

North York Moors National Park Authority

18 December 2017

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 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 reports from the National Parks Society/CNP Conference, October 12-14 2017 and the CNP meeting, 15 November 2017 can be found at **Appendix 1**.

4. NYM Disability Advisory Group

- 4.1 Report from Sarah Oswald, to be tabled at the meeting

5. Awareness, Recreation & Business Forum

- 5.1 Report from Sarah Oswald, to be tabled at the meeting

6. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That the report be noted.

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National Parks Societies/CNP Conference, New Forest October 12-14

This annual conference, which I attended as NYMNPA representative on Campaign for National Parks, was this year held in the New Forest and attracted a wide range of speakers and NP reps.

Its theme was "Our National Parks under Pressure" and focussed on the effect of climate change, Brexit, house building, recreation, opportunities for young people.

Two study tours were organised, one, which I attended, was a walk through the forest, which I found to my cost, proved to be very boggy. Drainage work and restoration of streams is being successfully carried out, and will in the future provide a valuable educational resource with the many habitats for flora and fauna. The New Forest has a unique scheme of governance of Verdures who in effect, are responsible for the park's governance.

A second study tour focussed on the coastal problems around the New Forest.

The New Forest Tourism Association is particularly active, and it was interesting to hear of a Business Card scheme, in which more than 150 business in the New Forest participate, offering the public discounts to encourage them to buy local products. The National Park Authority contributes £25,000 pa towards it because it is felt the project benefits the local economy in terms of viability of businesses and job creation.

An Opportunity For NYMNPA?

Is this something we could pursue for the North York Moors? If NYMNPA could make a contribution, perhaps the local authorities (Scarborough, Hambleton, Ryedale and Redcar and Cleveland) might support either with a grant or in kind, coupled with some funding from the Local Enterprise Agency for North Yorkshire.

The New Forest has a great wealth of historic trees thanks to 150 years of care by the National Park Association. As a result there are a considerable number of Commoners who graze livestock and horses and ponies, which are synonymous with the New Forest and vital to its long term future.

Ironically it was back in 1870 that the New Forest was first suggested as becoming a national park. The New Forest has had a significant and interesting history involving land owners; Parliamentary debates etc. over the years.

the New Forest has a Landscape Partnership which brings together 10 partners and 21 projects, into a £4.4 m Heritage Lottery funded scheme, spanning five years to restore the park's lost habitats, develop forest skills and with the aim of inspiring a new generation to champion and care for the Forest.

Part of the conference took us on a study walk in an area where there are a number of intrusive plants such as parrots feather, water fern, floating pennywort, Australian swamp-stonecrop, which are having a negative impact on waterways making them unsuitable for both wildlife and recreation. Trying to eradicate them is expensive, particularly in term of labour costs. A warning was given by experts on the walk, that the above named plants and others were in danger of spreading north.

An Opportunity For NYMNPA?

Should NYMNPA consider carrying out a survey to ascertain whether the invasion of such plants is a problem in our National Park, and if so, whether action should be taken before the problem is exacerbated?

The Forestry Commission had a strong presence at the conference, as the management organisation for the Forest Estate from locating such things as car parks and campsites, to issuing permits and coping with the thousands of tourists to the New Forest who contribute

in excess of £500m pa to the economy. The volume of traffic in and around the New Forest must be one of the biggest headaches facing the Park Authority.

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

Kind regards

DAVID JEFFELS
North York Moors NPA, CNP Rep

CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL PARKS COUNCIL Meeting – 15 November 2017

One of the main issues discussed with the CNP's Strategic Plan which will cover the period from April 2018 to March 2023. The socio-economic duty and importance of the communities living in the Parks was highlighted.

Sustainable transport was a very significant issue and for it to be integrated.

Working in partnership is regarded as key to CNP's role.

A significant amount of time in the meeting was given to the future of the Welsh National Parks. It was agreed that CNP should continue to work with the Alliance for Welsh Designated Landscapes after being told that the Sandford Principle of National parks, which dates back several years, was at risk as a result of the Welsh Assembly's review of the Welsh parks.

Brexit: - CNP is working with the Wildlife and Countryside Link and Greener UK in relation to the EU Withdrawal Bill. The future of farming in England was crucial so far as the National Parks were concerned and the likelihood of any new agricultural policy.

CNP's contribution to the Brexit debate has been influenced by the Report on Uplands Farming which I as the representative for the North York Moors, and other NP members from the Yorkshire Dales, Peak District, Exmoor and Dartmoor produced a few months ago.

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove, has outlined his initial proposals for a 25 year Environment Plan. CNP has been working with CPRE and the National Trust on the importance of safeguarding NP landscapes and protecting them.

At the AGM of CNP which preceded the main Council meeting, staff were congratulated on their achievements for NPs in the past year. The AGM also looked at the Governance of the organisation, especially in relation to voting rights.

If any Member of NYMNPA has any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

DAVID JEFFELS
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