

## North York Moors National Park Authority

16 December 2019

### Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

<p>1. <b>Purpose of the Report</b></p>
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| <p>1.1 To consider reports from Members attending meetings on outside bodies as representatives on the Authority.</p> |
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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 has written an update on CNP's recent AGM and Conference. This can be found at **Appendix 1**.

4. **Welcome to Yorkshire**

- 4.1 David Jeffels notes on recent Welcome to Yorkshire matters can be found at **Appendix 2**.

5. **NYM Disability Advisory Group (DAG)**

- 5.1 At **Appendix 3** please find, notes from the last DAG meeting.

6. **Local Government North Yorkshire, York & East Riding Housing Board**

- 6.1 Alison Fisher's update can be found at **Appendix 4**.

7. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

8. **Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications.

<p>9. <b>Recommendation</b></p>
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| <p>9.1 That the report be noted.</p> |
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Contact Officer  
Vanessa Burgess  
Committees Officer  
Tel No 01439 772700

## Campaign For National Parks (CNP)

The Designated Landscapes Review, commissioned by the Government, on the future of National Parks and AONB's, was one of the main issues discussed at the CNP's annual meeting and conference held at Southwark Cathedral on November 21.

There was a feeling that there had been some missed opportunities in the review including transport. The Chief Executive of CNP, Corinne Pluchino, believed that the transport issue could have been more radical, highlighting the new plan by the Lake District National Park Authority to curb traffic numbers and suggesting that the scheme should be expanded to other National Parks.

Another point she raised was the possibility of road charging.

Second homes provision needed to be tackled at a national level she said, in particular focussing on the level of council tax on second homes. Other points Corinne raised included the fact that there had been too little attention given to landscape and cultural heritage by Glover.

She added: "Strategic leadership is required from the Glover Report."

The inference / feeling was that funding was a concern for National Parks and Glover had unrealistic expectations on charitable funding. Likewise there were reservations about a national landscape service and its implications.

CNP Chairman, Jeanette Ward, in her review of the past year, said it had been a successful one for NPs. "They are thriving in terms of quality of their landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage and rural communities".

On Glover she said CNP had been heavily involved in consultation including meetings held with Julian Glover and Michael Gove. CNP wanted to see more benefits for the public from Glover, highlighting improving nature resulting from research carried out by CNP, diversity and local habitats.

CNP had played a part in influencing the future of agricultural policy and reducing visual impacts.

Major road development was causing concern especially at the A27 road at Arundel, duelling the A66 to the Lake District from Scotch Corner, work in the Peak District, and the building of a by-pass in the South Downs. CNP had played a key part inputting views on National Park Authority Local Plans, including the NYMNPA. There was a need said Jeanette, to protect and enhance National Parks through national legislation and policy, highlighting the Government's moratorium on fracking. There should be sustainable solutions, she said, by making car-free travel easier and pilot projects to reduce car usage (i.e. the Lake District).

CNP wants to see the building of a larger cohort of supporters by championing and celebrating its work with the National Trust and The Ramblers Association.

The conference supported the strategic objectives of fundraising by working with National Park Societies, increasing media coverage on Radio 4 and the national press. "Funding the environment remains challenging" said Jeanette.

"The Glover Report has given us a new focus, a springboard for the future if we get it right."

Andrew Hall, CNP's Communications and Campaigns Officer, has made a film fronted by CNP President, Caroline Quentin, celebrating 70 years of the National Park movement and it is available for screening in National Park Centres.

(It would be ideal for either the Danby or Sutton Bank, having seen it at the conference. I'd be happy to take this forward with CNP).

The theme of the film is Pride and Optimism.

Ruth Bradshaw, policy and research manager, said there was much to welcome in the Glover Report - i.e. strong protection of National Parks, especially Section 62, management plans nature restoration and tackling climate change, peat restoration, extensive tree planting, agri-environment payments for public goods, and encouraging more people to visit National Parks and from more backgrounds.

If any member of NYMNPA has any queries or would like more information just let me know.

**David Jeffels**  
**NYMNPA rep at CNP**

## **Welcome To Yorkshire**

A major new business plan for 2020/21 is being produced by Welcome to Yorkshire with the aim of promoting and marketing the Yorkshire brand. It is part of a new image-building project for WTY following its recent governance problems. The aim is to have a plan which will be economically sustainable and balanced and which will empower the WTY team.

In January an industry wide consultation is being launched when everyone involved in Yorkshire's tourist industry will be asked to give their views on the draft consultation document and its proposals. The widespread consultation will include not only businesses directly and indirectly involved in tourism, but all local authorities and the North York Moors and Dales National Park Authorities. The results of the consultation are expected to be published in March.

The whole theme of the new image of WTY is consultation and collaboration with those involved in it. There will be particular emphasis put on the many festivals which take place and on the county's arts and culture of which, of course, the North York Moors National Park has a great wealth.

All local authority Chief Executives have given a positive response to WTY's role and future and it was significant that at the annual White Rose Awards on November 25, there were some 900 people attending which was seen as a big vote of confidence in the organisation.

Among the main stays of the WTY business plan will be the continuation of its very successful cycling championships and the county's food and drink reputation. A new campaign is being launched for next spring and one interesting and exciting project will see a competition to find Yorkshire's best experience. NYMNPA must be well placed to put forward some suggestions!

WTY is heavily involved in the National Armed Forces Day which is being held in Scarborough next June and is expected to attract many thousands of people, as well as the country's top military personnel. One plan by WTY officers is to encourage people to spend all the weekend of the event in Scarborough which will help alleviate major congestion on the A64.

The detailed route of the 2020 Tour de Yorkshire is being announced in mid-January at a special WTY promotion.

If any member of NYMNPA has any queries or wants more information please let me know.

**David Jeffels**  
**NYMNPA representative at Welcome to Yorkshire**

## North York Moors Disability Advisory Group

56th Meeting – Friday 25 October 2019

### Present:

Danny Boyes, Paul Hepworth, Terry Sutcliffe, Sarah Oswald, David Brewster,

### In Attendance:

David Mennear, Ian Nicholls, Donna Magson

#### 1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members of the group.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Debbie Trafford, Denise Ross, Ryan Chenery, Ann Boyes

#### 3. **Notes from the Meeting Held on 26 July 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2019 were noted and agreed.

#### 4. **Matters Arising**

**Sheepwash / Cod Beck Access Path** – Terry Sutcliffe emailed some notes across on this subject. The overall impression was that the path near to the car park is significantly improved. Access from the car park is still difficult, however, as there is a sleeper to manoeuvre.

The disabled parking space in the car park had a new 'blue badge holders only' sign but was occupied by a non blue badge holder and the space was unfortunately under water which was not ideal.

The gate now has signs up to say that it can be opened by a RADAR key, the lock is still difficult to open but managed after a few attempts and also, had to find something to keep the gate open (big lump of wood)

**Action            DT to follow up on the access issues (Gate)**

**Easi-Works Presentation at NP Authority meeting** – the group gave a presentation at the NPA Committee in September, they kept the members very entertained and it was interesting to hear what the group were doing. They have been involved in work at Sutton Bank and have undergone training to work with the Ryevitalise Project.

#### 5. **Guided Walk Feedback – Friday 4 October 2019**

The guided walk took place on a very wet and windy afternoon. The talk and walk was very good. The stones which were laid by the landowner still make it very difficult for wheelchairs and walking aids until they are properly 'bedded in'.

#### 6. **Tramper Scheme**

A compliment was received about the availability of a Tramper at Sutton Bank, it mentioned that Peter checked the documents and explained very thoroughly about the vehicle and made sure he was a competent user.

Paul Hepworth also trialled the vehicle for us on the north side of the Centre – the route was very good but very narrow in places – still work in progress.

**Action**            **IN check what is said in the briefings from staff at Sutton Bank.**

7.    **Update on Rights of Way**

**Stiles** – Ranger teams have replaced stiles with gates in a number of locations including Saltergate/Hole of Horcum, Thornton le Dale and Rosedale on our promoted route. While this doesn't make the paths that these stiles were on fully accessible to all, it is part of the Authority's continued programme of removing barriers on the public rights of way network.

Routine work has also been carried out on one of the bridges on the Rail Trail.

**Forge Valley** - Planning approval has been granted for additional car parking and a footbridge at the southern end of the boardwalk. The additional car parking includes improved disabled parking provision. Getting planning approval was a major milestone and the bid will now go to the funders, hopefully receiving approval before Christmas.

If all goes well, work will start early next year to replace the boardwalk and install the improved parking and new bridge. Funding is from the last tranches of European Rural Development money; the bid is a partnership project led by Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise with support from Scarborough Borough Council and North York Moors NP Trust..

**Rosedale Mineral Railway Route** – significant amounts of engineering work have been done via the Land of Iron project to drain and surface parts of the old mineral railway route, particularly towards the head of Rosedale. This will allow tramper access from parking close to the Lion Inn around the former railway to the East Kilns. Although the work is largely complete, the path won't be officially opened until 2020 as staff are keen to see what effect the winter weather has and take any remedial actions necessary.

Terry asked about the access points onto the route and Ian agreed to find out what was planned.

David Brewster noted that a group from Next Steps (Charity set up in 2001 in North Yorkshire to help local people with mental health problems) went on this walk and found it very uplifting and loved it.

**Action**            **IN to check on access onto the Mineral Railway Route.**

**Port Mulgrave** - While not an easy access route, massive improvement in the ease of access to Port Mulgrave beach, which suffered a landslip back in 2016 and has only been accessible by ropes and an improvised (by the locals!) step system since then. We have installed a bespoke steel staircase, changing the route from one that only confident and physically very capable people would attempt, to something that is accessible to anyone who can manage steps.

A video clip was shown of an individual who had a significant disability, but the steps enabled her to access the beach area again. David Brewster said that he would like to thank Debbie and the team for the hard work.

**NYMR** - are going to be making some significant improvements to accessibility on their trains, one of the carriages will be fully accessible and allow wheelchairs to sit alongside the windows, a huge change from having to sit with the guard.

**Action**            **IN to check if this is available on all trains or just certain ones.**

**Boardwalk at Moors National Park Centre, Danby** – this boardwalk had seen better days and has now been fully replaced. This will ensure that the perimeter of the grounds is accessible to all via the use of a tramper.

It was noted generally that there was a lot happening in the NP at the moment to improve rights of way access and to applaud the Park for work done.

**8. Accessible Bus Stop at Moors National Park Centre, Danby**

Following a request from Moorsbus, Michael Graham has been looking into what would be involved with this. It is planned to undertake some work to make the Moors Centre bus stop accessible in time for the Moorsbus season 2020.

**9. Update from Volunteering Team**

The Camphill Community have been working with Andrew Carter once a month on practical work tasks. They have been filmed by Colombia to take part in a promotion for the work gear – they were very happy to be involved in this and received free kit in exchange for their time and efforts.

The Authority is looking to find external funding to be able to undertake more work using the Associate Group model. It is expected that the North York Moors Trust will develop this as a funding bid and project.

**Action**            **IN/RC to report back on progress to the next meeting.**

**10. Progress on Cinder Track**

Danny reported that the Cinder Track between Scarborough and Whitby is to receive £1 million to improve users' access and experience, promote environmentally sustainable methods of travel, facilitate active lifestyles and help to support wildlife.

Two thirds of the funding will go towards the Scarborough end of the Track and the remainder will be spent at the Whitby end of the Track.

**11. Disability Confident Employer Recruitment**

The Authority has recently employed 2 new members of staff with long term health issues. We have been able to chat to the new members of staff and accommodate their health issues.

**12. Any Other Business**

David Mennear would like know of any views on the new Lol exhibition at the Moors National Park Centre. There are lots of interactive things to do at eye level and lots of seating areas in the video interpretation space.

Sarah Oswald is looking to join a Task and Finish Group to do with NP's and Health & Wellbeing. A paper is going to the NPE board to take to DEFRA / Government Ministers. NP's make a difference to the understanding and awareness to Health and Wellbeing.

Terry Sutcliffe brought up parking charges for Blue Badge holders.

- Pinchinthorpe – Free Parking for Blue Badge
- Sutton Bank – charged
- Cornwall – if you have a zero tax rated vehicle parking is free.

There is a paper going to the National Park Authority later in the year proposing revisions to our parking charges (last raised in 2016). Need to feedback to Andrew Muir and raise the question 'should disabled parking be free'?

**Action                    Consider the charges. Can we provide annual parking passes for blue badge holders?**

David Brewster mentioned he had been involved in the Ryevitalise Steering Group and thought it would be a good idea to invite Alex Cripps along to a meeting to discuss Rye Access. It could increase more volunteering opportunities and Partnership working.

Local Access Forum – there will be an update at the next meeting.

Paul Hepworth suggested it would be a good idea to do some sort of press release / newsletter to show what the NP had achieved in terms of disabled access. We don't blow our own trumpets enough.

13.    **Time, date and location of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the Moors National Park Centre, Danby on Friday 24 January 2020

**Local Government North Yorkshire, York & East Riding Housing Board 2019 - Update**

Looking back over the past 12 months, the Housing Board has been in a state of flux. We have no minutes of the June meeting and September's quarterly meeting was cancelled. Sarah Hall, the Housing Strategy Manager has moved to another post and has only recently been replaced. To compound this, next meeting in December will clash with our Authority meeting. The website is also in need of a refresh.

But on a positive note, it is anticipated that the NYMNP will have a Community Led Housing Scheme at Lealholm (2021/22) and there is further good news as the Rural Housing Enabler programme for 2018/19 has seen solid performance. NYMNP contributes £6,950 p.a. to the RHE pot to enable the provision of rural affordable homes and has secured 65 completions in this f/y. Also, after much debate, the Housing Investment Plan was agreed by the Board in late 2018. This is another strategic plan for securing affordable housing and is based on the 3 themes concentrating on ex MOD sites, Off-site manufacture and Rural (specific) Housing Delivery. Disappointingly, Homes England have not agreed to support it financially but ongoing engagement with the LEP may offer alternative scope to achieve these aims.

Finally looking at further Rural Exception Sites within the NYMNP, there are 11 in the pipeline. The Staithes site is due to start next year and there are several locations to be surveyed on 2020 including Danby, Grosmont and Aislaby. Approximately 69 units could be created across the Park over the next 3 years.

**Alison Fisher**  
**NYMNP Rep**