

North York Moors National Park Authority

25 March 2019

On the Record

1. **NPUK Conference 2019 – Yorkshire Dales**

The conference will take place at the Coniston Hotel, Coniston Cold, near Skipton from **Tuesday 17 September to Thursday 19 September 2019**. As members will be aware, 2019 sees the 70th anniversary of the 1949 Countryside and National Parks Act. The conference will form part of the celebration of the birthday of national parks in the UK. But will also look forward to the next 70 years, through a '**New horizons**' theme. There will also be a range of tours for delegates to choose from on the conference's middle day. As is normal practice each National Park Authority will be allocated, in the first instance, four places. Invitations will be sent out in the spring, together with full details of the programme and speakers. At this stage, members are asked to just note the date in their diaries.

2. **50th Anniversary of the Cleveland Way**

This year we are looking forward to the 50th Anniversary of the Cleveland Way, the second of the Long Distance Paths (now National Trails) to be opened.

We have a number of celebratory events and activities taking place over the year, with the main highlight being the celebration on the day itself – 24 May 2019.

This will take the form of a walk between Helmsley and Rievaulx Abbey in the afternoon. The walk will begin at Helmsley YHA, from where the trail was originally launched. The National Park Department had been instrumental in the development of Helmsley YHA a few years earlier.

The walk takes us on the classic section through to Rievaulx Abbey, where there will be a fitting celebration and a chance to see the winning film in the Cleveland Way promotional film competition. We hope that members will be interested in joining us for this special day.

3. **Minutes of the National Parks England Meeting 31 Jan 2019**

Minutes of this meeting can be found at **Appendix 1**.

**NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND
MEETING**

Minutes of meeting held on 31st January 2019 between 09:30 – 14:00 at Peak District NPA

Items listed in order of discussion

Present			
<u>Directors</u>	<u>NPOs/ Chief Executives</u>	<u>NPAs</u>	
Robin Milton	John Packman	Broads	
Mike McKinley	Sarah Bryan	Exmoor NPA	
Oliver Crosthwaite-Eyre	Alison Barnes	Lake District NPA	
Jim Bailey	Andy Wilson	New Forest NPA	
Glen Sanderson	Tony Gates	North York Moors NPA	
Andrew McCloy	Sarah Fowler	Northumberland NPA	
Margaret Paren (Chair)(MP)	Trevor Beattie	Peak District NPA	
Carl Lis	David Butterworth (DB)	South Downs NPA	
Bill Hitchins	Kevin Bishop	Yorkshire Dales NPA	
		Dartmoor NPA	
<u>Contributors</u>	<u>Organisation</u>		
Paul Hamblin	National Parks England		
Cameron Witten	National Parks England		
Tasha Dubowski	National Parks England		
Bruce Keith	Broads (Member)		
Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong	Yorkshire Dales NPA (Deputy Chair)		
Rob Leigh	Broads Authority		

Item		Agreed Actions
1	Welcome and Introductions	
	1.1 On behalf of the NPE Board, the Chair thanked Sarah Fowler, Andrew McCloy and their team at Peak District NPA for organising and hosting the meeting.	
	1.2 Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong was introduced as Deputy Chair for the Yorkshire Dales, shadowing Carl Lis and Bruce Keith was introduced as representative for The Broads Authority.	
	1.3 Cameron Witten (Head of Policy) and Tasha Dubowski (Executive Assistant) were introduced as new members of the National Parks England Team.	
2	Apologies	
	2.1 Apologies were received from Haydn Thirtle (Broads) and Richard Leafe (LDNPA)	
3.	Approve minutes from meeting held on 27th November 2018	
	3.1 The minutes were approved .	MP
4.	Approve minutes from Extraordinary Meeting on 29th November 2018	
	4.1 The minutes were approved .	MP

6.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>6.1 PH updated Directors on The Agriculture Bill. Currently it is in the House of Commons, still awaiting its Report Stage. NPE are monitoring any amendments. Landscape quality is not listed as a public benefit in the Bill, which MP has raised with Lord Gardiner, and NPE has backed an amendment Neil Parish has put down to insert it into the Bill.</p> <p>6.2 PH to circulate briefing on landscape amendment to Agriculture Bill to all NPOs.</p> <p>6.3 NPAs to encourage friendly MPs & Peers to demonstrate support for the amendment in the Agriculture Bill.</p> <p>6.4 PH informed that Fiona Howie (former Chief Executive) of CNP has left. CNP are currently recruiting and are hoping to have someone in position by May. There is an interim Chief Executive currently in post. PH will make early contact with the new permanent appointment.</p> <p>6.5 PH informed that the Heritage Lottery Fund have relaunched as National Lottery Heritage Fund. PH attended the launch of their new Strategic Funding Framework 2019-2024 and it was stated that landscapes and nature along with community links will be priorities.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>All NPOs</p> <p>PH</p>
7.	<p>Urgent Business notified to the Company Secretary</p> <p>7.1 CL gave an update on the upcoming National Parks Conference in the Yorkshire Dales. The theme is 'New Horizons' and will take place 12:00, 17th September till 14:00 19th September at the Coniston Hotel within the YDNP. The YDNPA were looking to host 100 delegates from the NPAs, Government, CNP and AONB's at £650 per delegate. Sponsors included Tarmac, Columbia, Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Forest Holidays.</p> <p>7.2 There will be the Platinum Awards hosted at a Gala Dinner for which two National Parks and two staff within an NPA can be nominated.</p> <p>7.3 CL asked that NPAs start thinking about nominees for the awards being held at the NP Conference in the Yorkshire Dales. Nominations will open in April.</p>	<p>All Chairs/ NPOs</p>
8.	<p>Executive Director's and Lead NPO report and Business Plan Update</p> <p>8.1 SF thanked PH for the paper, highlighted the significant team effort over 2018 and drew attention to revisions to the NPPF and the future of farming as particularly good examples of collective working.</p> <p>8.2 PH updated the board on delivery of the business plan and indicated that there is strong recognition of the work the NPAs do within government.</p> <p>8.3 PH thanked SF for her input and guidance during her year as lead NPO and all the NPOs for aiding CW's and TD's induction.</p> <p>8.4 MM said, in response to the subject of strengthening Section 62, that this was increasingly urgent in the LDNPA as designated landscapes will not be ruled out of search areas for deep geological disposal of nuclear waste. MM suggested more of an upbeat bolstered section 62. PH agreed but also guided that Defra would also need to convince other colleagues across Govt to secure legislative changes.</p> <p>8.5 PH to circulate clear request for examples where S.62 is not working, or what NPAs could do if it were improved.</p> <p>8.6 All NPOs to consider examples to provide to strengthen the case.</p>	<p>PH</p> <p>All NPOs</p>

	<p>8.7 TB gave an update on the NPE response to the Planning net Biodiversity Gain consultation. The collective response is pushing for true net environmental gain rather than only biodiversity and using it as an opportunity to build bridges with MHCLG.</p> <p>8.8 MP highlighted the 8-point plan and Lord Gardiner's firm interest in it. The Chair assured the Board that, with the current minister, the NPAs 8-point plan continues to be important and Lord Gardiner has offered to help press his colleagues to support delivery.</p> <p>8.9 JP wanted to thank SF, on behalf of everyone, for her year as lead NPO.</p>	
9.	<p>Chairs Report</p> <p>9.1 MP gave a short update on a meeting that took place between NPE and the CLA in November '18.</p>	
10.	<p>Spending Review – NPE Engagement</p> <p>10.1 TG/ PH asked the Chairs for a steer on how to help inform the Spending Review and what NPE should aim for. There was discussion on Defra's resource limit being cut by 6%. The Board felt that with the strong synergy between NPAs activities and the 25YEP, 2019 being the year of the 70th Anniversary, that it would be counter intuitive to cut the budgets of NPAs at this time.</p> <p>10.2 After discussion on which of the options provided in the Spending Review Paper should be regarded as success, Directors agreed Option E which would see an increase in funds allocated to NPAs of National Parks / NHS Parity (NPG – 2019/20 - £52.3m).</p> <p>10.3 Directors agreed to all 3 priorities listed in 3.3 of the Spending Review paper:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that NPE's focus is on securing National Park Grant (NPG) specifically; • that we seek a three-year funding settlement; and • a transfer of resources for any additional responsibilities. <p>10.4 Directors also agreed that any ask in terms of increased funding could only be justified by offering increased delivery. The 5 opportunities identified in our response to Glover should form the basis of our case.</p> <p>10.5 There is an action to review data and evidence in order to support NPE's case to Defra and to secure resources to deliver our Glover 5 opportunities.</p> <p>10.6 PH/TG to prepare simple message for Directors to help convey to their MPs on Spending Review '19.</p> <p>10.7 The NPAs should provide as much information as possible to NPE/ TG to support a collective case; and engage with their MP's.</p>	<p>TG/PH/CW</p> <p>PH/TG</p> <p>All Chairs/ NPOs</p>
11.	<p>Delivery of the Policy Communication Role for National Parks England</p> <p>11.1 TG introduced the paper briefly which updated the Board on progress in relation to securing a policy communications resource for NPE and set out a number of options for Directors to consider.</p> <p>11.2 In response to Option 4 (NPE buys the service from the proposed UK Communications Team) BK and AM expressed the view that there was merit in taking a UK perspective and that there was strength in numbers to work as 15 National Parks. GS spoke in favour of option 1 and option 2. MM stated that he felt there would be a stronger voice as 10 NPAs rather than 15, where the NPE voice could get lost.</p>	

	<p>11.3 RM spoke about the NPE website and the need for something more updated and inspiring. Suggestions were made to increase its impact during the 70th Anniversary.</p> <p>11.4 Directors agreed to pursue Option 2 for the Comms resource, and if Option 2 failed then the fall back should be Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 2: the role is externally commissioned (through a professional PR agency or freelance service). • Option 1: the role is hosted directly by NPE through recruitment of a p/t officer to work in the NPE team in London. <p>11.5 AM stated that although he disagreed with the decision he would go along with the majority.</p> <p>11.6 KB and TB emphasised that it would be important to have a clear specification of the service being procured. JP said that he and the Comms leads would give their full support to the appointed person whichever the solution and that a good briefing would be vital. Directors agreed that the Executive Director and Lead NPO should develop option 2 further and finalise in conjunction with the Chair and Deputy Chair of NPE.</p>	<p>MP, PH, TG, MM</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>70th Anniversary – Policy and Parliamentary plans</p> <p>12.1 PH introduced the paper and reiterated that NPE’s focus is specifically regarding Policy and Parliamentary audiences and that Directors were being asked to approve the aims of our participation. It was also highlighted that the Comms team led by JP were working with communicators on publicity for the 70th anniversary to the public.</p> <p>12.2 There was general agreement that as the anniversary coincided with the Spending Review that we should use every opportunity to fanfare what has been achieved so far by NPAs and increase our profile at Westminster. Directors also decided the stress should be on what more can be achieved looking forward for the next 70 years.</p> <p>12.3 RM suggested a new website for NPE that could be launched at an APPG meeting.</p> <p>12.4 TG drew attention to the amount of work the NPAs already do together which was relevant for the #iwill campaign. It was suggested that more should be done to highlight the value of our every day work.</p> <p>12.5 The Chair’s local MP is the Secretary of State for Education and after talks with him knows he is keen to get children outdoors. MP said she would try to get something tied up between Defra and the DoE.</p> <p>12.6 Directors agreed to proceed with plans for the 70th Anniversary, subject to the caveat of needing to respond to external political priorities. All were in agreement on a Parliamentary reception with a carefully targeted invite list.</p> <p>12.7 MP said that she would discuss Lord Gardiner’s participation with a parliamentary reception, PH stated that at the previous APPG meeting there was enthusiasm from APPG members to host the event.</p> <p>12.8 There was a general discussion on the ways in which the Government could demonstrate its support. The long list within the paper needed to be prioritised. CL noted that the suggestion of the Secretary of State announcing NPAs involvement in the delivery of ELMS would be consistent with the Future of Farming paper and our response to the Glover Review. It was agreed that the initial request to the Secretary of State should be made by NPE.</p> <p>12.9 PH shared that although having the Prime Minister involved would be ambitious, she had previously expressed an interest in the education and mental health aspects of the 25YEP which could provide an opening for NPAs. It was agreed that NPE would not be proactive in this approach but monitor for any hooks.</p>	<p>MP</p> <p>PH/TD/CW</p> <p>MP</p> <p>PH</p>

<p>13.</p>	<p>National Parks Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>13.1 PH introduced the paper which was seeking endorsement for the work being done alongside Public Health England, and on encouraging NPA opportunities with Government programmes and policy announcements. PH drew attention to the NYMNPA's paper, Measuring Health and Well-Being Impact, suggesting other NPAs may be interested in a similar project of their own. JB updated the board on the NYMNPA's work on their publication.</p> <p>13.2 PH highlighted that partnerships are being formed between Public Health England, NHS England, Natural England and Defra. The importance of the natural environment as part of preventing ill-health is feeding across these organisations more effectively.</p> <p>13.3 AB sought a steer from Directors on how far we go with the opportunities that are presented currently and the recommendations listed in the paper. TG said that our ask was too broad, and we'd need to be more specific on a programme which should be agreed collectively. AB highlighted that good working relationships have been developed with PHE in some National Parks which has allowed NPA staff to be looked upon as associate advisors. AB said that we could continue to grow those relationships organically or scale it up with resources and NPE support.</p> <p>13.4 After discussion, AB suggested that it would be useful to be mandated to continue working and growing relations with public health organisations. Directors agreed that a Working Group for Health & Wellbeing be set up to include members that have expertise in this field, AB will take lead. This would be extremely useful in narrowing down what our offer is in relation to the Glover Review.</p> <p>13.5 PH will continue to improve national policy contacts, including for new NHS Link Officers to work with NPAs.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>PH</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>NPE-Highways England Memorandum of Understanding</p> <p>14.1 PH introduced the paper that had been prepared by Richard Leafe. It sought approval for the final draft of the memorandum and stated that it would still need approval from the Highways England Board. MP said that there was a lot of support for it from the Executive Board level at Highways England.</p> <p>14.2 MP wanted to thank Tim Nicholson and Richard Leafe for their hard work and detailed discussions with Highways England.</p> <p>14.3 AM said that as there are currently two vexing projects within PDNP and that he therefore welcomed this initiative. He praised the constructive phrases in it, highlighting that he was very pleased that it reiterated that road building in NPs should only be in exceptional cases. MP disclosed that in discussions with Highways England Executive Board members they fully accepted that both parties have differing policy requirements. The important point was that there should be an understanding of each other's position if there was an objection to a road scheme in future.</p> <p>14.4 After some discussion MP said that six monthly meetings would be extremely important with Highways England and this was supported by BK.</p> <p>14.5 BK stated that it would be good to see sustainable drainage systems highlighted within the Asset Design and Management principle of the Memorandum.</p> <p>14.6 RM asked for the wording on the Removal of Clutter and Litter to be changed to signage being removed <i>or replaced</i>. MP said that this should be a discussion that took place between NPAs and the relevant Highways Authority.</p> <p>14.7 Directors approved the final draft Memorandum for Highways England. A joint launch was also agreed, likely to be in the Lake District.</p>	<p>RL/ TN</p>

	14.8 NPE to seek final sign off with HE and prepare for a launch.	
15.	Engagement with MPs/ Peers This item was not discussed.	
16.	Glover Review – Update 16.1 PH informed the Board that some of the panel would be attending the launch of the National Parks Experience Collection and there would be an opportunity to speak with them here. 16.2 There was an update on intelligence from different NPAs post meetings with Julian Glover. It was clear that Diversity, Outreach and Governance were high on the agenda. 16.3 It was agreed that NPE should arrange a pre-meeting for Directors the night before the 30 th April Roundtable with Julian Glover.	TD
17.	ELM Test and Trial Programme and Work on Rural Development Update 17.1 KB stated that the paper provided was primarily an update and added that our ask of Government was not just on future of farming but also on wider rural development. Defra are committed to the co-designing of the ELMs scheme with tests & trials. KB updated that so far, the 9 NPAs that have submitted pilot proposals have currently been successful and thanked MP for her work on securing this through gaining support from Lord Gardiner. 17.2 KB raised the initial concerns on the NPE logo being on the Blueprint for a Land Management Approach document without the CLA & NFU's involvement. He responded that discussions are underway with the NFU currently and a meeting will be held this month, which MP would attend. 17.3 A meeting had been held with a Defra official on the joint delivery on the upcoming ELMS and there will be a series of other meetings taking place between now and Easter. 17.4 TG gave an update on rural development. LEPs are being lined up to have a key role with delivery. TG stated that NPAs had developed a collective ambition for rural development which aligns with that for land management in line with our submission to the Glover Review. TG asked if Directors would support getting our 'Rural Development Ambition/National Parks Growth Deal' paper fed into the Glover Review Panel as soon as possible in order to support our aims. 17.5 JB asked if the Agriculture Bill enabled payments for rural development schemes? KB has asked Defra to clarify its powers on rural development funding, and relationship with the Shared Prosperity Fund and would pursue that. 17.6 Directors agreed a rural development paper be progressed and shared (by email) with NPOs/ Chairs prior to submission to Glover alongside the original farming paper.	KB TG
18.	E-NPOG Notes 14.11.18 18.1 The notes of the meeting were noted without discussion.	
19.	Meeting Dates for 2019 (a) 06 June – NPE Board meeting (b) 02 Oct – NPE Board meeting	

