

## North York Moors National Park

26 March 2012

### On the Record

#### 1. Sustainable Development Fund

At the time of writing (7/3/12) the position with the SDF was as follows. The loan to Esk Energy for the hydro scheme at Ruswarp has been granted following further legal advice on appropriate terms and conditions. The SDF Panel is due to meet for its final scheduled meeting to assess applications to the SDF on 9/3/12. The SDF Officer has now left the employment of the Authority with the expiry of her contract. There are a number of 'live' projects that will continue to be dealt with by staff as appropriate.

The business of deciding on the future direction of the SDF, at a practical and principle level, has been severely hampered by the continuing sickness absence of the Director of Conservation. These issues need to be addressed alongside the conclusion of the Grants Review (in terms of practice) and Business Plan priorities (in terms of principles).

The appointment of an interim director to cover for Peter Barfoot should help resolve the issue when this arrangement starts in April. Members will be presented with an analysis of the fund's work to date and potential models for future delivery as part of the Business Planning process.

#### 2. Finance and Legal Services Contracts

Members will be aware that with effect from the 1 April 2012 the provision of legal services will be provided by Scarborough Borough Council in partnership with Ryedale District Council. The contract is not an exclusive contract and in order that the Authority is able to seek suitable independent legal advice in relation to the potential application by York Potash Ltd, a private sector firm, Browne Jacobson have been engaged to provide legal advice on the matter as a result of a procurement exercise.

The Authority has recently undertaken a market testing exercise for the provision of financial services and the result of that exercise is that North Yorkshire County Council will continue to provide this service from 1 April 2012. The Chief Executive has consulted with the Chair of the Authority in order to ensure that the award of the contract is in line with financial regulations. The submission by North Yorkshire County Council proposes that the role of the s151 Officer is undertaken by the Assistant Director – Corporate Accountancy. Members will receive a more detailed paper on the proposed change and the implications at the June meeting in order to approve the proposed change.

#### 3. UK ANPA Workshop 2012

The next workshop will be held from 5pm on 25 June to 3pm on 27 June 2012 at the Royal York Hotel, York with a theme of Engaging Local Communities. It is hoped that the Authority will be able to send 4 Members and would like Members to express an interest at the Meeting.

#### 4. **Governance Update**

The consultation on changes to the governance of National Parks has been delayed again and at the time of writing no date for publication was available, but was expected to be very soon. This will be the consultation on direction elections, Parish Member elections and other procedural matters. A further consultation on membership of NPAs is expected later in the year. The consultation on sustainable development is awaiting the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and has therefore also been delayed.

**Stop Press : Consultation on Governance Published and circulated by e-mail.**

#### 5. **Approved Duties**

The Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair or Deputy Chair of the Authority has authorised the following duties:

- 21 February 2012 – Jim Bailey, Philip Lawson and Tim Lawn attended meeting with Wing commander Rayna Owens (Fylingdales).

#### 6. **Association of National Park Authorities (ANPA) and English National Park Authorities Association (ENPAA)**

- a. A copy of the draft minutes of ENPAA meeting held on the 25 January 2012 are at **Appendix 1**.
- b. There are no ANPA minutes to report at present.

#### 7. **Report back from the Local Access Forum**

The Local Access Forum met on 6 December 2011 and the draft minutes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 2**.

#### 8. **Minutes of Committees and Working Groups**

The following meetings have taken place since the last report:

- Access and Information committee
- Performance Monitoring and Management Committee
- Standards Committee

Draft minutes of these meetings are available on request. Recommendations from the Standards Committee to the Authority will be reported to Members at a future meeting.

**ENGLISH NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITIES ASSOCIATION  
MEETING**

**Notes of meeting held on 25 January 2012 between 11.15-1.15pm at Merrell Office, Kings Place,  
London**

**Items listed in order of discussion**

<b>Present</b>		
<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>
Stephen Johnson	John Packman	Broads Authority
Bill Hitchins		Dartmoor NPA
John Dyke (Chairman)	Nigel Stone	Exmoor NPA
Julian Johnson	Alison Barnes (ABa)	New Forest NPA
Jim Bailey	Andy Wilson	North York Moors NPA
John Riddle	Tony Gates	Northumberland NPA
Tony Favell	Jim Dixon (JDi)	Peak District NPA
Margaret Paren	Trevor Beattie	South Downs NPA
Carl Lis	David Butterworth	Yorkshire Dales NPA
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Paul Hamblin	ENPAA	
Amanda Brace (ABr)	ENPAA	
Meriel Martin (minutes)	ENPAA	
Ruth Chambers	CNP	

Item		Agreed Actions
1.	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The Chairman congratulated Margaret Paren on receiving an OBE in the New Year Honours list in recognition of her services to the environment. The Chairman welcomed Trevor Beattie who had recently taken up his post as Chief Executive at the South Downs NPA.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Bill Jefferson (Lake District NPA), Richard Leafe (Lake District NPA) and Kevin Bishop (Dartmoor NPA).</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Approve minutes from meeting held on 5 October 2011, London</b></p> <p>The minutes were <b>approved</b>.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>Meeting with Fiona Reynolds, National Trust</u> PH explained that discussions were still ongoing and the meeting would be held in July around the ENPAA meeting if possible. PH would keep the Peak District NPA (as hosts) and others updated.</p> <p><u>Sustainable Development consultation</u> TG explained that the consultation was to be delayed until after the outcome of the NPPF consultation.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Draft ENPAA Business Plan – initial discussion</b></p> <p>PH explained that the draft Plan had been prepared around the six aims agreed by Directors at their last meeting. The draft covers a three year period but it will be a rolling document, updated annually. More detailed actions will be set out below the aims. A final version of the Plan will be brought to the March ENPAA meeting for approval by Directors. The following suggestions were raised during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The figure for subscriptions would need to be corrected</li> <li>• It would be important to bear in mind capacity and resources. ENPAA is not just the 2.5 FTE staff but everyone in the NPAs, so NPOs would need to consider the contribution that their NPA would make to the work programme</li> <li>• It would be helpful to ensure that Aim 2 focuses on other Government Departments as well as Defra</li> <li>• Activity under Aim 6 should demonstrate that continuing activity to find cost savings is being taken forward</li> <li>• Objectives under the Aims should be strategic, with the accompanying action plan providing the task-focused and practical work programme to achieve these objectives</li> <li>• Aim 4 on sharing good practice should be made more active and include acknowledgement of the benefits of working together</li> <li>• Under changing context, the reduced emphasis on climate change and access at a national level was not necessarily reflected locally</li> <li>• The order could be changed to put Aims 4 and 5 ahead of Aims 2 and 3</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that PH would consider and make amendments to reflect the points made during the discussion. Further views and comments could be submitted to PH by email following the meeting. It was <b>agreed</b> that PH should seek views from external partners, and that the finalised version of the Business Plan would be brought to the March ENPAA meeting for approval.</p>	<p>PH ALL PH</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Governance Review</b></p> <p>DB introduced the paper and asked Directors to consider whether it would be desirable or practical for ENPAA to submit a collective position to the forthcoming Defra consultation. The following points were raised during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPAs had submitted separate responses to the earlier consultation rather than submitting an ENPAA response</li> <li>• The proposed 8 year rule was a major issue for many NPAs particularly where wards affected fell wholly or mainly within the National Park. However the stated positions of NPAs on this issue were not consistent and variations in geography mean not all would be affected in the same way</li> <li>• Different NPAs will have different issues of importance and any joint response might by necessity be bland. It was suggested that if there were areas of common concern identified they could be communicated via a brief letter response from ENPAA</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that it would be left to individual NPAs to respond and ENPAA would <u>not</u> prepare a joint response. NPAs would reflect on the 8 year rule and whether there was a point to be made in their response around democracy in cases where councillors divisions fall wholly or mainly within the National Park. It was <b>agreed</b> that all NPAs should copy their responses to ENPAA.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b>Update on the National Planning Policy Framework</b></p> <p>TG introduced the paper and explained that a steer from Directors was needed on the best approach to take. PH explained that to date ENPAA had been working with the grain of the NPPF process, engaging with Defra and CLG officials and preparing a form or alternative wording that would address our concerns. Verbal reassurance has been received from officials that what ENPAA has suggested is “in the realms of the possible”</p>	

	<p>but to date no clear written reassurance has been received that our points will be taken on board. PH has been attempting to secure a meeting with CLG Minister Greg Clark MP to ensure that he fully understands our concern, but to date we have no commitment to a meeting. It was recognised that some NPAs are under local pressure on this issue and that the NPPF wording as it currently stands could be damaging and dangerous for National Parks in certain respects. Defra is supportive of ENPAA's position and we know that Minister Richard Benyon MP met with Greg Clark MP last week..</p> <p>It was recognised that it is difficult for CLG to give firm written reassurances as they must not pre-empt the result of the consultation, to which a huge number of substantial responses had been submitted and were being worked through. It was <b>agreed</b> that the Chairman should raise the issue with Richard Benyon MP at the afternoon meeting to thank him for his advocacy and emphasise that this is still a key issue for ENPAA. It was <b>agreed</b> to continue with ENPAA's current approach as it could be counterproductive to be viewed as 'difficult' at this stage. It was <b>agreed</b> that while we will not go public, if there is no progress in securing a meeting with Greg Clark MP NPAs should make sure that any local MPs with influence are well-briefed on the ENPAA position.</p>	<p><b>JDy</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and National Parks</b></p> <p>KB was unable to attend the meeting but had prepared a paper to provide a briefing on the CAP reform process and ENPAA's involvement. During discussion the importance of finding ways to support hill farming and ensure it is sustainable was emphasised. It was recognised that undergrazing is a significant issue in some Parks. The Commission's proposals for crop diversity needed to be looked at to ensure they were practical. They also needed to be assessed against the specific needs of Commoners, including in the lowlands. PH explained that a workshop to go through detail with Natural England was planned and he would follow up with KB to get details of the timing of this to share with NPOs. It was noted that more diverse rural employment opportunities were needed to help support off-farm employment.</p>	<p><b>PH</b></p>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Notes of E-NPOG meeting 10.10.11</b></p> <p>These were <b>noted</b> without discussion.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p><u>New Homes Bonus</u>  JB explained that NYMNPA had been negotiating with local authorities as directed but it was proving hard to get a transfer of funding to NPAs. DB explained that all NPAs had been asked to provide information in order to get a full picture across the Country, which NPOs would consider. Defra has been asked to approach CLG on our behalf if necessary. Under the current arrangements it is unlikely that NPAs will be able to receive New Homes Bonus monies directly.</p> <p><u>Independent Panel on Forestry</u>  ABa stated that she had attended a recent workshop where high level stakeholders met with the Panel to discuss the Interim Report and suggest actions for inclusion in the final report, due in Spring. The Panel would visit the New Forest on 28 February.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Dates of future meetings including for 2012</b></p> <p>The dates of future meetings were noted as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 29 March – ENPAA Board Meeting (London)</li> <li>b) 4 July – UK ANPA Meeting and AGM (Peak District)</li> <li>c) 5 July – ENPAA Board Meeting and AGM (Peak District)</li> <li>d) 10 Oct – ENPAA Board Meeting (venue tbc)</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>The meeting closed at 1.15pm.</b></p>	





# North York Moors

## Local Access Forum

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate,  
Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 6 December 2011.

**Present:** J Bateman, J Batt, S Borman, B Briggs, P Cody, Mrs C Cook, Mrs C Cussons, G Dawson, P Hay, Mrs J King, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Peacock, Mrs N Taylor, G Winn-Darley

**Apologies:** Lady E Kirk, S Scoffin

**Officers in Attendance:** Karl Gerhardsen (Head of Recreation and Access), Sarah Blakemore (Access Officer), Sarah Housden (Policy Manager), Fiona Farnell (Committees Officer)

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### Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

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#### 37/11 Election of Chairman

**Resolved:**

That Mrs N Taylor be elected Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

The Chair thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and welcomed J Bateman back for a further 3 year term.

#### 38/11 Election of Deputy Chair

**Resolved:**

That Mrs C Cook be elected Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

#### 39/11 Minutes

**Resolved:**

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2011, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the amended at minute 29/11, second bullet point to read 'A small subgroup of LAF would meet to discuss ideas with regards to transport and visitor centres under the present financial crisis'.

40/11 **Matters Arising****Malton to Pickering Cycle route**

The Chair read out the proposed letter to be sent to Pickering and Malton Town Council, Kirkby Misperton, Great Habton and Thornton le Dale Parish Council, the Chief Executive of Ryedale District Council and North York Moors National Park and P Roberts (Transportation and Development Engineer) North Yorkshire County Council. Members agreed to the letters being sent.

In answer to a query from a Member the Head of Recreation and Access informed Members that work on the definitive map would continue for a further two years and then after this time there would be capacity to do only a very few map and public path orders. It is anticipated that after that time the Authority would be able to meet its statutory duty, however a meeting with the County Council is due to be held in the near future.

41/11 **National Park Management Plan (separate document)**

The Policy Manager gave a powerpoint presentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Chair noted that Members could also complete an individual questionnaire.

Members made the following comments:

- Better promoting and marketing of the National Park is required.
- The document mentions visitors a lot but the residents of the Park also need to be catered for.
- The equestrian industry should not be forgotten, it brings in a significant amount of money to the Park on an annual basis.
- The wording 'detrimental effect' on page 35 needs qualifying
- More could be done with the major estates, focusing on their management plans to improve recreation facilities.
- Need to justify why an increase in the number of volunteers is identified as a challenge.
- 'Experience economy' on Page 38 - needs to be made clearer in supporting text.
- Page 39 – Does monitoring currently take place? Should the Authority be seeking 100% rights of way easy to use and if not why not.
- Page 40 – Should there be a reference to socio economic groups rather than specific under represented groups?
- The reputation of the access roads to the Park (ie A64) may play a part in decreasing visitor numbers

The Head of Recreation and Access in answer to a question from a Member noted that the 85% target for Public Rights of Way – easy to use was achievable with the current staff resource.

42/11 **National Park Authority Business Plan 2012 -2015 to discuss access related priorities for the Business Plan**

The Head of Recreation and Access gave a powerpoint presentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made the following comments under the different policy headings:

**Policy** – The public will be able to enjoy the National Park using the rights of way network and open access areas.

**Members thoughts:** Ask in visitor surveys if a right of way was used while visiting

- Promote area as a mountain bike area
- Publicise circulate routes for all users – many people struggle with navigation
- Put more walks on the website
- Market the Coast to Coast, Cleveland Way and Moors to Sea more.
- Delivery Actions – 2 and 3 to change places

**Policy** – Opportunities to enjoy the National Park will be available to a wide cross section of society.

**Members thoughts:** Believe that work should be done within a 30 – 40 mile radius of the Park not just specifically Teesside and Scarborough

- If circular walks available near to where people live they will be used more and help with health agenda.
- Educate children outside the classroom, they will in turn educate their children
- Delivery Actions – change order to 2, 3, 1 with 3 being expanded.

**Policy** – Conflicts between recreation and the interests of communities, land managers and other user groups will be minimised

**Members thoughts:** Put more information about countryside rules on the website

- Publicise what Way-marks mean

**Policy** – Conflicts between recreation and conservation of the special qualities of the National Park will be minimised

**Members thoughts** – Believe that this policy and the policy above should be joined together.

**Policy** – The public will be able to improve their health and well-being through reconnecting with nature.

**Members thoughts** – Send information of health walks to local hospitals.

- Put health walks on the website.
- Try more volunteering in the community rather than volunteers travelling great distances.

**Policy** – Local communities will enjoy improved access and be engaged in developing and managing local access.

**Members thoughts** - Volunteer groups in local communities to enable access

**Policy** – There will be opportunities for people to access the National Park without a car

The Officer informed Members that the Authority was working with the County Council to put together a bid to central government which needed to be submitted by February 2012, which was to include implementing Whitby Park and Ride, work in the Esk Valley including electric bicycles, infrastructure on unmetalled roads, bridleway work, better information on connecting transport and a bus service linking communities

**Members thoughts:** Become a green tourism provider

- Encourage short walks from peoples' doors
- Refreshing to see new opportunities.
- Delivery Actions – Change Order to 2, 4, 5, 3, 1

43/11 **Consultation on Statutory Reviews of CROW Act Directions – Barkers Craggs and Raisdale Moor**

Considered:

The report of the Access Officer

**Recommendation:**

That the Forum gives its view on the existing directions at Barkers Craggs and Raisdale Moor as to whether each is still necessary for its original purpose and whether the extent and nature of the restriction is still appropriate.

**Resolved:**

That Members agreed that the extent and nature of the restriction is still appropriate.

44/11 **Draft UUR Policy from Highways**

The Head of Recreation and Access informed Members that the draft document would not be ready until January 2012 and Members would be emailed when the consultation begins and directed to the County Council website.

A Member noted that there were a significant number of routes missing off the map attached to the agenda. The Officer noted this and confirmed that Officers were aware of some missing links which have been identified for targeting.

45/11 **Annual Report**

The Annual Report was noted. An amendment was required to the 'area of representation' for Mrs C Cook to Owner/Occupier.

46/11 **Report Back from the National Park Authority**

Mr Briggs read out a detailed note (a copy of which appears in the minute book).

47/11 **Huddle**

Considered:

The report of the LAF Secretary.

**Recommendation:**

That the Local Access Forum may wish to consider their future involvement with the Huddle workspace and consider identifying a Huddle Champion to be responsible for this if necessary.

**Resolved:**

That Members would wait for more information to become available.

48/11 **Benefits for SSSI in England and Wales**

The information was noted.

49/11 **Cropton Forest East Right of Way extinguishment and creation stopping/creation**

Documentation from Lady Kirk was circulated in her absence, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members noted that it was an excellent example of historic routes being used for modern times.

The Chair thanked the Head of Recreation and Access for the work he had done.

50/11 **Moorsbus – feedback from sub group advising on options for post 2013**

A Member of the sub-group circulated documentation, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

The Head of Recreation and Access informed Members that Moorsbus would be running for a further two years and then the Authority had allocated £100K to be used for transportation within the Park. The Officer noted that in another years time the Authority would be in a better position to look at future possibilities. Members agreed to defer this item to another meeting when responses had been received to letter sent by the sub-group.

51/11 **Items for Future Meetings**

- Huddle Progress
- National Park Committee Structure
- UUR Policy Update
- Volunteering – organisation, staffing, geography and finance