

## North York Moors National Park Authority

26 June 2017

### On the Record

#### 1. NPE Meeting

The minutes from the NPE meeting which took place on 5 April 2017, can be found at **Appendix 1**.

#### 2. National Member Induction Course

The next course is due to take place as follows: **Tuesday 31 October - Thurs 2 Nov 2017 - Lake District**. Any Members interested in attending, please contact Vanessa, Committees Officer.

#### 3. Members training day – 5 July 2017

Just a reminder that we will be holding our next members training day on 5 July, information for the day will be sent out to members in due course.

#### 4. Miscellaneous Items

##### a) Public Rights of Way Legal Events

1. Diversion of Helmsley Footpath 24 (Ashwood Close) under Town & Country Planning Act to enable development to take place.

##### Background

Letter to Legal Services on:

<u>Date</u>	<u>File Reference</u>
29/03/2017	5050/5/17/DIV 24

##### b) Public Path Orders taking effect after their date of confirmation

<u>ID</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Took effect on</u>	<u>Description</u>
1400	4/18/DIV 2	26/1/2017	21/03/2017	Diversion of Bridleway 2 Kirby Knowle (Manor House Farm)
1405	3/38/DIV 502	07/4/2017	23/05/2017	Diversion of Footpath 502 West Ayton (Spikers Hill)

##### c) Temporary Closure of Public Rights of Way

1. Emergency Closure of footpath 38 Eskdaleside cum UGGLEBARNBY (Coast to Coast walk) due to large treefall taking away footpath and supporting bank in Littlebeck Woods. From 4 until 25 April 2017

##### d) Gates/stiles authorised under s 147 HA 80

1. Gate on Thornton le Dale footpath No. 014 at Grid Reference SE 8354 8232, Thornton Dale

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND  
MEETING**

**Minutes of meeting held on 5 April 2017 between 11.00am – 3.00pm at National Parks England,  
CAN Mezzanine Borough, London, SE1 4YR**

**Items listed in order of discussion**

<b>Present</b>		
<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>
Jacquie Burgess	John Packman	Broads NPA
	Kevin Bishop	Dartmoor NPA
	Sarah Bryan	Exmoor NPA
Mike McKinley	Richard Leafe	Lake District NPA
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre		New Forest NPA
Jim Bailey	Andy Wilson	North York Moors NPA
Jean Davidson	Tony Gates	Northumberland NPA
(attending in place of Glen Sanderson)		
Lesley Roberts	Sarah Fowler	Peak District NPA
Margaret Paren	Trevor Beattie	South Downs NPA
Carl Lis	David Butterworth (DBt)	Yorkshire Dales NPA
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Paul Hamblin	National Parks England	
Thea Gordon-Rawlings (minutes) (TGR)	National Parks England	
Meriel Harrison (minutes)	National Parks England	
Dave Burges (DBr)	National Parks England	
Amanda Brace	National Parks England	

<b>Item</b>		<b>Agreed Actions</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>  The Chair welcomed all present, particularly Jean Davidson acting as Alternate Director in place of Glen Sanderson. Dave Burges was introduced as the new Senior Project Officer at NPE and Thea Gordon-Rawlings was introduced as the new Administrator.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>  Apologies were received from Andrea Davies (Exmoor NPA), Bill Hitchins (Dartmoor NPA), Glen Sanderson (Northumberland NPA) and Alison Barnes (New Forest NPA).	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>  There were no declarations of interest.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Approve minutes from meeting held on 07 February 2017</b>  JB requested that mentions of NPPL in Item 11 be changed to NPP. This was approved.  Subject to this change, the minutes were approved.	<b>TGR/PH</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>  <u>Neighbourhood Planning</u> PH mentioned that the Heads of Planning have yet to meet but that they would be meeting shortly and that neighbourhood planning is on the agenda. AB noted that there is a lot of	

	<p>sharing and learning being done on this topic by the Policy Officers Group.</p> <p>The Chair asked for an update from The Broads on Lord Gardiner's recent visit and from the Yorkshire Dales on the recent Ministerial visit from George Eustice MP.</p> <p>JBu spoke very positively of Lord Gardiner's visit, commenting on his high level of interest and enthusiasm for getting involved in the day's activities.</p> <p>JP described the numerous activities he participated in, which included putting up a new sign with some local apprentices, an archaeological visit and a visit to a mud wherry which provided the opportunity for him to understand issues around dredging. The Minister met farmers for lunch who presented personal accounts of their concerns for the future of farming in The Broads. He picked up the essence of the issues which the people he met are facing and clearly wants to see a thriving countryside. Defra reported that he had returned feeling enthused.</p> <p>CL noted that Defra Minister George Eustice MP had spoken at Skipton auction mart and answered questions from the audience on Europe, Brexit, supermarket supply chains and farm payment problems. JBa mentioned that the Minister had highlighted his enthusiasm for a place-based, holistic and tailored approach to farming support under Brexit.</p> <p>CL explained that the Minister had attended a dinner and met local farmers and apprentices. DBt said that the Yorkshire Dales NPA had provided briefing to Defra in advance on planning approvals locally. When the Minister raised planning with local farmers, they gave a positive response.</p> <p><u>National Park Food</u></p> <p>PH noted that previous discussion by the Board had highlighted the connection between high quality landscapes, high quality management of these areas and high quality produce. PH had written to Fiona Gately of the Great British Food Unit and a meeting was now being arranged.</p> <p>KB and SB joined the meeting at this point.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Urgent Business notified to the Company Secretary</b></p> <p>No urgent business had been notified.</p>	
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Chair's report</b></p> <p>The Chair reported that she had received a letter from Lord Gardiner thanking the Board for their contribution towards the new appointment process for Secretary of State members.</p> <p>She had also had a meeting with the Chair of CNP, who were continuing their governance review. The Chair of CNP had spoken of the possibility of carrying out a review of biodiversity in NPs.</p> <p>The Chair had met with the Chair and Chief Executive of NAAONB. They had had a meeting with Lord Gardiner a week prior, who urged closer working between AONBs and National Parks. Lord Gardiner had also made this point in a letter to the President of the Landscape Institute, Merrick Denton-Thompson.</p> <p>Regarding the 25 Year Environment Plan, the Minister signalled that the Government's commitment to this being the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than that in which it was found still stood. There was a manifesto commitment to publish the Plan in the course of this Parliament. It was understood that workshops were being planned to inform the content of the Plan.</p> <p>The Chair noted that Defra had been impressed by the recent Secretary of State</p>	

	<p>appointments response, and thanked all those who assisted with this. CL queried whether there had been any feedback on NPA suggestions for independent panel members. The Chair confirmed that the information provided by NPAs had been sent to Defra.</p> <p>NPAs had been pleased with the response to the Secretary of State member vacancies and it was suggested that advertising via LinkedIn had been an effective route for some NPAs. There will be a wash-up session at the next NPE Board meeting.</p>	<p><b>Chair</b></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Lead Policy NPO report and Business Plan Update</b></p> <p><u>Lead Policy NPO Report</u></p> <p>AW said that he and TB will circulate a note on opportunities for NPAs arising from the National Citizen Service Innovation Fund.</p> <p>He reported on a recent visit by Defra Director General Sonia Phippard to the North York Moors. While they had set out initially to talk about health, they also discussed moorland management and agri-environment. AW noted that Sonia Phippard was keen to hear ideas for how to get more farmers involved in the mid and higher tiers of Countryside Stewardship.</p> <p>On income generation, AW had explained that NPAs are successful in securing external funds but are reliant upon core income from Defra, and individual circumstances impact on the scale of opportunity and approaches taken by NPAs.</p> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that NPOs would put a first paper together for the next Board meeting covering long-term strategic thinking on environmental policy, with final approval to be sought at the December Board meeting.</p> <p>At the last Environment Committee meeting AW attended, there had been a discussion around planning which resulted in the formation of a small working group on planning that gave an opportunity to explain the planning issues NPAs are facing. AW had permission to report this to the Board.</p> <p><u>Business Plan Update</u></p> <p>PH summarised how the 3 aims of the Business Plan have been taken forward.</p> <p>i) Reputation This is in a good place with a series of upcoming opportunities including ministerial visits. PH is working with the communications teams in all National Parks to arrange a visit in each for Lord Gardiner, who is very keen on this idea. There are some collective opportunities to showcase our work, such as the 8 Point Plan anniversary report and the launch of the Joint Public Health England Accord.</p> <p>ii) Policy Prior to Brexit, reputation and income generation have taken more time but the emphasis is now shifting. The Great Repeal Bill is being assessed by DBr. The Future of Farming report had been drafted and a piece of work around long term environmental policy will be taken forward. PH also mentioned future approaches being made on Housing to CLG, and on broadband to DCMS.</p> <p>iii) Resources PH reported that work in this area is also going well. A bid was in preparation for the Discover England Fund, for which he thanked SF and AB. Love Your National Parks has successfully been trademarked at UK and European level. PH stated that NPE was undertaking work to get a better understanding of how individual NPAs are bidding for external funding grants. On the lottery bid relating to mental health, a meeting was planned with the Chief Executive of Mind. Public Health England (PHE) have said that they are happy to support this.</p>	<p><b>AW / TB</b></p> <p><b>KB</b></p> <p><b>AW / NPOs</b></p>

	<p>LR asked for clarification over what the Accord with PHE means. PH responded that a seminar in November had brought together officers leading on health in the Parks and PHE experts. They are helping to facilitate networking; links so as to highlight the role National Parks can play in relation to public health policy; and a data specialist will help provide datasets for NPAs which will be helpful. LR gave an example from Sheffield of the Peak District being termed its “Health and Wellbeing Back Garden”, which may be a good opportunity for the sharing of best practice.</p>	
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Future of Farming in the English National Parks</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked JBa and the members of the task and finish group for their work. JBa thanked KB for his help and support. JBa introduced the papers, noting the extensive consultation that had taken place and the fact that the group had started from diverse positions. They had been able to work together to come up with a discussion paper which provides a framework within which the wishes of individual Parks can be accommodated. The key message was that the spend of £160m (excluding wider rural development) was vital and represented good value; and that NPAs have the capability and skills to deliver. Use of the term ‘rural environment’ recognised the value of farmers to the communities that they are part of. JBa highlighted minor additions to the paper which had been requested by the task and finish group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a note to make explicit the landowner and farming expertise among group members; and</li> <li>• a sentence to explain how the role of NPAs will fit into and complement policies on food and farming and the environment.</li> </ul> <p>JBa invited discussion of the paper. The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper was praised as a good framework within which individual Parks could work according to local circumstances, and develop tailor-made local schemes</li> <li>• A number of minor drafting changes were proposed for consideration</li> <li>• It was clarified that the three proposals (FARM, FARM Plus and Wider Rural Development) are a linked package of components and that a ‘pick and mix’ approach would not work</li> <li>• It was suggested that the value of natural and cultural heritage be highlighted</li> <li>• It was recognised that the proposals set out are ideas, rather than an attempt to design a scheme. If NPE is successful, the role of NPAs would change and concerns about schemes would be dealt with by NPAs rather than Natural England or the Rural Payments Agency</li> <li>• It would be important to secure resources not just for the scheme itself, but for delivering the scheme. There could be reputational risks if its delivery was not well-resourced</li> <li>• References to natural capital and to rural management were welcomed</li> <li>• It was suggested that it would be helpful to explicitly say this includes forestry and woodland management</li> <li>• A one-page summary document may be helpful for Ministers</li> <li>• A more radical approach could be taken, moving away from a three-tier system and considering how farm businesses can contribute to the rural economy</li> <li>• The plans set out in the current document provided a transitional approach and JBa stated that this was supported by evidence that the vast majority of businesses will need the type of support they currently receive for the foreseeable future. We could assist Defra in improving current systems, for example making Countryside Stewardship work better for the uplands</li> <li>• Adrian Shepherd (YDNPA) was thanked for his work assembling Annex 2</li> <li>• NPE would need support from partners and especially from local farmers. NPAs have consulted locally and a theme that can be picked up from this is the over-complexity of current arrangements and guidance, and the burden this creates. Farmers are generally supportive of NPAs and see them as a more permanent presence. Many would like longer term schemes</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Agriculture and Rural Development Group is well-placed to undertake some innovative thinking on what future schemes beyond a transitional period might look like</li> <li>Lack of Parliamentary time may be an important consideration in looking at future arrangements given legislative change in the near future is unlikely</li> </ul> <p>The Chair summarised the debate and noted the following agreed points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Policy Discussion Paper was approved. A number of drafting changes had been proposed and would be considered by JBa and KB. Once changes had been made, a final document would be circulated and could then be made public</li> <li>A clearer link would be made to the contents of Appendix 2</li> <li>The over-complexity of the present system would be highlighted in para 2.9</li> <li>KB would lead on drafting the covering letter and send it to PH. The covering letter would explain that these are our thoughts for the situation as it is now, would emphasise the important role of NPAs in past schemes; emphasise the make-up of the Future of Farming group; address hooks to Countryside Stewardship for the immediate future; and say that we believe the approach set out would be broadly acceptable to AONBs</li> <li>The Future of Farming Group would be disbanded for the time being. The option of reconstituting the group was left open and would be considered in light of Defra's response to the proposals. It was recognised that the members had worked hard and needed their own time back again. The Chair would write to the members to thank them.</li> </ul>	<p>JBa / KB JBa / KB JBa / KB KB / PH</p> <p>MP</p>
10.	<p><b>NPA Peer Review</b></p> <p>AW introduced the paper. It was <b>agreed</b> that NPE would not pursue a collective Peer Review process at this time.</p>	
11.	<p><b>NPA Engagement with MPs &amp; Peers – Sharing session</b></p> <p>The Chair led a sharing session where the Board reflected on local relationships with MPs and Peers, including examples of successful engagement. JP noted that Lord Gardiner had been interested in how the Broads Authority was working with local MPs.</p>	
12.	<p><b>8 Point Plan Anniversary</b></p> <p>PH introduced the item and thanked AB and MH for their contributions to the draft report, which was intended to be concise and celebratory rather than fully comprehensive. Andrea Leadsom has commented that the 8 Point Plan is “good practice”, and Ministerial support for the report will be sought. The following points were raised during discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LR requested an amendment to paragraph 2 in point 5 of the plan to include mention of the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark. This was agreed.</li> <li>JD requested an amendment under International Tourism, point 3, to reflect the fact that more than one Park has a Dark Skies designation. This was agreed. JBu made a general comment that the plan needed to include more statistics and facts, and that the map needs amending. She also asked that each park is mentioned once. It was <b>agreed</b> that each park will be mentioned once and that a map will be created to include the extensions. It was <b>agreed</b> that RL would follow up the map request</li> <li>SB commented that a simple infographic could be useful somewhere, although it was recognised that these are time and resource intensive to produce</li> <li>SF offered assistance with drafting the section on International Tourism</li> <li>TG suggested an amendment be made to the opening paragraph, noting that each park brings something different. This was <b>agreed</b></li> <li>It was noted that the Plan was badged with agencies included, however most of the progress to date had been made by NPAs and Defra working together</li> </ul>	<p>PH PH</p> <p>PH RL</p> <p>SF</p>

	<p>The Chair proposed that each NPA take the plan away with them and come back with comments via NPOs by Thursday 13 April. It was <b>agreed</b> that AW and PH would have delegated authority to reflect on these and take a final version to Defra.</p>	<p><b>NPOs AW / PH</b></p>
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>Commercial Forestry</b></p> <p>JD stated that at this stage Northumberland NPA could not support the proposal for an Accord with Forestry Commission (FC) without more consideration of the potential issues that commercial forestry could pose. JD and TG described the considerable difficulties currently faced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships with FC locally remained good, however there were problems with processes and these needed to be addressed in order to avoid long-term damage to sensitive National Park landscapes</li> <li>• Large plantations of commercial forestry were being proposed and approved in the National Park, including on sensitive sites such as at Wallshields. NPA objections to proposals were being overruled</li> <li>• The approach taken by FC appears to be changing, with ambitious tree-planting targets and significant pressure from the timber industry leading to an emphasis on large commercial plantations rather than ‘the right tree in the right place’. Environmental considerations and design standards appear to be secondary considerations</li> <li>• The role of FC as both decision-maker and regulator has meant that NPA objections have little traction. Regional and national advisory committees are dominated by forestry interests and in the Wallshields case, the NPA was not permitted to make submissions to either of these committees</li> </ul> <p>It was recognised that NPAs wish to support tree planting, but the current approach does not take into account the status of National Parks nor provide the multiple benefits NPAs would wish to see. JD proposed that specialist officers in the NPAs should put together a paper on the issues faced and what higher standards to be applied in National Parks should look like. SB noted that there had also been two cases on Exmoor in the past year where the NPA had objected to FC proposals for planting on SSSI and PAWS sites, and suggested a high level meeting with FC.</p> <p>MH noted that since the forestry discussion at the Board meeting in York, the EFRA Select Committee had reported on its inquiry into forestry and woodlands. NPE had submitted written evidence to this inquiry in the autumn, and some points we had made (such as on protections for ancient woodland) were reflected in the report. There were also points made in the report on timber supply, and it would be important that Defra understood our views and the issues in National Parks ahead of the Government’s response to the report. MH reported that ABa as Lead Policy NPO on trees and woodlands felt that the report provided a useful hook to set up the meeting with Defra that the Board had agreed was necessary when it met in York.</p> <p>MH added that the Tree and Woodland Officers Group have discussed the “right tree in the right place” idea and that they had previously agreed it would be helpful to better define and articulate what this meant collectively. She <b>agreed</b> that she will find out where this piece of work had got to.</p> <p>It was recognised that we needed to act to establish/maintain the principle that environmental aspects of forestry should be higher inside NPs than outside. Although local relationships with Forestry Commission are positive in a number of Parks, NPE’s involvement in this issue would be needed in order to raise and seek to resolve the problems that are currently arising from national-level drivers. It was <b>agreed</b> that a meeting with Defra should take place prior to the meeting with Forestry Commission on a strengthened Accord, so that our concerns can be taken into account as Government responds to the Select Committee report. It was <b>agreed</b> that there would be feedback to the next NPOs meeting on the Defra meeting.</p>	<p><b>MH</b></p> <p><b>ABa / MH NPOs</b></p>

14.	<p><b>NPE Housing White Paper Briefing</b></p> <p>PH introduced the paper, which provided a briefing and recommended submission of a collective response by NPE to the Government’s Housing White Paper and separate consultation on Permitted Development Rights. PH thanked the North York Moors and New Forest NPAs for their assistance. It was noted that the NPPF review was largely a consolidation exercise around announcements already made, rather than a full-scale review. It was <b>agreed</b> that NPE should submit a collective response to the Housing White Paper consultation, covering the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should suggest that the Government’s commitment to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it should be referenced in the NPPF</li> <li>• Objectively Assessed Need (OAN): Government has suggested all LPAs should be responsible and apply a standardised calculation. It would be important for NPAs to have figures on need as a basis for the duty to cooperate with neighbouring LPAs.</li> <li>• Brownfield sites: National Parks should be exempt from proposals around a granting of permission in principle for housing on such sites. NPAs should be allowed to give priority to economic use in order to support rural communities and the economy</li> <li>• Planning fees for appeals: NPE should support the introduction of fees for planning appeals. We would not support variable fees</li> <li>• Housing Delivery Test: This should not apply in National Parks</li> <li>• Footnote on National Parks and constraints: NPE would support the Government proposal for reference to National Parks to be in the main text of the NPPF</li> <li>• Starter Homes: The eligibility criteria are problematic for NPAs who are seeking to meet local needs. Under the proposals the starter homes will not be affordable homes in perpetuity</li> <li>• Sustainable development: NPE should advocate staying with the current definition of sustainable development, which is supported by academic study</li> <li>• NPE should welcome the positive proposals outlined in the paper, including those around the protection for ancient woodland</li> </ul>	PH
15.	<p><b>NPA Broadband Briefing</b></p> <p>PH introduced the paper, which provided a briefing as requested by the Board. Broadband was important for businesses, residents and visitors and lack of access created social disadvantage. NPAs have worked hard to get their communities connected and NPE can help this by creating a positive policy framework and securing investment in National Parks. The paper included key messages for NPE to guide its work in this area and these were <b>agreed</b>. It was also <b>agreed</b> that NPE would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prepare a topic briefing on rural communications during 2017;</li> <li>• respond to the DCMS Strategy on 5G technology including by calling for the new licences, to include a percentage of rural areas covered rather than population;</li> <li>• monitor OFCOM’s proposals for overcoming obstacles to the roll out of new technology;</li> <li>• meet with Europasat, Europe’s largest pan-European provider of satellite internet services; and</li> <li>• facilitate a meeting for those NPA broadband leads who want it, to share experience across the family.</li> </ul> <p>SF stated that she would be meeting with DCMS Secretary of State Karen Bradley MP (in her capacity as a local MP) on 26 April, and would be raising issues around broadband and tourism as part of her Lead Policy NPO role in these areas. It was <b>agreed</b> that the Chair would write to Karen Bradley MP (copied to Lord Gardiner) ahead of this meeting, emphasising the nature of the businesses that operate in National Parks and that require effective broadband.</p>	PH  MP / PH

	<p>MM reported on a meeting with Home Office representatives to discuss upgrading of the Emergency Services Network (ESN), the new emergency services mobile communication network that would replace Airwaves. Transition to ESN would start in 2018 and be completed by 2020, and consultation was taking place with all NPAs. The roll-out is happening in conjunction with EE, and they along with all commercial operators have the opportunity to use the infrastructure to provide commercial services. It would be important to note that the masts used for shared services are larger than those for ESN alone. However, the transition could provide an opportunity to address 'not spots' in National Parks. MM proposed that NPE write to the Home Office asking them to encourage EE to be more proactive in the extension of commercial services. It was <b>agreed</b> that the NPE Accord with the Home Office would be taken into consideration, and RL would provide further details to PH before a decision on further NPE involvement was taken.</p>	<p><b>RL</b></p>								
<p><b>16.</b></p>	<p><b>Notes of E-NPOG Meeting</b></p> <p>The notes of the meeting were received.</p>									
<p><b>17.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>PH informed those present that NPE was reviewing its public liability insurance and requested that anybody who thought their activities might give rise to a claim should speak to him individually.</p>									
<p><b>18.</b></p>	<p><b>Confirmed dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>The Chair confirmed the date of the NPE Board Meeting in the South Downs on 24/10/17 where attendees will stay overnight in Midhurst for the NPUK meeting the next day.</p> <p>The dates of future meetings were confirmed as:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="244 1144 1241 1272"> <tr> <td>(a) Tuesday 18 July</td> <td>NPE Board meeting (London)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Tuesday 27th Sept</td> <td>NPE Board meeting &amp; AGM (London)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c) Tuesday 24th October</td> <td>NPE Board sharing session (South Downs)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(c) Thursday 7th Dec</td> <td>NPE Board meeting</td> </tr> </table>	(a) Tuesday 18 July	NPE Board meeting (London)	(b) Tuesday 27th Sept	NPE Board meeting & AGM (London)	(c) Tuesday 24th October	NPE Board sharing session (South Downs)	(c) Thursday 7th Dec	NPE Board meeting	
(a) Tuesday 18 July	NPE Board meeting (London)									
(b) Tuesday 27th Sept	NPE Board meeting & AGM (London)									
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(c) Thursday 7th Dec	NPE Board meeting									