

North York Moors National Park Authority

25 March 2019

Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

1. **Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To consider reports from Members attending meetings on outside bodies as representatives on the Authority.

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 recent CNP matters. This can be found at **Appendix 1**

4. **NYM Disability Advisory Group**

- 4.1 Sarah Oswald will give a brief verbal update on DAG. Notes from the most recent DAG meeting, held on 25 January 2019, can be found at **Appendix 2**.

5. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

6. **Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7. **Recommendation**

- 7.1 That the report be noted.

Contact Officer
Vanessa Burgess
Committees Officer
Tel No 01439 772700

Campaign for National Parks

While there has not been a meeting of the CNP Council for some time, its campaigning and work has continued.

The organisation has a new Chief Executive following Fiona Howe's departure - a much valued officer who has done much to heighten the profile of CNP, despite CNP's criticism of the North York Moors (which I think she acknowledged later was proven to be unjustified). NEW CEO - is Corinne Pluchino who comes to CNP with 20 years' experience in communications, campaigning, marketing and generating income in the commercial and not-for-profit sectors. She began her career in the House of Commons and local government before moving to the commercial sector. Her roles have included Head of Corporate Development at Marie Curie. She is a Trustee of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and has a particular interest in the relationship between agriculture and wildlife conservation.

70th Anniversary of National Parks

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to celebrate the 70th anniversary was unsuccessful. HLF wanted more emphasis on holding exhibitions as part of the project. Following that decision an application has been made to Garfield Weston Foundation. At the time of writing a reply is awaited.

Plans to mark the 70th anniversary include the creation of five oral histories including one featuring Len Clark now aged 100, and who was in Parliament when the 1949 legislation was debated. CNP is working with the Youth Hostels Association on the celebrations, and a special event is being held at HYA Castleton in the Peak District. The BBC Programme Country File is making a special programme about the National Parks and this is due to be screened in April.

Ensuring that NPs are better protected, made more beautiful and more accessible which the key evidence was given to the Glover Report by CNPs. CNP is working with National Park Societies on specific proposals including a proposed holiday village at Hellifield just outside the Yorkshire Dales NP. Extensive work is being carried out to generate more income for CNP and two legacies have been received which will help the financial situation. CNP Council is seeking ideas to support its fund raising campaign. The next meeting of the CNP Council is in late May, which I shall be attending. In view of being in London quite frequently I plan to meet the new CEO.

If any member of the NYMNPA has any queries please let me know.

David Jeffels
CNP Representative
2 March 2019

North York Moors Disability Advisory Group

53rd Meeting – Friday 25 January 2019

Present:

Danny Boyes (Chairman), Ian Lawson, Terry Sutcliffe, Paul Hepworth, John Goss, Julie Atkinson

Apologies:

Aileen Gatland, Denise Ross, Ann Boyes, David Brewster, Sarah Oswald, Chris Christou

In Attendance:

Debbie Trafford, Ryan Chenery, Michael Graham, Ian Nicholls

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the new members of the group and everybody introduced themselves, explaining their reason for being at the meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October were noted and agreed.

3. Terms of Reference

Ian Nicholls went through the current terms of reference for the Group, explaining the links between the Group and the wider Authority, particularly the opportunity to have input directly to the Authority's members.

Several questions arose from this, including the way in which the DAG linked into the work of the Local Access Forum. Debbie said that one of the DAG members was also a member of the LAF and others would be welcome as and when a vacancy arose.

Paul asked about the way in which the Authority publicised that it was keen to work with disabled people (both voluntary and paid). He said that he got a lot out of his volunteering, and wanted to see others encouraged. **Action - Ian Nicholls to follow up with Paul.**

A query was raised about the possibility of a volunteer role to lead walks specifically aimed at disabled people. Debbie agreed to follow this up with the person who organises the Authority's guided walks programme. **Action – Debbie.**

4. New Director of Park Services – Michael Graham

Michael introduced himself to the Group and said a little about his work background both within the National Park and prior to that. He thanked Group members for their comments on the proposals for the Land of Iron exhibition at the Moors Centre and confirmed that some seating would be included. Julie welcomed comments about needing to ensure that the exhibition 'worked' for those with visual impairments. He went on to say that a considerable amount of effort was being put into sorting out how the various improvements made under the Land of Iron project would be sustained, particularly in relation to access at the various sites. Michael said that work on a new website would be started, probably early in 2020, and he would be looking for input from this Group into making it as accessible as possible.

5. Feedback from the Awareness, Recreation and Business Forum

Debbie thanked the group members who came took part in Forum held on 1 December and said that as a result of this, Sarah Oswald had written a paper which she presented to the full National Park Authority later in the month. The other Authority members who had attended the Forum were convinced of the need to engage properly with disabled people and consider their needs more closely. This manifested itself in a number of key themes;

- Provision of high quality information to enable informed choices to be made;
- Good quality and variety of routes;
- Maintenance of routes to a high standard/ensuring budgetary provision for this;
- Provision of accessible toilets and good parking

Two of the main roads in the National Park had been identified as barriers for disabled people – the A170 at Sutton Bank and the A169 at Saltergate Car Park. Michael said that he had been in discussion with NYCC Highways about moving the Sutton Bank road crossing about 75 meters back towards Helmsley. This suggestion had been met with a favourable response and it is hoped that the work will be done this year. It will also require the NPA to do practical works to re-route access paths and permission will be needed from the landowner for a permissive path across part of his land. The change of location will improve sight lines for both pedestrians and motorists. Highways will review the signage to try to make it clearer to motorists that pedestrians will be crossing the road, but their own 'rules' would not allow the installation of flashing warning lights.

It was generally agreed that improving the road crossing at Saltergate car park would potentially open up access to a range of paths across Levisham estate and to the Hole of Horcum. A number of these were certainly accessible to trampers users. Julie mentioned that those with partial or no sight will listen for traffic at crossings and felt that the proposed improvements would be helpful. Ian Lawson said that he was aware of a fund held by NYCC to improve accessibility at road crossings. He said that he would forward the contact details. **Action - Ian Lawson and Michael to follow up.**

Debbie said that she was organising a training day for the National Park Authority and Local Access Forum members. They would be using adaptive bikes, trampers and glasses which simulate eye conditions to get a better understanding of the issues facing disabled people who want to access the countryside. **Action - Debbie to invite DAG members to this.**

Debbie acknowledged the difficulties that had been caused by a well-intentioned, but not fully thought through target in the current Business Plan in relation to the development of additional accessible routes. When the Business Plan was revised in 2020, she felt that the emphasis should be on maintaining current routes to a high standard in the long term and looking at other opportunities when this had been achieved.

There was discussion about the proposed development at Sutton Bank. Michael confirmed that this had been fully planned, but works to the building were on hold until a suitable source of funding could be found. Work on improving the car park would go ahead this year as this was being paid for from the Authority's own funds. He confirmed that a Changing Places facility was included in the plans – the group welcomed this and Terry made the point that it not only provided changing facilities for adults, but would also be big enough to enable those who use trampers to get into the room and use the toilet. John said that he had difficulty in accessing the current disabled toilet at Sutton Bank.

Although the entrance complied with building regulations at the time of building, this was often not wide enough now. John said that he used a standard wheelchair, but it did have splayed wheels meaning the access needed to be a little wider. **Action - Michael agreed that he would investigate access at Sutton Bank.**

6. **Other Access Matters**

Debbie updated the group on the progress that had been made by the Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise with support from the National Park and Scarborough Borough Council in preparing and submitting a funding bid for the replacement of the Forge Valley boardwalk. The 1.5 mile board walk was an important facility on the edge of Scarborough and the 20 year old wooden structure was ta the end of its useful life. The plans for its replacement included room for turning circles and passing places. The funding sources being used was the European Rural Development Fund – the monies in this fund were guaranteed whatever the outcome of Brexit. If all went well, work was expected to commence early in 2020.

Debbie said that she was aware that the easy access route at Cawthorn Camp required work and she was hoping to use money available via the Woodsmith mine development to be able to undertake works to improve the surface and replace the viewing platform.

Debbie referenced a minimum standard for the construction of accessible routes and said that she would share this with the Group. **Action – Debbie.**

It was noted that an excellent new accessible trail at Cod Beck Reservoir near Osmotherly was open. This had had considerable input from Yorkshire Water and the National Trust as well as the NPA. Full information would be available on the NPA website shortly, but please see Yorkshire Water press release below www.yorkshirewater.com/about-us/newsroom-media/cod-beck.

Terry made the point that there had been an issue with access from one of the car parks. Debbie said that she thought that this had been resolved, but would check. **Action – Debbie**

Debbie said that she was keen to ensure that the Authority's existing accessible routes were upto scratch and would welcome a regular audit of the routes led by a disabled volunteer. Ryan Chenery said that he would work with Debbie to organise this. **Action – Ryan and Debbie**

7. **Tramper Project**

Ian N updated on the tramper scheme which was discussed at the previous meeting. 4 trampers would be available this year – 2 from Easter onwards at Ravenscar and Guisborough, with 2 more to follow at Sutton Bank and a location to be confirmed. It was planned that another 2 trampers would come into operation in 2020 with one of these being based at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway at Grosmont. The trampers were being bought (approx. £7k each) and remaining insurance matters resolved.

Countryside Mobility <https://www.countrysidemobility.org/> is continuing to provide practical advice. Ian L was keen to point out that for a nominal annual fee, there was no cost to 'hire' the trampers. The group welcomed the initiative and a further update will be given at the next meeting.

8. **Volunteering**

Ryan gave an update on the expanding work of the Volunteering team in engaging with disabled volunteers. He welcomed Paul's comments earlier in the meeting about giving disabled people a chance to show what they can do. He described the work

that Paul is doing and also how another volunteer is building 110 new PCs, which then enables the IT team to be able to do other work.

Ryan also went on to explain the concept of Associate Group volunteering and how this worked well for disabled groups. Notable successes in this continues to be Autism Plus, Open Country and Beyond Boundaries.

Ryan gave an example of how the scope of work involving disabled volunteers was continuing to widen. Interested members of the Autism Plus group had been given training in Riverfly monitoring techniques and would be undertaking survey work later in the year.

9. Time, date and location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at Helmsley as it is possible that work on installing the new exhibition at the Moors Centre will still be on-going.

Friday 12 April 2019 – Committee Room, Helmsley – 10.15am