

North York Moors National Park Authority

14 December 2015

Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

<p>1. Purpose of the Report</p>
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| <p>1.1 To consider reports from Members attending meetings on outside bodies as representatives on the Authority.</p> |
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2. **Background**

- 2.1 It has been agreed 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. **Local Government North Yorkshire & East Riding Housing Board**

- 3.1 Alison Fisher attended this meeting on 14 September 2015. Her notes from the meeting are attached at **Appendix 1**.

4. **Campaign for National Parks**

- 4.1 David Jeffels attended this meeting on 12 November 2015. His notes from the meeting are attached at **Appendix 2**.

5. **Welcome to Yorkshire**

- 5.1 This meeting was held on 18 November 2015, David Jeffels attended on behalf of the Authority. His notes will be made available at NPA Committee on 14 December.

6. **Disability Advisory Group**

- 6.1 Sarah Oswald recently attended this meeting. Her notes will be made available at NPA Committee on 14 December.

7. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

8. **Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications.

<p>9. Recommendation</p>

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| <p>9.1 That the report be noted.</p> |
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**York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Board
14 September 2015**

Housing Strategy Launch 14 September 2015

This September the Housing Board meeting followed on from the launch of the Housing Strategy that morning. The launch was well attended by some 60 representatives of the various Local Authorities, Housing Associations, House Builders, Homes and Communities Agency and Housing Federation and LEP. Speakers set out their perspectives on the Strategy and the concluding discussion looked at how the Strategy's objectives could best be delivered. There was a general consensus that achieving priorities (provide more affordable homes, improve existing stock, improve housing choice and services, secure community renaissance and reduce homelessness) would be challenging and that approved local authority Local Plans would be absolutely key to these priorities. The Housing Board will monitor progress over the 6 year life of the Strategy. Access the document at <http://www.nycyerhousing.co.uk/housing-strategy>

Background to the Launch and Board meeting

From the NYMNP perspective both the Strategy launch and the meeting of the Board took place within the context of the review of our engagement through Scrutiny Committee on 13 July 2015 (Item 7 paras 5.11 re Planning) and Planning Committee on 23 July 2015 when the Housing Strategy paper was endorsed by Members, as was our continuing engagement with the YNYER Housing Board.

Meeting of the Housing Board 14 September 2015

This meeting was positive and decisive, following on as it did from the upbeat Strategy launch that morning. Key discussion points included:

- without an approved Local Plan, local authorities are vulnerable to losing appeals for housing on non-allocated land; getting to a draft stage of the Local Plan quickly is essential.
- in tandem, speeding up the planning process especially at S106 stage is essential; there was discussion over the scope for generic S 106 agreements and feedback is awaited
- Right to Buy and the Housing Bill – agreed that the Board's Chair will write to set out the Board's concern about Right to Buy especially in rural areas and that the sheer volume of legislative changes is undermining the ability to secure housing provision – i.e. the goal posts keep being moved; feedback on the Chair's letter is awaited
- Proof of Intent to Develop – there was discussion of the frequency with which developers secure planning permissions and then "sit" on them thus frustrating the objectives of the Housing Strategy. One option could be to impose a "time limitation" condition to achieve a quick construction and sales turnover.

However there were concerns expressed over the Budget's key announcements which include -

The impact of the 1% pa rent reduction on Housing Associations - eg Broadacres will lose £20m over the 2016 to 2020 period.

Households earning over £30k pa must pay market rent

Impact of Review of Lifetime Tenancies?

Impact of the Living Wage increase?

Impact of the Right to Buy scheme?

Impact of the wider Welfare Cuts?

Clearly with so many unknowns the Housing Associations will need to review how they operate, including whether they should amalgamate/disband/become a charity. These will emerge over the next months and will be on the agenda for the December meeting.

The next meeting will be on Monday 14 December 2015 which unfortunately clashes with our next National Park Authority meeting.

Alison Fisher
November 2015

CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS

The two main issues discussed at the meeting of the CNP Council on November 12 were farming and land management in National Parks and off-roading.

A working party, of which I am a member, has been set up to investigate upland farming and has made good progress. The point was made by Norman Cowling, of Devon Park Authority who instigated the working party, that more flexibility is needed in stewardship schemes operating in the parks.

NPs have a good champion apparently in the Government, in Rory Stewart, an MP in Cumbria and now a junior minister at Defra.

Themes which have emerged so far in the working party's deliberations have been (a) there is no clear vision for hill farming (b) inconsistency in public policy on such things as agri-environment schemes (c) down trend in funding for the hills (d) opportunities for local land management initiatives including stewardship schemes and (e) applied research and farm business advice.

The next steps by the working party will be to meet early 2016, contact stakeholders, which will lead to a draft report going before the CNP council meeting in June.

A current issue which is particularly concerning CNP is mineral extraction because of its potential damage to the landscape and communities in terms of noise, dust, blast vibration, HGVs and visual intrusion.

There are a number of mineral operations in NPs, primarily as a result of old minerals permissions which date back to the 1950's. However a number of quarry sites have been restored to a high quality says CNP. It wants the aggregates levy sustainability fund to be reinstated or a similar one created. Examples of good practice in mineral quarrying have been cited as Tarmac's quarry in the Yorkshire Dales, Whitlingham Quarry in the Norfolk Broads, and in the Peak District.

CNP has also focussed on transport and the heavy reliance on private cars because of the decline in public bus services in the parks.

A call has been made by SNP for the provision in NPs for well-designed cycle and walking paths and measures to restrict traffic to avoid damaging the special qualities of NPs.

A policy seminar for businesses has been held and it is encouraging that 182,000 individuals and organisations have signed up to CNP's campaign to oppose further cuts in NP budgets. CNP's Mosaic for Youth project has been another success story with more than 1,000 young people involved.

CNP is also mounting a campaign to promote greater enjoyment of NPs and commit people to use them (This in turn would benefit the income of such parks as the North York Moors with an increased number of visitors.)

If any member wants more information on current CNP issues please let me know.

DAVID JEFFELS

North York Moors National park Representative on CNP