



# NEW FOREST ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No: 260328

[www.newforestassociation.org](http://www.newforestassociation.org)

Chairman: William Ziegler

## PLANNING COMMITTEE -DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

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### Comments to the NPA Planning Committee, 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2009

#### Agenda item 5 09/94259/LDCE Annexe Trim Cottage

The unfortunate set of circumstances that have brought this application to the Committee today whereby the planning process has been effectively bypassed could have been prevented with more local vigilance.

Since the inception of the National Park as a Planning Authority the New Forest Association has shown its concerns regarding proposals for two storey and over large outbuildings. A number of these proposals are the first stage in the process which culminates in the request for a Certificate of Lawful Development as is before you today. There is little that can be said today on this case for the process has gone too far and it is a matter for the legal officers.

In the words of an 18<sup>th</sup> century Forest Officer we know that 'Woodgreen is part of the Forest and every house there a trespass...' but that does not mean that modern householders are above the law however exalted they may deem themselves. We ask that the planners and planning Authority Members take note of this in their future judgements. We also ask that members encourage the local communities, both Parish Councils and individuals throughout the New Forest to advise the National Park Authority of any similar situation. Four years of uninterrupted living is required before a Certificate of Lawful Development can be issued. If an investigation is made, whether any illegal use is found or not, then the clock is re-set and the four year period re-starts. It could well help preserve our villages from being misused by the addition of unsightly outbuildings which are being used illegally for residential purposes. Much good work has been done by enlarging and improving the Conservation Areas around the New Forest; it is important that that work is not undermined. The New Forest Association is, for its part, setting up a database to monitor planning conditions.

Peter Roberts Chairman of Planning Committee