

North York Moors National Park Authority

24 September 2012

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 was considered appropriate 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. **UK ANPA - Members Workshop**

- 3.1 Philip Lawson and Steve Scoffin both attended the Members Workshop held in York from 25 to 27 June 2012. Attached at **Appendix 1** is a briefing note.

4. **North Yorkshire and York Housing Board**

- 4.1 David Hugill attended a meeting of the North Yorkshire and York Housing Board on the 18 May 2012. Attached at **Appendix 2** is a

5. **Welcome to Yorkshire**

- 5.1 Attached at **Appendix 3** is an update from David Jeffels on Welcome to Yorkshire.

6. **North Yorkshire and Cleveland Coast Forum Executive**

- 6.1 Richard Thompson attended a meeting of the Forum Executive on the 29 March 2012, attached at **Appendix 4** is a briefing note.

7. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

8. **Sustainability Appraisal**

- 8.1 A Sustainability Assessment is not required because the report is an Administrative Issues report.

9. **Legal Implications**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications.

10. **Recommendation**

- 10.1 That the report be noted.

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Background papers to this Report

File ref

1. None

UK ANPA - Members Workshop, York June 2012

The theme of the 2012 Workshop was "Engaging Local Communities" - discussion of information flow and consultation activities developing into involvement and greater community empowerment. Steve Scoffin attended on Day 1 and Philip Lawson on Day 2.

To a large extent contributions related to subject matter with which this National Park is familiar - SDF, LEADER, MOSAIC, Community level projects supported by funding and officer time. Few National Parks appear to use Parish Forums on a frequent basis. There was an opportunity to explain NYM practice and how the Forums are now well embedded in our systems.

The first day morning sessions included a general introduction to community engagement with the challenge of 'Why bother?' before moving on to the political context in England And Wales. Perhaps most interesting was the discussion involving the 'northern' National Parks (ie NYM, Northumberland, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs, Cairngorms) about how changes could be made to become more engaging for local communities. It became clear that the Cairngorms experience of directly-elected members was felt to work well, but also that the proposals to widen participation from committees to forums at the NYM was seen as a positive move.

The Workshop did not develop Localism Act themes to any great extent although, compared with small numbers elsewhere, it was said that the South Downs has received about 50 initial expressions of interest in preparing Neighbourhood Plans.

Looking forward to an assumed continued decline in traditional communication methods there was great interest in the ' Online Forum' being pioneered by the South Downs. It is run Facebook style but controlled by internal house rules. Consultants were used for initial set up. The Forum is moderated by a dedicated officer and has over 700 signed up members. It is not (yet) used for planning purposes but deals with a wide range of other issues initiated by either the signed up membership or the NPA. Controversy is said to be largely self regulating without the need for the NPA having to step into situations. There are dangers of course, some of which were seen as use by maverick officers and members or regular complainants but the advice was that these are outweighed by the benefits of being able to scan the latest situation on a daily basis.

Philip Lawson and Steve Scoffin

North Yorkshire and York Housing Board – 18 May 2012

As requested by the Board in March, plans are being developed for a North Yorkshire Rural Housing Week. This will be held from 1st – 5th October 2012 and a wide range of activities and events are being arranged across the sub region, including a ‘kick-off’ practitioners conference, a day working with rural parishes in Bradford, scheme visits and a closing event with a guest speaker. Local authorities will be responsible for delivering events within their own areas and we have coverage across all districts.

NYMNPA are involved in this with events in Swainby, Chopgate and Osmotherley. The Authority are also loaning a minibus for part of the week.

The Rural Housing Program programme delivered **126** rural affordable homes through the region in 2011/12 against a target of 75 homes. This is an excellent result.

Welfare reforms: Changes in the way housing benefit is collected from the customer could have serious implications for Local Authorities

David Hugill

Welcome to Yorkshire

The wet summer has obviously had a very significant impact on the tourism industry in the National Park, resulting in a sharp drop in car parking income, quite apart from the income which will have been suffered by tourist businesses.

Despite this, however, W2Y has achieved considerable success especially in the production of a wide range of excellent publicity material for the whole of the area for which it is responsible. In addition, leaflets featuring walking and cycling, Delicious Yorkshire, Nature Trails, Arts and Heritage are being produced which will benefit the North York Moors National Park. They will all be under the Yorkshire Coast and Countryside banner.

NYMNPA has made a contribution of £10,000 to Welcome to Yorkshire. This was the sum requested by WTY and is the same as that given by Ryedale I believe. The work being done to promote the coast is clearly very successful and we support this through attendance at the partnership meetings and through in kind support where possible.

W2Y provided funding for the Staithes Arts Festival which was being held on September 22/23, and the NPA provided a great deal of "in kind" support by providing a copyright free map, marketing effort and encouraged a funding bid to the small scale enhancement scheme.

It is disappointing that none of the £2 million which the Government has made available to Visit England, is being channelled to the National Park, and as a result, I understand W2Y has been advised to seek funding from the Regional Growth Fund. The indication is that that body may provide £100,000 over three years, but it will have to be match-funded.

I am due to have a meeting in October with James Beresford the CEO of Visit England to discuss this on behalf of Scarborough BC, and I shall also be highlighting the NPA's position. Generally speaking, there have been mixed messages about the tourist industry in the NP area and beyond, though there appears to have been a drop in the number of day visitors, and some businesses report that their trading has been sustained, but others that it has seen a decline which is hardly surprising because of the weather, the high cost of fuel and the general economic situation.

I shall be happy to pursue any issues members may have, on my return.

David Jeffels

North Yorkshire & Cleveland Coastal Forum Executive meeting 29 March 2012

Election of Chair - Councillor Mrs H Swiers

Renewable Energy and the Planning System - Wind Turbines - Farms and off-shore

Coastal Access - an event at Whitby on 19th Sept 2012

External Funding

Forum Conference - Tuesday 25th Sept at Redcar Bowl, Majuba Road, Redcar TS10 5BJ at 9.45 am details from John Beech

Richard Thompson