

North York Moors National Park Authority

23 September 2013

On the Record

1. **Minutes from National Parks England (NPE)**

A copy of the minutes of NPE AGM held on the 4 July 2013 is at **Appendix 1**.

2. **Minutes from the North York Moors Local Access Forum**

The North York Moors Local Access Forum met on the 11 June 2013 and the minutes from this meeting appear at **Appendix 2**.

3. **Community Forum**

A Community Forum for the North York Moors has been organised by Parish Councils and the National Park. The first free meeting is to be held on Tuesday, 8 October 2013 at Lady Lumley's School, Pickering preceded by a buffet supper at 5.30 pm. This first meeting will look at how community groups can use social media to increase their success and will discuss the related issue of government plans to improve mobile phone coverage. A flyer for this event is at **Appendix 3**.

4. **National Railway Museum**

At the June NPA, Members asked that the Authority write to the National Railway Museum regarding news of a possible closure. A reply to the letter is attached as **Appendix 4**. A reply to the letter is attached as **Appendix 5**. Members should note the positive response received from the DCMS.

Contact Officer:

Judith Seaton, PA to Chief Executive

Tel: 01439 772700

5. **Public Rights of Way Legal Events**

1. Bridleways 3 and 12 Gillamoor (Faddell Rigg) Diversion Order 2013
2. Bridleway 46 Hawnby (Thorodale) Diversion Order 2013
3. Footpath 53 Hawsker cum Stainsacre Definitive Map Modification Order 2013
4. Footpath 204 Lastingham (South Runnel) Extinguishment Order 2013
5. Footpath 32 Helmsley (Ryedale Close) Extinguishment Order 2013
6. Bridleway 210 Helmsley (Monk Holme Wood) Creation Order 2013
7. Footpath 32 Helmsley (Reagarth) Diversion Order 2013

Background

Letters to Legal Services on:

| | Date | File Reference |
|----|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | 7/06/2013 | 5050/5/14/DIV 3 |
| 2. | 15/07/2013 | 5050/5/16/DIV 46 |
| 3. | 15/07/2013 | 5050/3/19/MOD 53 |
| 4. | 17/07/2013 | 5050/5/22/EXT 204 |
| 5. | 23/07/2013 | 5050/5/17/CR 210 |
| 6. | 23/07/2013 | 5050/5/17/ CR 210 |
| 7. | 23/07/2013 | 5050/5/17/ CR 210 |

b) Public Path Orders taking effect after their date of confirmation

| ID | Reference | Confirmed | Took effect on | Description |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1296 | EAW/5050/3/10/DIV 196 | 01/08/2012 | 08/08/2013 | Diversion of FP 196 at Blue Beck Cottage, Egton. |

c) Temporary Closure of Public Rights of Way

- (i) Hinderwell Public Footpath 55, Staithes emergency closure for 21 days due to loose railings beside steep steps. Remedial work was undertaken during this time and the footpath re-opened on 1 August.

d) Gates/stiles authorised under s 147 HA 80

- (i) Stile on Helmsley Public Footpath 32 (Ryedale Close),
- (ii) 10' field-gate on Public Footpath 10 Carlton in Cleveland (Underhill Farm)
 - a. Hand-gate on Public Footpath 11 north-east of Plane Tree Farm, Carlton in Cleveland
 - b. Hand-gate on Public Footpath 17 north-west of Plane Tree Farm, Carlton in Cleveland
- (iii) Hand-gate on Public Footpath 103 Hawnby at Street Gate Farm

Contact Officer:
Karl Gerhardsen, Head of Recreation and Access.
Tel: 01439 772700

6. Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Review Panel

The Authority is seeking an additional Member to sit on the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) Review Panel. This Committee has the authority to review no less than annually, the performance of the Chief Executive against objectives which have previously been established through the Authority's Performance Appraisal Scheme.

Contact Officer:
Vanessa Burgess, Committees Officer
Tel: 01439 772700

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND
AGM**

**Minutes of meeting held on 4 July 2013 between 9.30-1.00pm at the Low Wood Hotel,
Windermere**

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Present | | |
| <u>Directors</u> | <u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u> | <u>NPAs</u> |
| Stephen Johnson | John Packman | Broads Authority |
| Bill Hitchins | Kevin Bishop | Dartmoor NPA |
| John Dyke (JDy) | Nigel Stone | Exmoor NPA |
| Bill Jefferson | Richard Leafe | Lake District NPA |
| Julian Johnson | Alison Barnes | New Forest NPA |
| Jim Bailey (Chair) | 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 |
| Peter Charlesworth | David Butterworth | Yorkshire Dales NPA |
| <u>Contributors</u> | <u>Organisation</u> | |
| Paul Hamblin | National Parks England | |
| Amanda Brace | National Parks England | |
| Meriel Martin (minutes) | National Parks England | |

AGM

| Item | | Agreed Actions |
|------|--|-------------------|
| 1. | <p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>JDy welcomed all present to the meeting and gave a formal welcome to Peter Charlesworth, as this was the first National Parks England Board meeting held since he had taken over as Chair of the Yorkshire Dales NPA.</p> | |
| 2. | <p>Apologies</p> <p>There were no apologies.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Election of Chair for National Parks England</p> <p>JDy explained that he had stood down as Chairman of Exmoor NPA after 6 years of service, though he remained a NPA Member. JDy stated that in his 2 years as Chairman of National Parks England it had been an honour and a privilege to work with Chairs and NPOs from all Parks and that this was a great family. SJ noted how much the Board had enjoyed having JDy as Chairman and the great deal of work he had done to ensure that the voice of National Parks was heard at the highest level. SJ thanked JDy on behalf of all Directors.</p> <p>JDy called for nominations. JB was nominated by SJ; and BJ was nominated by JR. Candidates were allowed 60 seconds to make a representation ahead of a paper ballot. It was agreed that MM and JDy would count the ballot papers.</p> <p>Following the ballot JDy announced that JB had been elected as Chair and JB duly assumed the chair.</p> | |

| | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| | The Chair stated that it would be an honour to serve National Parks England. | |
| 5. | <p>Election of Deputy Chair(s) for National Parks England</p> <p>Both BJ and SJ were re-appointed unopposed as Deputy Chairs. SJ noted that Deputy Chairs could be called upon to do more for National Parks England; and that the Chair could rely on Deputy Chairs to share the burden of work.</p> | |
| 6. | <p>Approve minutes of the last AGM</p> <p>The minutes were approved.</p> | |
| 7. | <p>Approval of Stephen Moulds of Moulds & Co. as NPE's Auditors</p> <p>The continued appointment of Stephen Moulds of Moulds & Co. as National Parks England's auditors for 2013/14, with a review later in 2013 to confirm that they remain the best value auditors available, was approved.</p> | PH |
| 8. | <p>Approve ENPAA's Accounts 2012/13</p> <p>The accounts for 2012/13 were approved and would be forwarded to Companies House.</p> | PH |

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND
AGM AND GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes of meeting held on 4 July 2013 between 9.30-1.00pm at the Low Wood Hotel,
Windermere**

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Present | | |
| <u>Directors</u> | <u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u> | <u>NPAs</u> |
| Stephen Johnson | John Packman | Broads Authority |
| Bill Hitchins | Kevin Bishop | Dartmoor NPA |
| John Dyke (JDy) | Nigel Stone | Exmoor NPA |
| Bill Jefferson | Richard Leafe | Lake District NPA |
| Julian Johnson | Alison Barnes | New Forest NPA |
| Jim Bailey (Chair) | 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 |
| Peter Charlesworth | David Butterworth | Yorkshire Dales NPA |
| <u>Contributors</u> | <u>Organisation</u> | |
| Paul Hamblin | National Parks England | |
| Amanda Brace | National Parks England | |
| Meriel Martin (minutes) | National Parks England | |

General Meeting

| Item | | Agreed Actions |
|------|---|---|
| 9. | Approve minutes from meeting held on 21 March 2013 (London) The minutes were approved . | |
| 10. | Matters arising <u>Launch of the National Parks England / VisitEngland Partnership Statement</u> PH and DB gave an update on the launch, which had taken place on 2 July in the Yorkshire Dales with Minister Richard Benyon MP and VisitEngland Chair Lady Cobham in attendance. ABr explained that focus was now firmly on delivery of the statement. Thanks were recorded to TG, ABr, and DB for their work on this. <u>National Parks England / Forestry Commission Chairs meeting (7 June 2013)</u> ABa and JDy fed back from the meeting with Forestry Commission Chair Sir Harry Studholme, which had taken place in Exmoor on 7 June. This had helped build a good relationship. Thanks were recorded to JDy and Exmoor NPA for hosting and in particular Graeme McVittie for his contribution. | |
| 11. | The response to the Spending Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prospectus for 2014-2017 • The impact of cuts on National Park Authorities • The priorities of the National Park Authorities <p>PH gave an update on the latest intelligence around the Spending Review. KB and the Agriculture and Rural Development Group will be working to ensure Defra understands the role of protected landscapes with regard to CAP reform.</p> <p>JP introduced the three documents for consideration and approval. Officers were congratulated on their work on these papers. The following actions were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning the papers better to give clearer read-across • Minor edits to the prospectus paper | KB All actions: JP/DB/PH |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission would be to Defra with a short covering note emphasising what NPAs can deliver and formally seeking a meeting with Minister Richard Benyon MP • Seeking to move the agenda forward quickly • Give Secretary of State Owen Paterson MP the opportunity to reflect on the prospectus and support it at UK ANPA Conference in September • A collective response would be sent in response to the recent letters from Tom Surrey. The strength of the collective response was emphasised though it was recognised that this would not preclude individual responses from NPAs | |
| 12. | <p>Love Your National Parks - Update</p> <p>PH reported on the substantial progress that had been made and various activities that were part of Love Your National Parks. PH noted the contribution that NPA communication teams had made and that, though the report provided an update on national activity, a key part of Love Your National Parks would be local engagement by NPAs.</p> <p>ABr reported work to date and future plans for the Valuing England's National Parks report, launched successfully in May. ABr thanked NS for his work on this and noted the support that had been received from communications teams in doing media work. The report had opened a number of doors with key organisations. DB noted that the Joint Improvement Group would be tasked with looking at the consultants' recommendations and keeping this a live area of work.</p> <p>The 'National Parks, National Assets' video produced to accompany the report was screened. DB noted that the South Downs NPA was due enormous credit for this.</p> <p>Thanks were recorded to the National Parks England team for the quality of their work on Love Your National Parks. The Chair noted that there was a potential marketing opportunity in Love Your National Parks.</p> | |
| 13. | <p>Notes of E-NPOG meeting 28.02.13</p> <p>The notes were received without discussion.</p> | |
| 14. | <p>Notes of E-NPOG meeting 02.05.13</p> <p>The notes were received without discussion.</p> | |
| 15. | <p>Any other business</p> <p><u>Rural GP surgeries</u> PC explained that a proposal to abolish the minimum practice income guarantee for GPs was causing concern in the Yorkshire Dales due to potential impacts for small communities with lower patient numbers. It was agreed that PH should communicate concerns to Sara Eppel at Defra in order that the Rural Communities Policy Unit could take this up.</p> | PH |
| 16. | <p>Dates of future meetings:</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was noted as:</p> <p>a) 2 Oct – National Parks England Board meeting (London)</p> | |
| | The meeting closed at 1.00pm. | |



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 Tuesday 11 June 2013 at 10am.

Present: Mr S Borman, Mrs C Cook, Mrs C Cussons, Mr G Dawson, Mr P Hay, Mrs J King, Lady E Kirk, Mrs M Mitchell, Ms A Peacock, Mr G Winn Darley,

Apologies: S Blakemore (Access Officer)

Officers in Attendance: Richard Gunton (Director of Park Services), Karl Gerhardsen (Head of Recreation and Access), Vanessa Burgess (Committees Officer), Julie McLinden (Administration Assistant)

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

01/13 Minutes

Members made comments or asked questions as follows:

- Item 39/12 Bullet Point 2
Very good aspiration but in practice how successful is this likely to be?
High levels of map reading in the population are not apparent so unlikely to happen in practice. Parish Champions in Parish Councils already help to encourage taking ownership of PROW (Public Rights of Way) and help to monitor and report problems.
- Engaging parish partnerships is good practice. Community Access project at Rosedale is a good example. Some Parishes have a Footpaths Officer and have taken a real interest in Rights of Way which works well.
- Good examples should be encouraged. Parishes such as Gillamoor and Fadmoor are smaller places having meetings rather than Councils and have less people to call upon.
- Item 46/12 e)
Have new members been identified? Steve Scoffin has left the Authority. A new NPA member will be nominated at the NPA AGM on 24 June 2013. A number of names have been put forward.

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2013 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2/13 **Matters Arising**

- **Weather Forecast on the National Park Website**

Members made comments or asked questions as follows:

- The present information on the NYMNPA website is basic. The Metrological Office is looking at more detailed information and how to give better value for money. There is still a demand from the public for more detailed weather information.
- Other National Park websites have good information from the Met Office; notably the Peak District, Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. This is expensive but should the cost be looked at again?
- Present practice is to provide a link from the website to more detailed information on other sites e.g. Metrological Office data.

3/13 **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

- The Chairman informed Members of the Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

4/13 **LARA – Good practice in Traffic Management on Unsealed Public Roads. Part 1: A selective approach to Traffic Management (Page 7)**

A verbal presentation was given by Leo Crone of the Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF). The main points of which are as follows:

- TRF (Trail Riders Fellowship) is an organisation representing mainly motorcyclists using the UCR (Unclassified County Road) network. The group researches the legality of all routes often taking Queens Council advice on legal matters concerning the UCR and BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) network and involves members in the preservation of these ancient routes for all users.
- UCRs do not appear on the definitive map but are included on the councils list of streets (roads maintained at public expense for motor traffic) and as such carry the right of vehicular passage.
- The routes used by TRF are the remains of the road network inherited by local councils in the early 1930s. These routes have not been tarmacked.
- Currently the group is in discussion with the Yorkshire Dales National Park on assisting in the repair and preservation of a UCR which is in need of maintenance and repair.
- The group also co-operates with land owners to help repair damaged lanes or gates in need of repair or replacement. The cost of this is met by TRF. The group would like the NYMNPA to consider a similar offer of help with any UCR they consider to be out of repair but capable of continuing to carry some type of vehicular traffic on a sustainable basis.
- Presently, nearly the entire UCR network is not way marked and so almost a hidden resource. NYCC are not in favour of way marking due to the likely hood of an increase in maintenance costs.

- The NYMNPA policy of bringing about a sustainable solution to the problem of damage to UCR by vehicles is understood by TRF. However it is believed that a small group of bikes leaves behind a light footprint compared with a tractor and trailer, group of 4x4's or the industrial machinery used in woodland.
- Whilst setting out the reasons for closures on UCRs, the NERC Act clearly states exemptions. As an organisation, the group act within the remit of the law.
- TRF liaise with local police to advise riders where to ride legally. They meet at Yarm once a month and lead out riders to legal lanes and identify where to ride and to use appropriate behaviour.

Members made comments and asked the following questions:

- As this is a recreational facility, should the NYMNPA take on more responsibility for UCRs? Presently no funding in place to maintain these ways. More funding would need to be identified in order for the NYMNPA to maintain them.
- Network is complex and has had little maintenance for last 60-70 years. Way marking is unclear for UCRs appearing as red dots on Landranger maps and green dots on Explorer maps.
- An offer to go on to the LAF has been received from John Richardson, LARA.

5/13 **Update on NPA Business**

The Head of Recreation and Access updated the meeting as follows:

- **York Potash**
Due for Members decision end of July. Deadline has been put back twice as more information has been gathered. Taken a lot of staff time. Public papers are on the website from 19 July. Officer recommendation is the starting point.
- The application is for the largest Potash mine in the world. More factual statements have been released to the media so that the public can make an informed decision. Objections have been received from Natural England, Environment Agency and Ministry of Defence.
- Members asking for more briefings before a decision is made. The decision will be announced at a meeting at Sneaton Castle, Whitby.
- The site of Dove's Nest Farm has no ROW on it. The mine would impact on Wainwright's Coast to Coast walk as it would be seen from the route and increase traffic on a short section of road. This walk is of great national significance being the second most popular walk in the world.
- Pipeline decision is with the Planning Inspectorate from 18 months to 2 years. It would run underneath and alongside the A171 from near Guisborough to Whitby and under the Esk Valley to Sneaton.
- The pipeline would impact on a lot of ROWs. This could be accommodated by keeping one closed during works whilst keeping another open. Looking at ways of minimising impact on ROW.

- Section 106 agreements could be used to counter any direct negative impact on landscape. For e.g. provision of a cycle way to be built from Whitby to Scarborough with an accompanying education and interpretation facility. Need to maximise positive potential.
- **Conservation Department**
Department has undergone a re-structure. New Director David Renwick has joined the Authority from East Riding but worked in Scarborough before that.
- New focus on Ecological connectivity and restoration of ancient woodland with conifers.
- **New Grants**
The Authority wants to encourage new thinking which benefits the Environment as well as the local economy and the local community. Three new grants are now available: Environmental Innovation Fund, Local Distinctiveness and Tourism Grant, and a Community Grant.

For more information and to download the simple application form please visit www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/grants or contact Rachel Smith.

- The Cleveland Way has been allocated promotion money from Natural England to produce a glossy, free guide for tourist information. It is hoped it will attract other user groups and gives an enticing look at the Cleveland Way.

6/13 **Huddle**

Huddle is a virtual forum set up by Defra and Natural England to facilitate communication – the sharing of advice, information and best practice amongst LAFs.

Amanda Peacock, Huddle Champion updated the meeting as follows:

- Natural England wish to develop a more strategic relationship with the LAFs through the use of Huddle, including sharing ideas on themed Huddle pages and by releasing new LAF newsletters.
- A position paper on boosting economic growth through recreation and tourism via new Environmental Land Management Schemes in England has been circulated by Ken Taylor (NW LAF). The paper will be circulated and views collated for discussion and potential action at or before the next LAF meeting.
- Discussion threads on Huddle include the use of mobility scooters on PROW and whether the Highways Act should be extended to enable the public to issue notice to clear obstructions on Unclassified, Unsurfaced roads. Further information on these issues can be obtained by contacting Amanda Peacock.
- Different threads on Huddle may appeal to the interests of different LAF members and ideally all LAF members should be able to access Huddle. It needs more interaction. Currently used by those with detailed knowledge of PROW.
- Discussions also include the impact of public sector funding cuts on LAFs and the benefits to LAFs of using social media (such as Twitter).
- The papers from the Sheffield LAF conference (February 2013) are also available on Huddle for information.

7/13 **NPA Framework for Managing UURs**

- A PowerPoint presentation was given by the Head of Access and Recreation containing photos of 8 of the 9 UURs being monitored, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made comments or asked questions as follows:

- Questionnaires were sent out asking local people for e.g. Do they have knowledge of route? Do they use it? Assessments of the route reports and recommendations will be put together for the future.
- The questionnaire should have space to include any damage by landowner activity. Any information from surveys about heavy vehicles such as forestry or farming vehicles should be highlighted and contained in individual route reports.
- An advisory group will be assembled consisting of a balance of motor vehicle users and those with wider recreational interests looking at the pros and cons. 4-5 members will sit on the group chaired by a National Park Authority member who sits on the forum to be selected by the NPA on 24 June. A briefing note was distributed including an invitation to LAF. Members to go on it and the group will meet in Autumn 2013.
- NYCC seem to have money to dedicate to individual UCRs: For e.g. Deadman's Hill, Nidderdale. In the past money has been spent at Monket Bank. Traffic Regulation Orders in North Yorkshire are made by the Area Highway Offices but there is currently no way to access this information from the County Council's website. Possibly routes affecting special qualities of the National Park. A lot could be achieved with help of volunteers.
- Framework Document section 8.2, Process, fifth and final bullet point needs clarification of highways identified Eg Fangdale Beck, Bilsdale. They may have dual status which carries rights not subject to the Act. Policy needs to be re-examined.
- Traffic Regulation order has been in place at Fangdale Beck for last 20 years. One of ten UCRs with permanent TROs on it. Footpath crossing UCR culminates in 3ft dead end between two roads. Queens Council has indicated this is not what law intended to do. No TROs have been put in place by the National Park Authority. They are difficult and used as a last resort.
- Is there a lack of technical knowledge to improve a route without impacting on the special qualities of the National Park? A good example of an improved bridleway at Roseberry Common where fine aggregate and fertilised topsoil looks like a stone road at first but will green over. It is appropriate to locality and will blend in well. SSSI and sites with ancient monuments demand the use of traditional road building techniques.
- Increasing numbers of complaints are coming in from disabled riders who cannot access routes in the Park where we have installed horse-friendly vehicle barriers.

8/13 **Department for Transport Cycling Bid**

A PowerPoint presentation was given by the Director of Park Services, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

- A bid was prepared very quickly There is no specific date for the result but we should be notified by end of June. Northumberland and Exmoor did not bid. South Downs, Dartmoor and the Peak District National Parks are our main competitor. Hopefully two or three bids will be funded.
- Took out rolling stock in the bid. North Yorkshire Moors Railway is a privately operating company and could take out seats for cycle capacity. Sustrans – recommend tarmac end to end for new cycle routes.
- On the Whitby to Scarborough former railway tarmac proposed in areas where cinder could not be used because of drainage issues.
Two main priorities are boosting tourism for enjoyment in the National Park and habitat connection within the National Park. The scheme will have to go through a detailed planning process before implementation.

9/13 **Items for Future Meetings**

- The Huddle Champion will let the group know if any items are important to be raised at the next LAF meeting.

10/3 **Other Business**

- Date of next meeting 3 December 2013 at 10.00am.

North York Moors Community Forum

You are invited to a free event about social media
and community organisations

To discuss with local friends, colleagues and experts how we can make the
North York Moors a better and easier place to live

8 October 2013

Start Time: **5.30** pm - Buffet Supper

6.30 pm - Forum Start

At: Lady Lumley's School, Pickering

Social Media in the community

Local experts share their experiences and tips on how you could use Facebook and Twitter to reach your community

Improving mobile phone coverage

Update on Mobile Infrastructure Project – Chris France, Director of Planning

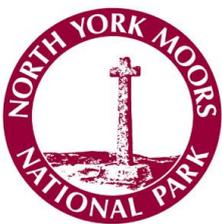
Becoming an active member of your Parish Council

How I became a Member of my Parish Council – Fiona Farnell (Slingsby PC) Richard Thompson (Newby/Scalby PC)

How to take an active role in the National Park

With Members, Staff and Volunteers

Book your place by 30 September using the contact details below:



Judith Seaton

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

Tel: 01439 772700 Fax: 01439 770691

E-mail: j.seaton@northyorkmoors.org.uk

Website: www.northyorkmoors.org.uk

Twitter: [northyorkmoors](https://twitter.com/northyorkmoors)

Facebook: [northyorkmoorsnationalpark](https://www.facebook.com/northyorkmoorsnationalpark)

Organised by North York Moors National Park Authority & Parish Councils



Mike Nicholas

The Rt Hon Maria Miller MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street
London
SW1A 2BQ

Your ref:
Our ref: 6055/1
Date: 3 July 2013

Dear Secretary of State

National Railway Museum, York

I write to convey the concern of the Members of the National Park Authority, as registered at the Authority Meeting on 24 June 2013, at the suggestion that the National Railway Museum in York is under threat of closure because of budgetary problems within the Science Museum Group.

The National Railway Museum is of vital importance to the economy of the City of York and to the wider Yorkshire region, in which the North York Moors National Park is a key stakeholder. The Museum is a successful and hugely popular tourist attraction and our Members are concerned that its closure would severely impact on visitor numbers to the Region.

As an educational and cultural institution, the National Railway Museum celebrates Britain's pioneering of railway technologies that spread out from their origins in the North of England – including the North York Moors - to every part of the globe. This much valued institution holds collections of international significance and, as a consequence, attracts visitors from all over the world, who, in turn, support a broader tourism economy crucial to the Region's economic recovery. Its closure would be unwelcome.

Our Members ask you to note their deep concerns and to work closely with the Science Museum Trustees to reach a solution which ensures the Railway Museum remains open.

Yours sincerely

Jim Bailey
Chairman



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport

Ministerial Support Team
4th Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000
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www.gov.uk/dcms
enquiries@culture.gsi.gov.uk

Your Ref: 6055/1
Our Ref: 234637/sh/25

August 2013

Jim Bailey
North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
YORK
YO62 5BP

Dear Mr Bailey,

Thank you for your letter of 3 July, to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and Minister for Women and Equalities, the Rt Hon Maria Miller MP, regarding the National Railway Museum. Your letter has been passed to me as a member of the Ministerial Support Team at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Department understands the importance of the Museum to the City of York and the surrounding area, and the valuable contribution it makes to education. This has been underlined in recent weeks by the strong reaction to speculation about its future.

Following the favourable outcome of the Spending Review, it has now been announced that the reduction in resource and capital grants for the national museums has been limited to 5% in 2015-16. In addition, a package of operational and financial freedoms is being granted to national museums and galleries which will help them act more strategically, increase revenues from their commercial operations and attract more philanthropic donations. In the light of this settlement, the Science Museum Group has confirmed that all of its museums will remain open. This includes the National Railway Museum.

Thank you again for writing, with all my very best wishes.

Stephanie Holyhead
Ministerial Support Team Department for Culture, Media and Sport

