

Feedback from Lead Members on Forums

- Alison Fisher – Brief verbal update on Conservation and Land Management Forum, plus written update attached as **Appendix 1**.
- Sarah Oswald – Brief verbal update on the outcomes and actions since last Access, Business & Recreation Forum

Conservation and Land Management Forum, January 2019

At the most recent CLMF we looked at two of the main characteristics of the NYMNP - remoteness and tranquillity. Both are enshrined within the Park's operational documents, the Management Plan and the draft Local Plan.

The Management Plan takes tranquillity very seriously. The Forum focussed on Dark Skies which are an internationally recognised asset for which a Status can be secured with the International Dark-Skies Association (IDA). Several ongoing initiatives are ensuring that we can move towards achieving this status. These include:-

- Looking at lighting, especially street lighting, to be IDA compliant;
- a Big Dipper campaign to ensure external lights are dipped downwards;
- encouraging visitors to be more aware of the value of dark skies through the Dark Skies Festival;
- establishing a new Lighting Improvement Grant Scheme using S106 funding.

The draft Local Plan is establishing policies to maintain and enhance both remoteness and tranquillity. We now have a Remote Areas map and a policy to control development within these areas. Also a policy to say no to new lighting in these areas and new lighting standards to be established by the NPA.

In addition to both Plans, work assessing the impact of lighting on wildlife and diversity continues both locally and internationally. ALAN (Artificial Light at Night) is a nuisance. For instance, bats and slugs are affected by ALAN and ideally we need to create better disturbance free zones. But outside the work of the Conservation department, we should consider other initiatives such as encouraging retailers to stock IDA compliant lights and discouraging bright white LEDs being fixed pointing upwards.

In conclusion there is much we can do - encourage a greater awareness of the damage that lighting can do; engage with other National Parks to investigate how better products may be promoted; how might a national light policy (as exists in France) be secured?; pulling together a list of iconic sites/buildings where a revised lighting scheme could bring benefits; consider applying for Dark Skies Status from IDA.

Alison Fisher
March 2019