

North York Moors National Park Authority

23 March 2020

Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider reports from Members attending meetings on outside bodies as representatives on the Authority.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 It has been agreed that Members attending meetings of bodies where they are representing the Authority should present a report, either verbal or written, on the issues discussed.

3. **NYM Disability Advisory Group (DAG)**

- 3.1 At **Appendix 1** please find, notes from the last DAG meeting.

4. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

5. **Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. **Recommendation**

- 6.1 That the report be noted.

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North York Moors Disability Advisory Group

57th Meeting – Friday 31 January 2020

Present:

Denise Ross, Paul Hepworth, Danny Boyes, Terry Sutcliffe

In Attendance:

Paul Thompson (Ryevitalise Programme Officer), Ian Nicholls, Debbie Trafford, Michael Graham, Donna Magson

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members of the group.

2. Apologies

Sarah Oswald, Joan Childs, Julie Atkinson, Ann Ruddick, Ann Boyes

3. Notes from the Meeting Held on 26 October 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2019 were noted and agreed.

4. Matters Arising

Sheepwash – car parking and rubbish continues to be a real issue, although the walks around the reservoir are excellent.

Action – DAG members to write a letter to the National Trust to discuss parking issues. Debbie/Ian to draft a letter for Danny to sign.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway – Received a Heritage Lottery Grant to give disability access to one of the train carriages. Ian looked into this and it is just one carriage and the availability will be advertised on the timetable. This is still not perfect but is better than sitting in the Guard's van.

Rosedale – the big improvements that had been made to the path surface around the old mineral railway were noted, although in places the higher level of grass in the middle of the path made access trickier for some wheelchair users.

5. Moorsbus drop off / pick up at the Moors National Park Centre

It has been agreed to install an easy access level bus stop at the Moors National Park Centre. The Rangers will be organising the work when the positioning has been finalised. At the end of this meeting, the group went to look at the proposed location.

6. Ryevitalise Project – Improving Access

Paul gave a short presentation to the Group. The Ryevitalise Project received funding in May 2019 for the four year delivery phase from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. There are 14 partners, some contribute money, others contribute delivery and some contribute both. Included in the partners are Yorkshire Water, Ryedale District Council, Environment Agency, Rivers Trust, Woodland Trust and Forest England.

The ambition of the project is to conserve, enhance and restore the natural and cultural heritage of the area, enabling people to reconnect with the history, wildlife and landscapes of the River Rye and its tributaries

There are a few projects ongoing at the moment:

- **Routes along the Rye** – removing barriers and improve signage.

Rievaulx – this will be fully accessible when completed. Work is ongoing with the Land Owner to move a ROW for a ramp to connect with the river.

Paths at Hawnby and Nunnington to Harome won't be fully accessible, but will see the removal of barriers such as stiles.

- **Events and Promotion**

There will be an Exhibition at Sutton Bank National Park Centre showing Landscape and water theme with lots of interactive installations. **(List attached)**

- **Rediscovering the Rye**

Recruiting Volunteers to work on the scans of the landscape.

- **From Memory to Action – The Paradise Initiative**

They are asking people to document their memories from landscapes / habitats etc. and are working with artists and school children to bring this to life.

- **Citizen Science inc. Riverfly Monitoring**

They are involved in butterfly surveys, bat monitoring and tree surveys.

The project would value the input of the DAG and Paul agreed that any interpretation would be brought to the Group for comment prior to it getting past the design stage. It was recognised that this approach had worked well with the Land of Iron project and had helped ensure that indoor and outdoor interpretation could be used by as many people as possible.

It was noted that David Brewster represented DAG on the Rye steering group. Anybody else interested in volunteering can find out more via the link;

<https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/looking-after/volunteering/ryevitalise-project>

Action – Paul to ensure that DAG members attend the opening of the Rievaulx walk.

7. **Update on Rights of Way / Access**

Rosedale – The access track from the top car park still needs working on, but this work is planned. Some areas on the circular route still need looking at, muddy in places but the majority of the route is looking good. A spring launch date is planned.

Easy Access Walk – Kilns – loose stones is making access difficult. Need to discuss and specify the surface. There is now interpretation there and at Grosmont.

Rail Trail - Funding has been received for the resurfacing work.

Cawthorn Camps – resurfacing work has been done near to the viewing platform. Sirius are to pay for a new viewing platform – thanks to the persistence of Ian Lawson.

Routes on the new website are to be categorised using the Miles without Stiles approach that a number of other National Parks use <https://nationalparks.uk/visiting/outdoor-activities/accessforall> This will help ensure a consistency of approach for visitors and will make it much clearer what the priorities are for maintenance spending.

Action – Debbie to report back to the next meeting on progress. There is a paper going to NPA – email this paper to DAG members.

Forge Valley – Boardwalk / Bridge / Parking. This is a £1 million project to replace a 20+ year old boardwalk – it is taking a bit longer for the funding decision to be made than was originally expected and will probably be March / April time.

This project is led by Raincliffe Woods Community Group with support from Scarborough Borough Council and ourselves.

8. Guided Walk (Tom Mutton / Ian Lawson)

A number of photos were shown of the improvement work to the disused railway at Rosedale. Still some improvement to be done but the work done to achieve in reinstating the railway to make it accessible is fantastic.

9. Update from Volunteering Team

Ryan Chenery, our Partnership and Development Officer who worked with groups with mental health issues and physical disabilities, has left the Authority, but will be replaced by Sophie Lyth from 10 February. Sophie comes with a wealth of experience working with volunteers and groups in the Redcar and Cleveland area and should be in an excellent position to pick up and develop Ryan's work with Associate Groups.

On 23 January there was another in a series of joint task at Park House Barns, East Gilling involving a number of Associate Groups. Groups included the NYMNP, Autism Plus, Botton Village, Moorswork and the Howardian Hills AONB. Participants worked alongside each other trimming a boundary hedge and removing stakes and spiral guards from the base of the shrubs. In the afternoon the Alzheimer's Society gave some Dementia Friends training. We are hoping to bring this training to Mental Health First Aiders at the National Park as well as to staff and volunteers who are affected by dementia through family and friends.

10. Recent Press Coverage

A discussion was had by the group on recent national press coverage at the Lake District NP on the subject of accessibility.

11. Progress on Cinder Track

A Maintenance Ranger and Apprentice are to be employed by Scarborough Borough Council to work along the Cinder Track. It is hoped that once the Apprentice is trained enough, work can be carried out at both Whitby and Scarborough end of the Cinder Track at the same time.

There is access onto the Cinder Track from Stainsacre – people have made a track which is very steep. Once the land owner is found, discussions can be made about making this route more accessible to wheelchair users.

12. New Café Providers at TIC's

The leases for both café providers were due to end, so a tender process was run to secure new providers. It was decided that both centres would be run by Louis Dixon of Deep Beat Entertainment, trading as Park Life. At the moment works are being carried out and should both be ready for February half term. The work that is being done on each café is decorating / flooring / counters / ventilation / food offer / drinks offer / new lighting.

Both will have a new look and feel, they are to be sustainable, plastic free, will use local suppliers and cater for lots of diets. All existing staff are being kept on with a full time manager in each location.

Any comments are to be given to Michael Graham. One comment at the meeting was to make sure there is plenty of space for wheelchair access around the new tables.

Action – next meeting to have a walk around one of the Centres and use the café.

13. Any Other Business

Blue Badge Parking – this was brought up again. Pinchinthorpe have free parking for disabled users. Newton under Roseberry charge and does not have disabled spaces. There are a lot of parking issues at NuR where cars are parked on the roadside. The National Trust are looking at a long term solution into the parking issues but this is ongoing.

Action - Debbie/Ian to discuss charging at NP car parks for blue badge holders at a Senior Leadership Team meeting and the subject will also be mentioned in a forthcoming paper to Authority Members.

The Communications and Marketing teams are working on the accessibility regulations – this will improve the usability of the website for people with a wide variety of needs.

14. Time, date and location of next meeting

Friday 24 April 2020 – venue to be confirmed.

Date of event	Name of event	Project	Venue
08/02/2020	Community tree planting task day - drop in	WQE01	Chop Gate
18/02/2020	Can Fish See In The Dark	RP08	Sutton Bank
20/02/2020	Can Fish See In The Dark	RP08	Sutton Bank
07/03/2020	The Gilling East Eco Fair	RP08	Gilling East
08/04/2020	Sutton Bank Brush Up	RP08	Sutton Bank
10/04/20-13/04/20	National Trust Rivers Event		Nunnington Hall
16/05/2020	Fish Migration Event	RP08	Nunnington Hall
23/05/2020	Walkfest - Helmsley		Helmsley
24/05/2020	Walkfest - Hawnby		Hawnby
25/05/2020	Walkfest - Chopgate/Bilsdale		Chopgate
25/05/2020	Rye Discovery Day	RP08	Sutton Bank
26/05/2020	Mapping with Chris Goddard	RP08	DuncombePark
27/05/2020	Family Fishing Day	RP07	
27/05/2020	Tree and Bat Walk	RP08	Windy Pits/Duncombe Park
28/05/2020	Riverfly Monitoring	RP08	Duncombe Park
11/06/2020	Duncombe Park Countryside Learning Day	RP06	Duncombe Park
12/06/2020	Duncombe Park Countryside Learning Day	RP06	Duncombe Park
04/07/2020	NT Love Local Event	RP08	Nunnington Hall
25/07/20-26/07/20	Woodlife Festival	RP08	Danby
09/08/2020	Wondrous Woodland	RP08	Sutton Bank
16/08/2020	Green Festival	RP08	Sutton Bank