

# North York Moors National Park Authority

25 September 2017

## Joint Parish Forum Update

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the issues and actions arising from the Joint Parish Forum meeting held on 26 July 2017 and to enable them to raise any issues arising from the Forum.

### 2. Issues and Actions Arising

- 2.1 Over 60 people attended the Joint Parish Forum. A copy of the notes made at the Joint Parish Forum meeting is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 The issues raised will be used to help inform Members and Officers about local priorities and concerns which will be used in Customer Service Excellence and service delivery decisions.

### 3. Financial and Staffing Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

### 4. Contribution to National Park Management Plan

- 4.1 Communities will be better able to influence the delivery of services and decisions affecting the National Park under policy C1 of the National Park Management Plan where local views will be sought in developing policies, priorities and activities in the National Park.

### 5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

### 6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That the issues raised at the Joint Parish Forum be noted.

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### Background documents to this report

	File Ref.
1. Northern Parish Forum File	1031/6
2. Coastal Parish Forum File	1031/7
3. Western Parish Forum File	1031/8
4. Southern Parish Forum File	1031/9
5. Joint Parish Forum File	1031/10

## Joint Parish Forum

### Draft Notes of Meeting held at Hutton le Hole Village Hall

Wednesday, 26 July 2017

1. The Chair, Sir Michael Carlisle as Chair of the Southern Area Parish Forum, welcomed everyone to the meeting after a visit to the Ryedale Folk Museum.
2. **Emergency Masts**

Duncan C Maxwell Edgar (Home Office-Land Development) and Peter Williams (ARUP-Emergency Masts) gave a presentation on the replacement of the Airwaves Critical Voice Services.

  - 292 new sites across England, Scotland and Wales
  - Managed by EE
  - 9 sites in the North York Moors – most on existing sites
  - Home Office own and are responsible for the structures with EE able to operate a commercial service (not compulsory but encouraged)
  - Mostly lattice towers will be used as their structure is more practical for maintenance and can be seen through so blends in with trees although monopoles and telegraph poles will be used where appropriate
  - Site construction has started with completion expected in 1 year
  - The Joint Accord between the Home Office and National Parks England seeks to bring a greater level of understanding to make sure the unique characteristics of the National Parks are recognised and considered
  - The sites are located in Rosedale, Troutdale, Cockayne, Westerdale, Churchhouses, Low Dalby, Hutton le Hole, Lealholm, Langdale
  - Lendlease are the main contractors with Heyrod dealing with the planning applications
  - Mast height will depend on topography and sightlines are required for microwave installations but satellite may also be used. VSAT (very small aperture terminal satellite) is the default option
  - The masts are built so that they can be shared and encouraged to be used by commercial operators
  - Emergency service is designed to be more resilient and has back-up generators
  - Emphasis on the service being emergency cover and cannot guarantee to cover all areas of the National Park, though likely coverage is 99%
3. **Broadband, Communications and Everything Connected**

Kevin Hollinrake, MP for Thirsk and Malton, led the discussion on broadband communication. It has been reported that the Ryedale area is fourth worst nationally for broadband coverage. Mr Hollinrake indicated that Government recognises this is a hugely important issue particularly in rural areas and believes that ideally it should be shaped by the markets but that everyone should have a reasonable broadband connection. It was reported that 88% of the properties in North Yorkshire have access to superfast broadband with an aim for 95% by 2019 and 97% by 2020. Phase 2 has been completed with Phase 2A in progress which will include Hutton le Hole (planned for June but now delayed to October). There are alternative solutions now available using wireless and satellite technology provided by bodies such as Moorsweb. There have been delays and Mr Hollinrake has asked for better communication to parishes/residents on this and offered to assist if residents wish to contact his office.

There is an Anywhere SIM which is on a pay as you go tariff that connects to whichever service provider is best in the area as an immediate solution for mobile signal issues in rural areas.

The issue of BT erecting poles instead of undergrounding without consultation was discussed. The National Park had managed to get undergrounding within the National Park but outside this area the poles remain. Ingleby Greenhow and Over Silton have both experienced this issue with the National Park offering grant assistance to BT who have so far refused to underground the poles due to time issues. Mr Hollinrake agreed that more money should be invested in this aspect and considers that BT should be held accountable and he will take this up with BT direct.

Mr Hollinrake indicated that the Mobile Infrastructure Project had been badly managed and not rectified the lack of mobile coverage in rural areas. It is hoped that the Emergency Service Masts should help to solve the emergency calls in mobile not spots and that Central Government had allocated an additional £1.7bn to help address market failure in rural areas.

#### **Some useful links and information:**

Letters from National Parks England Chair, Margaret Paren to the DCMS Secretary of State, Karen Bradley MP and to Home Office Minister Nick Hurd can be found on the National Park website [here](#).

BT Voluntary offer to Government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universal-broadband-to-reach-every-part-of-the-uk>

DCMS consultation on a regulatory Universal Service Obligation (USO) <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/broadband-universal-service-obligation-consultation-on-design>

#### **4. Future Support for Farming and the Environment in the National Park**

Andy Wilson introduced the discussion on support for farming and the environment by emphasising the strong cultural heritage and people's contribution to the landscape with farming covering a large part of the National Park. With the planned exit from the EU there is a need to talk with communities and work together for the benefit of the North York Moors.

Jim Bailey has worked with National Parks England on a discussion paper for Defra to show an understanding of where we start from with the land use and support/maintaining woodlands. The document details 74 schemes within National Parks (21 of which are in the North York Moors) of partnerships with farmers. Most land use is farming and this has shaped the landscape of National Parks. National Parks England is working with Defra to support the farmers, who have the knowledge and experience of farming and rural management.

The paper can be seen on the National Parks England website [here](#)

Richard Findlay, farmer in Westerdale and NFU Chair of Regional Livestock Board commented how vital sheep farming is to the National Parks. He welcomed Michael Gove's announcement that "farm subsidies will have to be earned". We need to see this as an opportunity to have rules/regulations appropriate to the UK and welcome high standards of welfare and traceability avoiding cheap and inferior standards of meat/food imports. Flexibility is vital, farmers are very proud of the landscape and most are farming in a sustainable way in any event. Trade deals and export are vital and we must look at other markets outside Europe. HLS has worked in the past and an incentive is needed for hill sheep farming to retain the Moors as they are.

5. **Ryevitalise, Leader and Local Plan Updates**

The link to the presentations can be found [here](#)

6. **National Park Update**

Andy Wilson introduced discussion on performance indicators which are important to residents and invited comments/suggestions for what the Authority should be measured on from a resident's point of view. The suggested indicators from the Forum included: could we provide comparative figures; is there an industry standard for ease of use of website; there was a debate on appropriate number of indicators.

Sir Michael Carlisle thanked everyone for attending the meeting.