

North York Moors National Park Authority

26 June 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 report can be found at **Appendix 1**

4. HOUSING BOARD for Local Government York, North Yorkshire and East Riding

- 4.1 Notes from two Housing Board meetings held on 20 Feb and 22 May 2017 and attended by Alison Fisher can be found at **Appendix 2**.

5. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the report be noted.

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CNP Meeting

The main issue at the CNP Council meeting on 25 May was rural transport, especially public transport provision, in National Parks.

RUTH BRADSHAW, head of policy and research at CNP told members that everyone should have the opportunity to visit NPs, and pointed out that 25 pc of the population does not have a car.

There was, she added, a need for better option and opportunities for the public to visit the parks.

CNP had secured changes to the Government's new Bus Services Act and importantly, CNP is to produce its own report to influence Government and Transport Authorities on services. The changes in the Act, instigated by CNP, included the need to focus on improved provision for visitors being able to visit NPs.

MARK HOLDROYD, Transport Manager for the New Forest NP, said his authority was working closely with tourism businesses and bus operators to improve services and public transport maps for the New Forest had been drawn up.

Interestingly, a new open top double decker bus service is now operating in the New Forest, similar to the hop-on/hop-off Big Bus services we see in large towns in Europe. The services provide two routes in the New Forest, each with commentaries and have proved a big success with tourists. The NP sells advertising to help fund the service, and in the past year it raised between £30k and £40k.

Incentives on the service include free ice creams and links to the ferry services at Southampton. Biggest users of the service are those who have concessionary fare passes.

Council members felt that visitors should subsidise rural bus services. In the Lake District a levy of 42 p is imposed on tourists (I am awaiting more information on this point and its implementation).

BILL FREEMAN, Chief Executive of Community Transport Association, which has some 1,000 members, said its aim was to champion social and community transport by finding local solutions, accessibility, connectivity, and creating resident service models. The need to create links between visitor attractions and transport charities was important. Providing better rural services in parks would encourage the public to move away from taking their cars. Better ticketing arrangements were needed between bus services in the parks and regional bus and rail services.

ALISTAIR KIRKBRIDE of the Lake District NP, said it operated a "Car Plus" charity, and had developed a shared car scheme. This had been targeted on the village of Staveley in the LD. Usage of electric cars was encouraged but adequate re-charging points were vital. National Parks, he said lent themselves to 'progressive implementation' and in the Lake District the number of car journeys had reduced by 14 pc as a result of initiatives by the NPA.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Discussions included the belief that the new Bus Services Act could help restore bus services possibly through franchise (Cornwall has apparently been leading the way in this field)

OTHER MATTERS

CNP has produced its own manifesto for the General Election and the main points are:

- Strengthening NP planning protections

- Protecting the finding of NPs for the next five years
- Increasing sustainable access options so everyone can access a NP

CNP is calling on all political parties to commit to investing in NPs for the long-term prosperity and health of the nation.

On biodiversity, CNP was told that some NPAs are prioritising social and economic wellbeing as part of schemes to restore biodiversity.

Upland Farming: The report of the Working Party on Upland Farming, of which I am a member and occasional chairman, has been before the CNP Trustees and it is expected that another meeting to take the working party's report and the observations of CNP Trustees forward will be arranged in the near future.

I hope to provide clarification on the 42p levy in the Lake District in time for the meetings of the NYMNPA meeting and if anyone has any queries on this report or any other aspect of CNP's work in the meantime, please contact me - email: d.jeffels@northyorkmoors.org.uk
Phone 01723863395 or mobile: 07870 274680.

DAVID JEFFELS
NYMNPA rep at CNP

**HOUSING BOARD for
Local Government York, North Yorkshire and East Riding**

Meeting held 20 February 2017

The first meeting of the Board in 2017 considered the Community Housing Fund, The Quarterly Permissions and Completions statistics, the Housing White Paper as well as receiving updates from members on Housing Markets, Housing Associations, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and Syrian Resettlement.

1. Community Housing Fund

This is a pooled resource to enable us to have greater central capacity to accelerate housing growth. That said, the Board needs to be careful about how this is spent as it is agreed that this will be used specifically to support community led housing. It was agreed that we would need to work with the identified pilot communities to understand what they want from the fund. The Board agreed to support the further development of the project via the Chief Housing Officers Group in line with the approach outlined in the report and the associated pooling of resources.

2. Housing Strategy Performance Q1&2 2016/17 Update

There was a presentation of the updated monitoring information on performance against the priorities in the strategy for Qs 1&2 2016/17. This now includes information on Help to Buy and unimplemented planning permissions. One particular issue for the Board is unimplemented permissions and it was agreed that further research would note the balance of Full and Outline permissions. Also a need for more RP partners in the area to deliver the ambitions was identified as well as the impact of labour shortages – the lack of good plasterers was mentioned for instance.

3. Housing White Paper

The key elements of the White Paper were presented to Members at Planning Committee in March. It was agreed that the Board would respond and would highlight the need for additional resource/capacity to accelerate delivery. The presentation can be accessed here <http://www.nycyerhousing.co.uk/housing-board/housing-board-members/> Username: HousingBoard. Password: HousingBoard

4. Housing Association Update

The representative on the Board for Housing Associations includes York HA who provided an update following a meeting of the LEP and in response to the White Paper:-

- The sector is supportive of increasing supply but still reeling from the 1% rent cut
- Consolidation and mergers are a major focus
- The Housing White Paper was generally well received by the sector
- The National Housing Federation are focussing on 5 key areas: Supply and regeneration; Rent freedoms; LHA rent cap and the impact on supported housing; Right to buy extension; Risk and regulatory pressure on the sector around efficiency and value for money.

5. Syrian Refugees Resettlement Update

Local Authorities are on target with arrivals and accommodation to date; Arriving families are larger than anticipated and therefore a need for larger homes to accommodate in the private rented sector; Challenge for LAs to accommodate households with more complex needs

6. Other topics covered were Section 106 standard agreement – the preparation of a basic S106 to be used by all LAs in the Board area continues via a Task and Finish Group. The group aims to have developed draft clauses and consulted on these by early summer 2017.

The next meeting will be 22 May

Alison Fisher
20 February 2017

HOUSING BOARD for Local Government York, North Yorkshire and East Riding

Meeting held 22 May 2017

This second meeting of the Board in 2017 looked at the usual topics as well as a long paper regarding the Asylum Seekers Dispersal Programme.

1. Community Housing Fund

Those Authorities within the Board which received funds in the first tranche have been successful with their subsequent bids and it was again agreed that those Authorities would make a contribution to a central pot to support a community led housing programme for a two year phase. Each Authority will also use their funds to help this delivery locally through, for example specialist expertise such as legal advice. A co-ordinated "Hub" for technical advice would be set up by appointing a consultant to take on this role. To date there are 4 pilots in progress in Richmondshire, and both Ryedale and Hambleton are pursuing potential pilots. The funding nationally remains at £60m and it was considered that the purchase of land for community pilots was the best way to use the allocation for this region.

2. Hambleton Event for Small Builders, Self-Build and Community Led housing

A pilot event was held in late April by Hambleton DC on behalf of the Board to promote small scale house building, bring interested parties together and provide details of sites which have unimplemented planning permissions. The event was attended by a variety of landowners, small builders, planning agents and self-builders – some 58 in total. Overall it was a very popular event with much useful networking and information exchange. It is planned to hold similar events across the Board area. Hambleton has another event planned and it was agreed that attending the House Builder and Renovation Show in Harrogate this summer would be good. There will be an event in Stokesley, date to be announced and at Leyburn on 21 July. More detail available from me should you wish it.

3. Section 106 standard agreement

Following further work after the February meeting, it was concluded that a standard agreement was seen as not practical. However, a set of FAQs and glossary of terms has now been produced to assist small builders, developers etc. Some more work on clauses especially for affordable housing is in progress covering such terms as Mortgagee in Possession and Transfer Price. This work is ongoing.

4. Asylum Seeker Dispersal Programme

A request has been received from the Home Office regarding the dispersal of asylum seekers. The Home Office wishes all housing authorities to become housing dispersal areas and their proposal was presented to the Board by officers from NYCC. Asylum seekers are people who have applied for protection under 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Home Office has a scheme to manage them whilst they await a decision on their claim. These people are neither unaccompanied children nor those being resettled under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons programme – these two are covered by a different scheme.

Some background - In 2016 there were 38,517 applicants the top 5 nationalities being Iranian, Pakistani, Iraqi Afghani and Bangladeshi of which 65% approximately are single males. They cannot work or claim benefits but if they satisfy a destitution test can receive £37 per week; accommodation is provided by the Home Office. If the claim fails the accommodation and funding is withdrawn and they are asked to leave.

The current position in this region is that G4S provides housing for those dispersed in this region. All locations are currently out with the Y, NY & ER Board area but include Middlesbrough, Hull and West Yorkshire. Following a critical Select Committee report which concluded that the current system is not working, the Home Office is now asking every Housing Authority to become an asylum dispersal area and is seeking a collective agreement with North Yorkshire for local asylum dispersal. The complexities of why the current system is under review and what the minutiae of the possible new arrangements might mean are too varied for this summary save to say that those Members of the Board who are Housing Authorities discussed the Home Office proposition at length. In essence those Authority Board members who commented said that they were not disposed to offer to become a dispersal area noting the difficulty of “selling” such a scheme to those people already on their housing waiting lists. The NYCC officers noted these comments and confirmed that they would convey these responses to the Home Office.

5. Other items were briefly covered. The Syrian Relief Programme remains on target across participating Authorities on the Board; Housing Associations update - are now gearing themselves up for a likely new type of provision “Rent to Buy”; Housing Strategy Performance Update – the annual report is in preparation; finally, as we were in “purdah” there was no report from the Homes and Communities Agency other than to confirm its new name Homes England.

The next meeting will be 22 September.

Alison Fisher
22 May 2017