

North York Moors National Park Authority

15 December 2014

Community and Parish Forums

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update Members on the outcome of the Community Forum held on 8 October 2013 and seek Members' approval for replacement meetings.
- 1.2 To seek Members' approval on new dates for Parish Forum meetings.

2. Background on Community Forum

- 2.1 Within the Business Plan an annual community forum was proposed and agreed. The first Community Forum took place on 8 October 2013 with the aim to encourage young people to participate in public life, especially in Parish Councils. Groups including Young Farmers, Scouts and Guides, Country Women Association, youth clubs, sports and social clubs, small business owners were invited.
- 2.2 The inaugural Community Forum was not well attended despite the wide circulation of invitations. The majority of attendees were from Parishes who already attend the Parish Forum meetings.
- 2.3 As the meeting was not a success, Officers propose that the Community Forum be replaced by less formal meetings arranged as and when required for specific issues/topics/groups such as farmers and local businesses. For instance, meetings could be organised for farmers around the introduction of the new Countryside Stewardship and other CAP payments, as has happened successfully in the past.

3. Parish Forum Dates

- 3.1 Parish Forums have been popular and enjoyed a great deal of success over the years and it is proposed that they continue in their current format. However, with the introduction of the annual Community Forum in the autumn, the dates for the Parish Forums were changed and now occur in February and July which creates a large gap between meetings.
- 3.2 Officers suggest that approval be sought from Parishes to move the Parish Forum dates to April and October with the joint Parish Forum to be held in July of each year. This ensures a more even spread of meetings, hopefully avoids the worst weather and allows for the insertion of other topic specific meetings as and when required.

4. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

5. **Contribution to National Park Management Plan**

- 5.1 Communities will be better able to influence the delivery of services and decisions affecting the National Park under policy C1 of the National Park Management Plan where local views will be sought in developing policies, priorities and activities in the National Park.

6. **Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. **Recommendation**

- 7.1 That Members:

- 7.2 Approve the replacement of the community forum with specific interest, less formal meetings to be held as and when required;

- 7.3 Agree that Parishes' views be sought on the dates for the Parish Forums being set in April and October of each year with the Joint Parish Forum in July.

Contact Officer
Judith Seaton
PA to Chief Executive
Tel No 01439 772700

Background papers to this Report

File ref

1. Authority Forums Report dated 24 September 2012