

## North York Moors National Park Authority

27 June 2016

### Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

|  |
|--|
| <p>1. <b>Purpose of the Report</b></p> |
|--|

- |   |
|---|
| <p>1.1 To consider reports from Members attending meetings on outside bodies as representatives on the Authority.</p> |
|---|

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. **Campaign for National Parks**

- 3.1 David Jeffels recently attended a CNP meeting in London, his report can be found at **Appendix 1**

4. **Disability Advisory Group**

- 4.1 Sarah Oswald attended a DAG meeting at Danby on 20 May 2016. Her report can be found at **Appendix 2**

5. **Tourism Advisory Board**

- 5.1 A written update from this meeting on 8 June 2016, to be circulated at NPA on 27 June.

6. **Welcome to Yorkshire**

- 6.1 An update from the Authority's Welcome to Yorkshire Representative, David Jeffels can be found at **Appendix 3**.

7. **Local Government North Yorkshire, York and East Riding Housing Board**

- 7.1 Alison Fisher, the Authority's Housing Board Representation will give Members a verbal update on this at the meeting as indicated by the header note at **Appendix 4**.

8. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 8.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

9. **Legal Implications**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications.

10. **Recommendation**

10.1 That the report be noted.

Contact Officer  
Vanessa Burgess  
Committees Officer  
Tel No 01439 772700

## CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS

There were two main items on the latest CNP meeting held in London on May 19 - the results of a survey on the public perception/aspirations for NPs and the development of a policy position on farming and land management in English National Parks.

At the annual meeting, television presenter Caroline Quentin was appointed the new CNP President. She has made several documentaries on rural life for TV recently.

**SURVEY** - Near 10,000 people responded to a national-wide survey on NPs with their views on how they currently operate and how they perceive their future. The results of the survey have yet to be made public but I expect them to be very shortly (This report is being written on May 23).

The survey was labelled "The Big Conversation" and 20 pc of respondents lived or worked in a NP while 97 pc of the remainder had visited one in the last five years.

Bullet point results:

- \*Top three features - wildlife, views and landscapes, and wild places
- \*Top recreational activities: Walking "other" and observing wildlife
- \*Calls for better conservation of wild life
- \*More support needed for land managers
- \*Better rural services and internet connectivity
- \* Issues to be resisted (a) major housing developments (b) major new roads (c) substantial holiday or leisure developments (d) off roading (e) large festivals

Of those who responded regarding energy infrastructure 76 pc said small scale/micro hydro facilities should be allowed; 72 per cent supported individual solar panels a d44 pc wind turbines.

The report is now being pursued by CNP with a view to it being sent to Government/Defra for possible action.

## UPLAND FARMING MANAGEMENT

The working party, of which I am a member, which was set up to look at the whole question of upland farming in NPs in England, submitted its initial report to the CNP Council.

So far three meetings of the working party have been held and another is planned shortly.

The report said that the working party was strongly of the view that the varied contributions of farmers in the uplands should continue to be supported politically and financially, including food production, maintenance of the landscapes, biodiversity and social cohesion in remote communities - all of which appertain to the North York Moors.

It was felt that there needs to be a fair income return to working farms in NPs, such a return coming from a combination of market returns, including farm diversifications and public subsidy.

The decline in agri-environmental scheme spending should be reversed. More local design and delivery of schemes should be explored - the problems of such areas as Exmoor are not the same as the NY Moors.

Tree planting to help alleviate flood risk should also be investigated.

I feel that the final report would benefit from inclusion on a future agenda of the NYMNPA's PLUG group.

If any member has any queries either before the NP Meeting on June 27, or afterwards, just let me know.

David Jeffels  
NYMNPA Rep on CNP

## **Disability Advisory Group, Danby Centre, 20/05/16**

The group was invited to provide views on the recent proposal by Scarborough Borough Council to close all public toilets and the consideration began made to offer it them to town and parish councils. Some parishes have taken on running toilets and been helped by grants through NYM in the past. The group was disappointed to hear of SBC's proposals particularly as many visitors plan their visits with the knowledge of easy access to public toilets. There was a question as to whether the closure would impact on disabled toilets also. Some suggestions included working with local businesses to encourage them to make their toilets available (as happens in some places in Scotland), introduce donations at the toilet, work with village halls to encourage them to open their facilities (there are precedents). Karl was to pass the group's views on at the forthcoming meeting at SBC.

There is an action to further investigate the provision of accessible cycles at Sutton Bank.

### **Update on visitor centres:**

- there has been further investment in path surfaces and Malcolm Hodgeson is investigating the disabled access potential of the improved network of stone laid trails.
- a new video has been made of a self-propelled chair being used on the trails and will be part of promoting them
- the trails are being used - a recent visitor was able to use trail to reach gliding club and back on small wheeled mobility scooter with sufficient battery range
- there is a plan to change some trails to 'wheels only' and to explore appropriate signage
- there will be three loops rather than one large loop to enable choice of return
- Ian will be going out in his motorised chair with Malcolm to look at some routes - Ian noted how positive the work is that is ongoing
- the funding being sought will include signage and promotional costs

### **Volunteer service**

Kirkleatham School as still heavily involved

Moorswork is due to provide an update to the group and will be invited to attend the next meeting with a particular focus on giving the group an update on actions taken towards sustainability of the organisation

### **Access and PROW**

There have been boardwalk repairs made at Forge Valley

The replacement of the foot bridges at Easington and Wroxley Becks was discussed - the width of the bridges was queried as the new bridge at Beck Hole was noted as being great and is on a bridleway. The former sites are footpaths rather than bridleways and considered too narrow and steep, limiting access though there is work to regrade them to have no steps. Funding to enhance paths to widen accessibility is being focused on bridleways where most benefit can be achieved. The important attitude or assumption was that access should be made possible and that a disabled person should be consulted. The general principle is to make paths as accessible as possible within the budget and to consult.

England's Coastal Path will be launched on the Middlesbrough to Filey section in July which encompasses the Cleveland Way. The extension into East Riding will follow.

SBC has worked up an improved plan for the Cinder Track and there will be a meeting on 13/06

NYM was encouraged to remind officers that plans and proposals for development can be sent to the group to comment on, even if not at DAG meetings. Although rangers are working on improvements day to day, longer term plans should be circulated for views.

#### **Local Access Forum meets on 13th June**

David Brewster (Ryedale Special Families) has been appointed. As he also attends DAG he will be a useful link. Next LAF will be meeting at Sutton Bank and looking at the path network. David is to be asked to update the DAG on this at the next meeting.

#### **Mental health advice**

The group were invited to provide thoughts on ways in which NYM can support employees facing mental health challenges. The opportunity to offer informal conversations, coaching or a buddy system to provide staff with alternative means to discuss concerns were mentioned.

#### **TEL**

A brief update was provided to note that HLF funding was confirmed as was funding from the David Ross Foundation. Permission to start from HLF is awaited and then work can begin. There will be further updates in the future.

It was asked whether someone from DAG could join the steering group or whether there is already representation of disadvantaged users?

#### **Gate trials**

An update on the tests which members of DAG took part in at Askham Bryan is expected by October at the latest.

#### **Dog waste at FC woodland sites**

There is an issue with the management of dog waste at the lane up from the car park to Captain Cook Monument. There is no bin (part of FC cost efficiencies) and instead the idea is to re-educate users in appropriate use. FC and Kennel Club working together on this. Volunteer rangers are patrolling to clear waste and there is a need to try to make signage more site relevant or targeted to improve matters.

Date of next meeting tbc.

**Sarah Oswald**  
**DAG Representative**

## **WELCOME TO YORKSHIRE (W2Y)**

### **Tour de Yorkshire**

There have been several significant events in the last few months, most notably being the Tour de Yorkshire which came into the North York Moors National Park and provided some splendid television coverage of the Park. Well in excess of last year's 1.5 million spectators lined the route and the value has been put at, at least £50m in value to the region's economy and it is fair to assume that the National Park would have benefitted significantly in terms of attracting guests to hotels, cafes, restaurants and shops. The long term value of the media and television coverage the event will have secured is difficult to assess but must run to a considerable amount with hopefully, a good proportion benefitting our National Park.

### **Yorkshire.com**

W2Y has re-launched its Yorkshire.com website which now offers a much improved experience for users and since its launch in March has had more than three million views. The site is image led and also has film and strong content which includes the National park. W2Y is also benefitting from a £10 m fund for tourism investment in the North of England which aims to deliver an extra two million visitor nights to the region, equating to £177 m in international visitor expenditure.

### **Rural Campaign**

NYMNP has benefitted from a £500k rural campaign featuring the two National Parks, (Dales and Moors) and among the NYMNP attractions, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. There has also been big screen advertising at Kings Cross Station.

### **Yorkshire Festival**

The Yorkshire Festival is being held from June 16 to July 3 which is expected to give a further boost to the local economy.

### **Holiday Guide**

Some 85,000 copies of the Discover Yorkshire Coast Holiday Guide for 2016 have been produced and distributed, and which features the NYMNP. In addition 40,000 Delicious Yorkshire and cultural, evening event guides have been distributed. A new image library has been produced to support companies who are based in, or have invested in the National Park and Yorkshire Coast area.

I hope to produce a further update to NYMNPA members later in the summer.

If anyone would like more information or has queries, please let me know.

**DAVID JEFFELS**  
**NYMNPA Rep W2Y**