

## North York Moors National Park Authority Finance, Risk, Audit and Standards Committee

3 September 2018

### Members Training in 2017/18 and Programme for 2018/19

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To review the Member training provided in 2017/18 and propose topics for the Member Training programme 2018/19.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Members Training programme has been running for a number of years with a review taking place in 2007.

#### 3. Review of Training in 2017/18

- 3.1 The following member events took place in 2017/18:
- Members evening seminar – 22/5/2017 - Discussion around use of S106 money
  - Members training day – 5/7/2017 - Coastal/Marine Environment
  - Members evening seminar – 23/8/2017 -Draft Compensation/Mitigation Plan, Sutton Bank
  - Members training day – 25/10/2017 -TELOI Update
- 3.2 Unfortunately, 3 further events; 2 evening seminars and 1 training day scheduled to take place during 2017/18 were cancelled, due to time pressures/other work commitments of both Members and Officers
- 3.3 4 Members attended the National Parks UK Conference, South Downs NP at The Goodwood Estate in Oct 2017. A reminder of the event, in the form of Alison Fisher's report can be viewed at **Appendix 2**.

#### 4. Member training/events during the first part of 2018/19

- 4.1 Members enjoyed a visit to Woodsmith Mine/Pannett Park Museum in April, attended an evening session in June to discuss NYMNPA capacity/prioritisation issues and make some initial comments about the National Parks Review process. July saw members involved in a communications strategy workshop with interpretation and strategy agency The Way Design. Also in July, Officers led a short briefing session for members on Enforcement policy including timescales for action, ways in which the team obtain information, plus the different types of notices, including photographic evidence and possible remedies for different enforcement issues. At the time of writing this paper, an evening seminar is also planned for August to consider future farming policies post Brexit.

#### 5. Programme for the remainder of 2018 and suggested topics for 2019 programme

- 5.1 Over the page is a brief summary of the events scheduled to take place to the end of Dec 2018, followed by some suggested topics for future training events and sessions. Members' comments on this are welcome.

Date/Event	Subject/Venue
Thursday 23 Aug 2018 – <b>Members Evening Seminar</b>	The Future of Farming, plus National Park Review (National Park Centre, Danby)
Thursday 11 Oct 2018 – <b>Members Evening Seminar</b>	Early input to 18/19 budget and longer term financial planning.
Evening of Tuesday 23 October/Wednesday 24 October 2018 – <b>Members Training Event</b>	Member visit to Northumberland NP: NPs working together, visit the Sill, travel up the evening before for dinner/overnight stay
Monday 17 Dec 2018 – <b>Members Christmas Lunch</b> , after NPA	To be arranged with NPA Chair - Jim Bailey

A total of 10 Authority members have confirmed they wish to attend the Northumberland NP trip in Oct. More details on the visit will be provided in due course.

**Members' views are welcome and possible topics for 2019 could include the following;**

- **Standards/Planning update – a refresher has been provisionally scheduled to take place after NPA, Dec 2018**
- **H&S (Members' responsibilities) – short briefing session to be scheduled for the end of 2019**
- **Wildlife of the National Park**
- **Refresher on scope and size of the NPA's functions**
- **Local Plan - briefing for members**

5.2 Our volunteers support the Authority throughout all aspects of our work, including practical conservation, survey and monitoring, access projects, quartermaster duties, leading events, gallery help and administration tasks. To gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of what our volunteers do, Members are encouraged to contact Joan Childs or Ryan Chenery to discuss the range of options available, suitable sessions for members to take part in.

5.3 FRASC members are reminded that after a brief discussion at FRASC on 7 September 2015, members decided that whilst each Member's annual development discussion was considered an important element of good governance, they would opt for that element of the process to take place **once every two years rather than yearly**, although members, particularly newer members, were encouraged to chat through issues/concerns as and when they arise. The next round of development discussions therefore are scheduled to take place before Christmas 2018, with the feedback to Members taking place in the New Year, any concerns/issues to be raised with Senior Officers thereafter. Members are asked to view **Appendix 1** as a reminder of the process, in readiness for 2018. This information will be forwarded on to all Members as a reminder after committee.

**6. Financial and Staffing Implications**

6.1 There are financial implications in terms of the cost of travel and subsistence costs, but these fall within existing budgets.

**7. Legal Implications**

7.1 There are no legal implications.

**8. Recommendation**

8.1 That

- a. Members views on the proposed training programme are sought;
- b. Subject to any amendments by Members, the proposed training programme for 2018/19 be agreed.
- c. Members note the review of training in 2018/19.
- d. Members note that the next round of the Development Discussion meetings will take place towards the end of 2018

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**Background papers to this Report**

**File ref**

1. Members Training Record

**Member Development Discussions – Guidance Note**

At the FRASC meeting in September 2015 it was agreed to carry out Member Development discussions once every two years. This note provides information about the process and advice about preparing for your discussion.

The meeting involves a discussion between the discussion leader and one of his/her allocated Members. The discussion should follow a specific list of topics but, of course, you can raise any other matters during the meeting. The leads in this process are the Authority Chair and Deputy Chair and the Chairs of FRAS and the Planning Committees. Members

<b>Discussion Leads</b>	<b>Allocated Members</b>
Jim Bailey	Christopher Massey, Janet Frank, Heather Moorhouse, David Jeffels
Malcolm Bowes	Guy Coulson, Ena Dent, Sarah Oswald, Caroline Patmore
Jeremy Walker	Michael Dick , Alison Fisher, Clive Pearson , Ted Sanderson,
David Hugill	Les Atkinson , John Ritchie, Andrew Scott, SoS Member (vacant)

have been allocated as follows:

The purpose of the discussion is to give Members the opportunity to comment about the performance of the authority, our future plans and your role as a Member. These discussions are confidential.

Meetings should include discussions on the following:

- What has been your main contribution to the Authority during the past year?
- What has gone well during the past year?
- What could have been done better?
- What training would you like to be involved in?
- What would you like to achieve next year?

Members are encouraged to prepare a few notes on these topics before their 1:1. At the end of the discussion the Discussion lead and the member he/she is meeting should agree:

- The main conclusions from the discussion.
- Any conclusions or suggestions to feed back to other Members.
- The main actions arising from the discussion and the person responsible for taking forward these actions.

When all meetings have been completed, the discussion leads will meet to discuss the main issues which have arisen and report back to Members.

Discussion leads to arrange meetings with each of their allocated members before Christmas 2018, with feedback to Members taking place in the New Year and any concerns/issues raised with Senior Officers thereafter.

National Parks UK Conference

National Parks for the Future  
at South Downs National Park  
The Goodwood Estate, West Sussex  
October 2017

The 3 day conference was organised around several site visits across East and West Sussex each visit being woven around the conference theme. These visits showcased the landscape, wildlife and commercial aspects of the South Downs National Park (SDNP) and focussed on how these might or might not make a contribution 1. to the future of business and the protected landscape and 2. the Purposes of National Parks. Attending the conference were representatives of NPs from England, Scotland and Wales, along with reps from Campaign for National Parks, National Parks England, National Parks Partnerships, National Parks UK, Country Landowners Association, Chilterns Conservation Board, Cotswold Conservation Board, Defra, DCLG and RSPB.

Looking at the visits and their relevance to the theme:-

**Centurion Way** – a project to regenerate the former Chichester to Midhurst railway line to create a walking route with facilities and biking opportunities; this was a partnership of owners, funders and volunteers which would, when completed, provide a multiuser trail from Chichester town centre into the SDNP. Phase 1 was complete and phase 2 was about ready to roll out despite a couple of access problems and funding shortfall. Demonstrated a practical active link between town and country

**The Goodwood Estate** – this is one of the UK's most successful multi-function landed estates under the ownership and control of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon whose ancestral seat is Goodwood House. It combines considerable farming acreage mainly organic with associated functions, and the Goodwood Motor Circuit, Glorious Goodwood Racecourse and research and production HQ of Rolls Royce. Located in the western part of the SDNP it is hard to think of a more dynamic, prosperous and enterprising estate in a national park; the estate must work in tandem with the National Park purposes and the SDNP must work closely with one of its biggest employers/income generators. Much of what we saw demonstrated the determination of the landowner to accept only the highest quality that could be secured be that cars, racehorses or food, suggesting that the sheer high profile and success of the Estate could undermine the Purposes of the SDNP if a close working relationship could not be maintained.

**Weald and Downland Living Museum** – this large acreage open museum offers a final resting place for buildings ranging in date from around 950AD to c19th; abandoned farmsteads, agricultural structures, industrial process buildings and many more have created an educational visitor attraction. This is a very unusual attraction which currently avoids being a mini Disneyworld attraction and it demonstrated that a paying attraction need not necessarily sit uncomfortably alongside NP Purposes and can complement the National Park of the future.

The museum hosted the evening's supper and speakers – **Frank Dean from Yosemite** outlined the very different concept of American National Parks (no residents, pay for entry etc.) and he speculated on their future in the era of Trump. By dramatic contrast, **Dan Oakley Lead on Dark Skies** at SDNP gave a brilliant, funny and informative talk on the SDNP's Dark Skies status. So, if one of the most populated National Parks in the UK can secure this status surely we can at the NYMNP; see the Consultation Paper for our Local Plan published December 2017 – although the closing date has passed, it is a good read!

**Devil's Dyke** – the equivalent of the Hole of Horcum, partly owned by the National Trust with a popular pub/cafe in the middle – shades of Saltersgate there! How to manage competing visitor demands of access to an unspoilt valley in tandem with proper parking and facilities provision – not yet resolved I would say as the respective interest groups continue to pull in opposing directions.

**Ridgeview** – one of the UK's most successful wineries; very modern facilities (more in common with New World wineries than say the French), seeking expansion against several constraints – the best land for vines is south (and coast) facing and these tend to impact strongly on the landscape bringing alien planting/appearance; tin sheds are the main building type for bottling etc. but these can equally impact on the landscape and finally, employment – often seasonal and based on EU labour so how will the future affect them? Wineries demonstrate an impact on the landscape which is different from more traditional agricultural enterprises; also they are seen as a good investment for City Hedge Fund types – buy a farm, clear the land, plant vines, keep sheep for grazing for ornamental purposes and live in beautiful countryside all within an easy commute to the office. The Future of the SDNP will continue be subject to such pressures.

**Seaford Head** – a local nature reserve including the iconic Seven Sisters cliffs and Cuckmere Haven the wide estuary for the Cuckmere River; problems of sediment build up in the estuary compounded by erosion of the cliffs and local efforts to shore up the land leading to wildlife conflict and management issues. Wildlife Trusts and Natural England have differing views on the land management of the area and the SDNP countryside management objectives are pulled in opposing directions. No solution in sight...

**Following these visits the conference shifted toward speakers and networking.** Dinner in the grand dining room at Goodwood included a guided tour of the house. The menu featured an extraordinary selection of local produce – meat, fish, vegetables and dairy produce all washed down with some of the delicious (but expensive) local wines.

**After dinner speaker Nicholas Crane**, author of *The Making of the British Landscape* and presenter of *Coast. Landscape and its influences* was his theme seeing it in the context of the future; interesting (in the style of Alastair Cooke's *Letter from America*) but more a lecture than a talk.

On the **final day of the conference Julia Bradbury chaired**. She spoke about her commitment to a strong Future for National Parks and introduced four speakers who, using their specialist knowledge, reflected on the current issues which will affect the future for National Parks; these themes ranged from –

**Adam Philip-Phillips** “Using social media” – today NPs simply don't fully appreciate the need for wide engagement with the under 40s who will be the Future for NPs.

**Sarah Mukherjee** “Inclusivity” – all ages, races and sexual orientations must be so integrated in our thinking that we no longer actually think about including them – it becomes the norm rather than as at present

**Prof Ian Bateman** “Natural capital”- how research into natural science should be integrated into the management plans for NPs for the future – one of the most interesting talks

**William Wolmer** “Farming/biodiversity alongside commercial enterprise” – co-ordinating agri-environment management for the good of the landscape and business

## **Summary**

The businesses showcased are all successful and each in its own way is impacting on both Purposes of the SDNP and offered insights into how a National Park for the Future may succeed. The conference visits and speakers illustrated how partnership working could make for a successful NP but there are clearly tensions from landowners who have

ambitious expansion plans (wineries, the Rolls Royce factory) and from the population pressures around the edges of the SDNP. Two major external influences are the management of the A27, its duelling and widening/new roundabouts and housing demand on the peripheral settlements such as Winchester, Chichester and the towns served by rail links to Waterloo and Victoria. And of course Brexit.

Finally some facts to put SDNP in a NYMNP context:-

Designated 2011/1952

Size - 628 sq. miles/554 sq. miles

Population – 108,000/23,400

Highest point – 280m/454m

Lowest point – sea level/sea level

Geology – chalk downland & Weald / moorland plateau & dales

Agriculture - mainly sheep, fruit, arable, industry with Rolls Royce/ arable, sheep, industry with x2 potash mines

Counties – West Sussex, East Sussex, Hampshire / North Yorkshire + R&C

BC Board – 27 members/20 members

Alison Fisher  
February 2018