

North York Moors National Park Authority

17 December 2018

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. **Campaign for National Parks**

- 3.1 David Jeffels report from Conference and the November CNP meeting can be found at **Appendix 1 & 2**

4. **NYM Disability Advisory Group**

- 4.1 Notes from the most recent DAG meeting (**to be tabled at the meeting**)

5. **Welcome to Yorkshire**

- 5.1 Guy Coulson's report can be found at **Appendix 3**

6. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

7. **Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. **Recommendation**

- 8.1 That the report be noted.

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To: Members of The North York Moors National Park Authority

I was pleased to attend the annual conference of the CNP/National Park Societies' conference which was this year held near Princetown, Dartmoor.

There was a wide range of high profile speakers covering many aspects on National Parks in general, which I consider to be one of the most success CNP conferences I have attended especially many of the speakers tackled issues of concern and general interest for the reps of NPAs and conservation groups nationwide.

Points from the conference which had the umbrella title of "What Value Our National Parks?" included:

Merrick Denton-Thompson, The Landscape Institute Past President

National Parks have been "let down" by politics, especially in terms of protecting landscapes. He said NP landscapes depended on good relationships with farming communities. "We can't look at any NP in isolation" adding that food production and such issues as sea fishing strategies were vital.

On the use of nitrates and phosphates he said could not go on. Treating the landscape for increased food production was important through the use of such fertilisers was important but not at any cost.

Phosphates were affecting water courses resulting in a big decline in the eastern quality of rivers, adding that NPs had to be very attentive to carbon and soil loss and soil structure. "Biodiversity of soil has not been given the attention it deserves."

"We need to think much more about food waste and the health agenda".

Mr Denton Thompson added: "Building resilience into the farming industry is a tremendous task. The challenge for farming is enormous. So much can be done in land management terms to hold back flood water."

NPs needed to connect with young people in food waste, food growing and healthy eating and to reconnect people with landscape to help tackle dementia and health in old age."

Douglas Chalmers, CEO of Friends of The Lake District

The Lake District has seen a 20 pc increase in jobs in its tourism industry but people are staying for fewer periods - on average, 1.5 days.

"So many people are wanting to get into too-small an area. Sustainable tourism needs sustainable public tourism. "We need to encourage visitors out of their cars (in the Lake District) adding that better bus service information and time tabling was needed in rural areas in general.

Creating more car parks was not the real answer because they often increased car chaos which was the biggest issue in the Lake District.

Professor Ian Bateman, Director of The Land, Environment, Economic and Policy Institute, University Of Exeter.

People value going to good tourist sites despite the cost. Reaction was creating new tourism sites in NP's. He also advocated encouraging more people to get involved in physical activity

especially walking but wildlife areas needed to be protected as Dartmoor had found. The unknown quantity was the long terms impact of food [prices and climate changes and there was also the potential opportunities created by technology to help tourism and physical activities. Payments for eco-system services and the impact of replacement of CAP were also unknown at present. While fertilisers benefit the farming industry there was a cost implication for water authorities because of the pollution of water courses resulting from them He advocated a fairer system of payment systems which could improve smaller farm units.

Vince Holyoake Head of National Rural and Environmental Advice Historic England

Advocated - collaborative research that Historic England, Natural England, DCMS and Debra commissioned fitting cultural heritage into the Natural Capital Accounting system. He, like most other speakers, called for more support for farmers in the park.

Other Speakers' Points

Some 19m visitors a year visit all the NPs worth £4 Billion to the local economy supporting many jobs and services.

Nature tourism is growing often thanks to social media.

The cost of buying or rent lad has rocketed.

Managing visitor numbers is an increasing problem in all NPs and it needed to be balanced with biodiversity but nothing could be done without evidence being provided.

We need to get people walking and to reduce traffic congestion and pollution in NPs.

Many shops in the Parks would not survive without tourists and many jobs created were seasonal.

All large AONBs should be considered as National Parks however local authorities were likely to object because they would lose their planning powers.

There is a need to reduce reliance upon imported food and as such farming must remain a vibrant part of our culture.

There is a danger of losing farming communities and a new agenda is needed to work with them. All views had to be put together and taken to The Government Treasury.

If anyone has any queries or wants more information just let me know

David Jeffels

To: Members Of North York Moors National Park Authority

Summary of meeting of Council of Campaign for National Parks, held in London 15 November 2018.

AGM: How Can We Make Parks More Beautiful And Accessible?

1. Promote car free transport
3. Influence agricultural policy
- 4 Improve nature and. Wildlife in NPs
5. Reduce visual impacts.

CNP been invited to be involved in Government Ministerial forum on Rural Transport - I am seeking more information on this very important issue.

Current Threats:

Zip wires across Thirlmere Lake in Lake District Amendments to potash mine plans in NY Moors NP Road schemes in South Downs and Peak District

Campaigns

Extra protection for parks through political party manifestos Proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework

CNP Council Meeting

Fiona Howie, CEO of CNP

NP's should demonstrate more leadership and ambition on raising the bar on enhancing nature in NPs. She suggested making some areas (feel relatively wilder".

Future payments for farmers should be "locally tailored" and environmentally focussed.

Fiona also advocated the introduction of a system of licensing of driven grouse shooting in NPs.

She said NPs should be excluded from geological mine workings.

The new Agriculture Bill was in the Committee stage at the House of Commons. There were, she added, a lot of concerns about future agricultural policy in NPs.

Emphasis is being concentrated on next year's 70th anniversary of the Legislation which brought about NPs (perhaps NYMNPA should also explore possibilities of marking it?) (Fiona is shortly leaving CNP so steps are now being taken to appoint a replacement)

Andy Wilson, CEO NYMNPA

Undoubtedly the best talk of the day!

He used the platform to hit back at the report published under the name of CNP earlier this year in which NYMNPA was criticised over SSSI's in the area. He highlighted the criticism of woodland planting, pointing out that 7,000 hectares of such woodland were earmarked to be planted and there was no evidence of loss of habitats.

Andy pointed out that current threats in the NP were (a) the weather (b) water quality (c) tree diseases and (d) migrant species.

Julian Glover, who is currently heading up a panel to look at NPs in general and their future, said he was now half way through the process. The panel had brought together a wide range of organisations and he expects the report to be written in the New Year. It will cover AONB's as well as NPs, he said.

He asked: "How are we going to get NPs and AONBs to become alive to the public and to engage the public.

Management of footpaths needs national consideration and co-ordination, he said.

If any member needs further information on this CNP please let me know.

David Jeffels

NYMNPA representative on Campaign for National Parks

Welcome to Yorkshire Update (10th Anniversary year)

It has been a busy second half of the year with tourism getting another boost before and continuing after this year's Tour De Yorkshire which raised over £100,000 for Alzheimer's research and awareness.

The Great Yorkshire Show attracted around 40,000 visitors to the WTY stand. WTY Yorkshire Dales Garden placed well at Chelsea Flower Show and won The People's Choice Award.

The Rose Theatre / Globe Pop up theatre in York this year was a great entertainment success. A new film made jointly with our Authority has had over 600,000 views on social media and has also been shown at cinemas.

UCI Road World Championships will take place in 2019. Yorkshire will have all stage finishes in Harrogate another fantastic plus for our area with final planning nearing the end.

On a financial note WTY accounts showed a £251,000 surplus at end of financial year. Many positive things are on the horizon throughout the County especially in our area, these I will update on at a later stage.

Guy Coulson
North York Moors NPA W2Y Representative