26th April 2013

Ref: DfT bid to Get More People Cycling in the National Park

Dear Chris,

As a representative of CTC, I’m writing to offer our unreserved support for the New Forest National Park Authority’s bid to get more people cycling in the National Park.

A key focus of CTC’s mission is to get more people of all ages and abilities to take up cycling or to cycle more and improvement in local infrastructure and existing routes as well as development of new facilities, such as the cycle hire scheme, will be fundamental in making this happen.

The New Forest and surrounding areas are a key tourist destination and provides an ideal opportunity for the novice or returning cyclist to build their confidence, as well as provide interesting and challenging trails for more confident riders. Promotion through new cycle links and improving general accessibility will open up this wonderful area for many more people to enjoy.

CTC have a long history in encouraging more riders to take up cycling whether for commuting, for transport or recreation. We have a particular focus on helping children, women and disabled people to experience the fun and health benefits that cycling can bring.

In partnership with this initiative, I look forward to the outcomes of a successful bid would bring and in working together to deliver the benefits in the future.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Stone
On behalf of CTC
Subject: National Parks bid, Grant supporting cycling in the New Forest.

To whom it may concern,

In respect of the above submission we confirm that the purchase and initial refurbishment of the Station approach site in Brockenhurst will be in excess of £500,000.

The purchase of the site is £500,000 and substantial works will be required to meet the plan aspirations. We have funds for £300,000 for critical work and subsequent funds will need to be raised to complete the site in line with the above project needs.

New Forest Environmental Ltd as part of the National Parks bid fully support the project up to the above mentioned value.

Regards

David Streather
Director
Dear Chris,

Stagecoach South West Trains (SSWT) supports initiatives for sustainable travel including opportunities to encourage visitors to New Forest by rail. The proposed accessibility improvements in 2013 will assist in welcoming all visitors to the New Forest.

SSWT welcomes opportunities for cycle hire from Brockenhurst station and will work with New Forest to see if their any other suitable locations. This will be all be supported by a mutual objective in promoting rail to access the New Forest stations and the National Park itself.

If the bid is successful SSWT look forward to working with New Forest National Park on delivering these initiatives, which will complement the proposed improvements to walking and public transport infrastructure as part of wider station travel and access plans.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Dominey
Stakeholder & Accessibility Manager
Stagecoach South Western Trains Limited

www.southwesttrains.co.uk
Chris Gregory  
Sustainability Manager  
New Forest National Park Authority  
Lymington Town Hall  
Avenue Road  
Lymington  
SO41 9ZG

Your ref:  
Our ref:  L1.9  
29 April 2013  

Dear Chris

DFT CYCLING IN NATIONAL PARKS BID

Thank you for sharing the bid you have drafted for submission to the Department for Transport Cycling in National Parks Fund with us.

The Forestry Commission is really pleased to be able to see this bid and is very supportive of the principles which sit behind your proposals. As the Government body responsible for the management of some 49% of the New Forest National Park with responsibilities for recreation provision, habitat management and environmental protection on the public forest estate, this bid very much meets our objectives.

We see the bid as being instrumental in improving health and well-being, bringing growth and sustainability to the area in relation to tourism and leisure in a rural economy and helping to sustain the internationally important and designated landscapes of the New Forest.

Of key note is the focus on the wider environment of the National Park outside of the Crown Lands but very much complimenting the existing infrastructure and initiatives surrounding responsible family cycling and sustainable tourism. We would welcome the opportunity to be involved in supporting the delivery of this project and wish the bid every success.

Yours sincerely

Nick Tucker  
Head of Recreation and Public Affairs  
Direct dial:  02380 286836  
Email:  nick.tucker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Re: DfT Linking Communities Fund Application

Dear Chris,

New Forest Tourism Association is an independent body consisting of approximately 270 businesses made up of all types of accommodation providers, attractions and corporate members, the vast majority of which are located within the New Forest National Park. We were founded 25 years ago with the express objective of promoting the destination for the benefit of our membership and work in close partnership with the likes of the Employment and Tourism Department within New Forest District Council, New Forest National Park Authority and Forestry Commission.

Leisure Cycling is becoming ever more important to the destination with it being stated by an increasing number of our staying guests as being the main reason for visiting the area. As such businesses are working hard to both attract this growing segment of the market and to satisfy their needs. It is our objective, supported by our partners to continue this development in the short to medium term to make the New Forest a premier destination for leisure cycling within the UK.

If successful this fund would significantly aid this objective by providing improvements to the infrastructure through both capital investment and innovative concepts, which in time will provide industry leading facilities for leisure cyclists to enjoy. Not only will this aid overall visitor numbers to the destination with the tangible benefits this will bring but will also aid the local economy in a number of key areas.

We wish the New Forest National Park Authority all the best with their application and, if successful look forward to playing a key role in the implementation and support of these exciting and innovative initiatives.

Stephen Lipton
Chairman - New Forest Tourism Association

An association representing and promoting tourism in the New Forest.
Dear Mr Gregory

On behalf of British Cycling I am delighted to fully support your proposed project to develop and sustain cycling within the New Forest National Park.

This is an excellent approach to developing cycling, not only with some very innovative ideas to enable visitors to enjoy the Forest in a new and flexible way. The encouragement of visitors to take a creative approach to their journey’s, the exploration of the forest, it’s towns and villages, but also implementing it in a way which will encourage spend in the local economy and boost “green tourism”.

The use of cycles will also be beneficial to the local wildlife, particularly for the free roaming horse’s and ponies, with cycles travelling slower than cars and emitting less polluting emissions, thus ensuring a safer environment. This is very much a “flagship project” and will undoubtedly increase active participation of cycling with the National Park, and an excellent template for other regions in the UK.

I fully support this project.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Adams

South Regional Development Manager

British Cycling

Email: markadams@britishcycling.org.uk

Tel: 07949 810639
26/4/13

Re: DfT Grant Application: Cycling in National Parks

Dear Mr. Gregory,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed application for funding under the above project.

Having had the opportunity to examine and understand the DfT grant guidance document and the New Forest NPA bid document itself, it is my considered opinion that the project offers the prospect of a radical and positive development of the availability and access to cycling opportunities for both visitors and the local population.

The funding would enable the New Forest National Park and its key stakeholders to significantly widen the geographical coverage of access points for quality cycle hire, to enable and drive existing commercial operators to raise their game to a level consistent with industry best practice, to widen the reach and effectiveness of the marketing of cycling in our Park and to support overall the development of the New Forest as a trailblazing beacon for Cycling as a recreational activity for visitors.

From a commercial point of view, I am satisfied that the project fits in with our own business development objectives in that it would enable us to continue to grow our own cycle hire fleet availability and content, our ability to service outstationed areas that currently generate cross forest car travel, our own marketing of cycling and would enable us to benefit from the more prominent significance of the New Forest as a state of the art Cycling destination.

Last but not least, the project will provide significant security for our existing workforce and provide the opportunity for the further provision of employment opportunities going forward.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Kirtley (Owner and Managing Director, Forest Leisure Cycling Burley Ltd.) 07740 805329

Forest Leisure Cycling is the trading name of Forest Leisure Cycling Burley Ltd
Reg.Office: The Cross, Village Centre, Burley, Hants. BH24 4AB
Reg. in England No. 7192169
24th April 2013

Ref: Dept of Transport - Improving Local Transport

Dear Sir/Madam

I write with reference to the recent 'improving local transport' bid proposal from the New Forest National Park Authority. We currently have a very comprehensive integrated cycling network which must be the envy of many outdoor recreational areas in terms of cycling paths and support from local public bodies who have forward thinking cycling policies which benefit our National Park economically and sustainably.

However, as a local cycling operator my ability to be proactive and representative of the increasing sophistication in cycling needs is mitigated by my inability to invest in aspirational projects which may benefit the wider community. We have recently secured larger premises which can develop our range and depth of services but it will take a number of years to be able to provide financial investment to serve the New Forest properly and develop these services in order to keep up with the increasing demand for local cycling opportunities which the area offers.

I was very interested to learn of the Dtft bid which could unlock the potential offered by my business and other local cycle providers. It has taken 20 years to create an aspirational cycling business which now serves over 20,000 cycle hire visitors each year but our current premises is both limited in space and funding to be able to provide infrastructure which will enhance the local car-free alternative and create a service akin to many new trail centres which have seen widespread public sector support in other parts of the country.

The proximity of the New Forest to large conurbations including London provides a healthy influx of visitors each year but the current traffic system suffers accordingly during peak holiday periods and we cannot always cope with the increase in demand for our services. There is a huge opportunity to capitalise on the mainline rail network passing through the Park and create a first-class cycling destination which can cope with a high volume of visitors sustainably while enhancing the economic profile of the area in terms of visitor spend and employment protection. There are limited local opportunities to develop projects which provide additional employment from private investment and the bid will help develop a legacy destination which will become a jewel in the crown of UK tourism.

We are seeing an ever increasing number of international tourists coming to the New Forest to enjoy the local cycling opportunities but all operators are constricted by the ability to react to peak demand which often means visits are cut short accordingly and traffic to and from the area becomes erratic and congested.

Please contact me if you would like more background on my support for the bid which I believe is very forward thinking and well regarded amongst local residents, accommodation providers and other business owners in the area.

Yours faithfully

Ross Kempson, Director
New Forest National Park Authority  
Lymington Town Hall  
Avenue Road  
Lymington  
SO41 9ZG

For the attention of C Gregory Esq Sustainability Manager

25 April 2013

Dear Sirs

National Parks – Linking Communities Application

We refer to the above and the application for funding by the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA), with regards to the Department for Transport funding opportunity.

Having read through the application being put forward by the NFNPA for sustainable travel and transport within the New Forest, we feel compelled to offer our full support towards the initiatives proposed in the bid.

We have worked extensively with the NFNPA and other Partners and Stakeholders across the New Forest on a range of sustainable transport schemes over many years.

It is felt that, if successful in obtaining funds for these proposals, this project will fully enhance links to Communities across the New Forest and bring more sustainable business to the area.

Yours faithfully

N A Farthing
Area Manager
Chris Gregory  
Sustainability Manager  
New Forest National Park Authority  
Lymington Town Hall  
Avenue Road  
Lymington  
SO41 9ZG

26 April 2013

Dear Chris,

NEW FOREST FAMILY CYCLING EXPERIENCES

Go South Coast Ltd wholeheartedly supports the National Park Authority's bid to develop family cycling opportunities in the New Forest.

The proposals would undoubtedly build upon the excellent work that the NPA have already done in encouraging and promoting sustainable travel in the National Park.

In particular, the innovative proposal for a rural pedal bus network has the scope to open up large areas of the New Forest to public transport passengers who would otherwise find it inaccessible. This development would greatly complement our network of bus services and further encourage the use of public transport in the National Park.

The ongoing development of the New Forest Tour in partnership with Go South Coast amply demonstrates the authority's ability to successfully implement and promote large-scale sustainable transport solutions. We have no doubt that the NPA's proposals would lead to further significant improvements to the accessibility and enjoyment of the park by sustainable transport modes.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Barnes  
Commercial Development Manager
Dear Chris,

Re: Linking Communities bid- Supporting cycling in National Parks.

Thank you for sharing your draft proposal with me, this letter confirms Hampshire Council’s support for the New Forest National Park Authority’s Linking Communities bid – Supporting cycling in the National Parks.

Having read the proposal I am confident that it is a robust proposal that can lead to a step change in how cycling is perceived and promoted in the New Forest. The proposal is also in line with our Local Transport Plan policies to encourage an increase in healthier travel choices, such as walking and cycling where they can replace short car journeys.

I see the proposal as a positive extension of the close working relationship that has been developed during the preparation and implementation of the Two Parks LSTF project and arrangements developed during this project will be extended to include the delivery of this new bid.

In relation to the specific commitments identified for the County Council, I am confident that we can erect and maintain the signs proposed within the bid on the basis that they are standard DfT approved signs for use on the highway.

I look forward to continuing to work with the New Forest National Park to bring these plans to fruition should the bid be successful.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Travers
Transport Policy Team Leader

Call charges apply. For information see www.hants.gov.uk
22 April 2013

Chris Gregory
Sustainability Manager
New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington
SO41 9ZG

Dear Chris

**New Forest National Parks Linking Communities Cycling Bid**

Thank you for sending through details of your proposed bid to the Linking Communities – Grants to support cycling in National Parks fund, which is shortly to be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT).

We are pleased to support the bid 'New Forest Family Cycling Experiences' with its bold and innovative approach based on cycle hire, cycle buses, information provision and supporting cycling infrastructure at tourism businesses. We welcome the promotion of Brockenhurst rail station as a cycle hub, and the emphasis on other transport interchanges as this will help to reduce the negative impacts of through traffic in south Wiltshire.

Wiltshire Council is committed to working with partners both within Wiltshire and in the wider sub-region to encourage cycling and promote sustainable local tourism. As our recently published draft Cycling Strategy states, we recognise that cycling can be a boost to the local economy by cutting congestion, improving accessibility, reducing the impact of noise and pollution on Wiltshire’s landscape and as a tourist attraction in its own right.

Contd
The bid fits well with our own Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) programme ‘Improving Wiltshire’s Rail Offer’ which includes promoting sustainable transport measures to and from rail stations. In particular, the benefits of improved cycle infrastructure and rail-bus integration in Salisbury would be multiplied by the provision of tourist cycle hire points close to our rail stations or bus interchanges, and sign-posted routes from these hire points into the New Forest. We would hope that in the future we could look for funding to extend this cycle hire network further into Wiltshire.

Key elements of our LSTF marketing programme are to promote rail tourism and encourage through traffic to transfer from the A350/A36 to rail services, particularly our proposed new TransWilts service. This has many interlinkages with the promotion of rail-cycle integration in the New Forest.

We would be happy to explore the potential to provide cycle hire locations in south Wiltshire (such as our Park & Ride sites, at key bus stops or areas in proximity to our rail stations), provide officer assistance identifying safe cycling routes for sign-posting and ensure that such facilities are promoted through our new LSTF-funded Travel Portal, Journey Planner and travel-awareness campaign.

Please let us know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

Parvis Khansari
Service Director Strategic Services, Highways, Transport

Direct line: 01225 713458
Email: robert.murphy@wiltshire.gov.uk
Hampshire Director of Public Health

Dear Chris,

I can assure you that you have full support from me as Hampshire Director of Public Health for this bid. I am not in a position to consider any financial support until the County Council confirms how the public health budget should be optimally used.

Regards

Ruth

Dr Ruth Milton FFPH
Director of Public Health
Hampshire County Council
Elizabeth II Court South
Winchester

Bicycle Association, Phillip Darnton OBE (Executive Director)

Dear Chris,

I was very pleased to meet you also, and appreciate your kind remarks about my presentation.

I have had a look at the New Forest National Park Bid and I do think that it reads very well.

On behalf of the Bicycle Association we would be happy to give our support to the project, particularly because it provides a wonderful leisure opportunity for cycling. This, in our view, is the best way to encourage cyclists old and new, especially those who have not cycled for many years, to get back on their bikes; a great day out in the countryside on a bike is surely one of the best means of convincing people of the benefit and pleasures of cycling.

We also note that Brockenhurst will feature strongly in your plan. Clearly this is a major hub which provides wonderful countryside access, with the park extending virtually to the sea – and also of course is a great stopping-off point for the Isle of Wight. We can supply a logo if required and hope that you may be successful.

With good wishes.

Phillip.
Dear Chris,

New Forest District Council’s (NFDC) Employment & Tourism team is happy to write this letter of support for the New Forest National Park Authority’s Department for Transport bid to support cycling in the New Forest National Park. If successful we look forward to working with you as members of both the bid’s Cycling Programme Board and the supporting New Forest LSTF Project Board.

As you are fully aware, NFDC has been working very hard for over 25 years to create an effective and sustainable plan to make the most of cycling’s huge potential to support the best outcomes for the New Forest’s Visitors, Environment, Residents and Businesses. We therefore wish the bid every success as we believe its planned outcomes would hugely improve our collective ability to make the most of this tremendous opportunity.

Cycling already provides significant support to the New Forest’s wider economy and with it the creation of associated employment. We are pleased that this hugely important economic growth opportunity is recognised within the bid and that plans are in place within it to both increase and spread those benefits throughout the towns and villages that make up the forest’s local community.

We are also pleased that the bid outcomes will be embedded into all elements of the New Forest Destination Partnership’s marketing plan and associated published media and online platforms to ensure maximum effectiveness in all communications both within the New Forest and further afield in its target markets.

I have copied this letter of support to New Forest District Council’s Leader and appropriate senior Officers along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of New Forest Tourism Association. We wish you every success in the bid and if I can be of any further assistance in any way please just let me know.

Kind regards

Anthony
Anthony Climpson OBE
Employment & Tourism Manager
New Forest District Council
Dear Chris,

I am writing in support of the New Forest National Park Authority’s funding bid application to the Department of Transport for the support of cycling within the New Forest National Park. I do this in my position of Sport & Play Development Officer for New Forest District Council and also in my position as Chair of the New Forest Sport & Physical Activity Alliance.

We are supportive of projects that aim to increase the physical activity, health and wellbeing of both local people and those that visit the unique environment that exists within the district. Cycling has been indicated, via the Sport England Active People survey, as an activity that some sectors of our community would like to increase. Creating a safe and cycle friendly environment will help to encourage these participants to increase their levels of activity and make it more inviting for visitors to explore the area in a car free manner. A successful bid would have positive benefits for the local community as well as visitor, tourist and business sectors.

We already recognise that the New Forest National Park is a destination in which cycling is important in terms of transport, active recreation and economic development. Therefore we are supportive of this application and look forward to working with the partners to deliver the desired outcomes for local residents and visitors alike.

Kind regards

Jamie Burton
Sport & Play Development Officer
New Forest District Council
Dear Chris

Bid Support from New Forest Access Forum

As a statutory advisory body, the New Forest Access Forum welcomes the concept of a fully integrated transport system for non-car arrivals in the National Park. The Forum would like to see cycle use becoming normal conduct, rather than an optional extra during a visit. It is to be hoped that a good local experience might lead to visitors wishing to continue to cycle in their daily lives, with the attendant health benefits.

Naturally, National Park roads, and particularly those in the New Forest, can be busy in the warmer months, and the Forum notes with approval that newcomers will have the chance for a practical cycling induction with experts. The “small skills course” could prove invaluable and links naturally to local benefit via “bikeability” and schools “cycling proficiency” programmes.

It is noteworthy that the proposal clearly refers to “all visitors”, which by definition includes families living near to the National Park but who do not have access to a car. Thus access for less privileged groups is potentially improved.

The focus at Brockenhurst, with a major cycle friendly centre or “hub”, catering for all needs - including those travelling with their own machines - will not only increase local employment and economic activity, but build on the proven enthusiasm and experience of the present cycle shops and hire outlets. Storage provision for privately owned cycles is a definite security benefit.

The proposal for multiple docking stations for hired cycles has been tried and tested in several urban environments. In the New Forest it should work seamlessly, giving the option of shorter/limited trips and eliminating the requirement to hire for a specific period. Naturally, the docking stations would not be on grazing land and the use of car parks for locations is appropriate, whether the sites be in public or private ownership.

The New Forest Access Forum is the Local Access Forum for the New Forest National Park and Southwest Hampshire, and is a requirement under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

c/o New Forest National Park Authority, Lymington Town Hall, Avenue Road, Lymington, SO41 8G
Telephone 01590 646689 Fax 01590 646666 Email access.forum@newforestnpa.gov.uk
www.newforestnpa.gov.uk
The pedal bus proposals are novel and seem pioneering in this rural context. It is observed that the New Forest National Park, whilst undulating, is the least hilly of the National Parks. Whilst Forum members do not feel qualified to comment on the actual vehicles or equipment involved, they nevertheless welcome the flexibility and opportunities for wider use of the electrically assisted vehicles in other contexts. This could be flexible added value to existing public transport.

Signage is often a sensitive issue, particularly in the New Forest. The objective should be to guide and inform, without undue clutter of the street scene. The intention to use examples of proven "low key signage" is welcomed. Existing attempts to guide cyclists, e.g. from ferry terminal, to promoted cycle routes, would be supplemented by the "Community Routes Network" which is currently being pursued under LSTF planning. The Community Routes concept is strongly supported by the Forum, which supports improved inter-settlement possibilities, giving the scheme a functional domestic role.

The Forum is not equipped to evaluate the economics business case. That there is a boom in both on and off road cycling is evident from the business pages and the growth in cycle related magazines and shops. New Forest cycling is well established on both touring and sporting fronts, so the present projects start from a firm and informed base.

Forum members welcome and support the principles behind this scheme as imaginative, ambitious and achievable, and compliment the NPA staff involved in its preparation.

Yours sincerely

Alastair Duncan
Chair - New Forest Access Forum
[by email]