalise the S 106 agreement for the Forest Holidays Brecon Beacons site. All terms have now been agreed apart from addressing the issue of the nature of Forest Holiday's legal interest in the site. This is anticipated to be resolved shortly.
11. The development of a new CITF site at Sherwood Pines is continuing to progress with a full planning application expected to be submitted in June. The scheme forming the planning application was presented to the CITF board on 28 April, and was unanimously approved by the board members. Prior to submission the application will be approved by the Forestry Commission as per the framework agreement. The CITF board meeting and annual site visit on 30 June 2017 will be in the New Forest, and not Dalby as stated in an earlier paper.

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Recommendations

14. The National Committee is invited to note the information included in this paper

Simon Hodgson
Chief Executive FEE
May 2017