

North York Moors National Park Authority

30 September 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. **Welcome to Yorkshire**

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

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

- 5.1 At **Appendix 3** please find Sarah Oswald's notes from the last DAG meeting

6. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial or staffing implications.

7. **Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. **Recommendation**

- 8.1 That the report be noted.

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Campaign for National Parks

The Glover Report on the Future of National Parks and the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan are two of the main issues on which CNP is currently focussing. There is optimism that the Glover Report could provide a platform for CNP to recreate ambition and imagination of the original campaign which established National Parks 70 years ago.

As a result the CNP National Conference which will have a wide range of speakers as well as a private campaigning session will focus on CNP's plans to ensure the Glover Review is implemented. The conference will be held in London on November 21 which the new CEO of CNP, Corinne Pluchino, is confident will provide an effective platform to highlight the value of NPs and their future. The conference will be key to responding to the findings in Glover. I did write to her asking whether November 21 might be too late for the conference to influence the political parties should there be a General Election before that date. If that was that case, I'm told, Council members would be asked for their views on policies to influence party manifestos.

Corinne Pluchino who has emerged as an excellent new CEO made an excellent speech at the Park protector Award Ceremony at the House of Commons which was attended by a number of MPs and members of the House of Lords. She said that NPs were today more important than ever, providing access to beauty, nature, and recreation and not, as she described them "some abstract hippy concepts". She added: "They are fundamentally important now as we look at our vision for post-Brexit Britain."

Corinne told the packed event: "CNP believes that NPs are both undervalued by Government and the wider public, for the huge benefits they provide. But at the same time, the Parks and Government must do more themselves."

She said CNP had called on the government to work with National Park Authorities to set up what she described as "sustainable travel pilot zones" so that our most popular destinations will not be blighted by congestion (NB is this something which could be taken on board at a NYMNPA Members' Seminar?). She urged NPs to be "more ambitious for nature in their management plans." She added firmly: "Let's get landscape on the Government agenda."

There was a good speech by the Minister with responsibility for NPs, Lord Gardiner, who said the Government's 25 year Environment Plan aimed to connect people with nature. He commended the work underway to connect a greater number of young people to nature and praised NPAs for reaching their targets of more than 60,000 young people visiting parks a year. The figure is expected to double by 2020. In addition, he said, volunteers put in 45,000 days a year, valued at £3.4m a year. He presented the Year of Green Action Award to the "People and the Dales" project by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust., with which NYMNPA has had involvement.

Finally, CNP has been working with Butterfly Conservation which has carried out a Big Butterfly Count this summer. The results will be known shortly. If any member of the Authority has any queries on this report and would like more information, please let me know.

David Jeffels

NYMNPA representative on Campaign for National Parks

Welcome to Yorkshire

Welcome to Yorkshire (W2Y), the principal tourist marketing organisation for the county, believes that the tourist economy for the North York Moors National Park has the potential to grow quite significantly. The NP and Scarborough is currently benefitting from #210,000 from the Sirius funding and much of the park and the coast will also benefit from the new status of Business Improvement District.

W2Y is working with Scarborough Council, the National Park Authority and other organisations.

The current estimated value of tourism to the park area is put at between #4 and #5 billion. Funding of some #210,000 has been provided to the area from Sirius potash mine, under the NP arrangement with the company, and the coast and part of the park are set to benefit from the new Coastal Business in Improve District status based on Scarborough Council's area. W2Y is holding its annual meeting at the end of this year and will be staging its big promotion for the 2020 season on March 25 at a venue to be arranged.

All the signs are that tourism in Yorkshire as a whole will grow in the future and the NP will be one of the significant beneficiaries as a result of improved digital connectivity and closer collaboration between W2Y, the National Park Authority and local authorities.

I shall be having periodic updates with W2Y officers so if any member of NYMNPA has issues they wish me to pursue, please let me know.

Additional Report.....

Nature tourism has the potential to add millions of pounds to the economy of North Yorkshire, according to the North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership (LNP) A report to NYCC by the LNP says that work to address the value that the natural environment can bring to economic growth and healthier communities is being undertaken by the LNP.

The LNP has strong links with the NY Local Enterprise Partnership and the county council's Health and Wellbeing Board Officers of the LNP say "Nature tourism is a sector that can develop to bring in tens of millions of pounds of income to the area."

However the report's authors say that more investment is needed to promote North Yorkshire's natural assets. "There are numerous wildlife hotspots than can be promoted with additional investment linking to lesser known sites and businesses in the wider landscapes to make the wider areas a destination and extend the tourist season."

David Jeffels

NYMNPA Representative – Welcome to Yorkshire

Notes from DAG meeting 26th July 2019

Updates from Previous meeting minutes:

- The disabled toilets at Sutton Bank have now been widened
- Guided walk – the previously planned guided walk (Rosedale) on 5th July was postponed due to lack of numbers. An alternative date has been identified (4th October) when members of Camphill Trust are attending, all DAG members are encouraged to attend

Agenda items

Land of Iron update

Rosedale Kilns are finished. Working is starting at Bank Top Kilns and will provide wheelchair accessible route which will suit trampers and robust chairs. Working on the disused railway will make the track from Blakey to the Kilns

Interpretation in Danby Centre has been completed (except for snagging) and the official launch was to be held the weekend after the meeting. The designers have worked to consider the height of displays and to offer seating and make the experience as accessible as possible. The groups were encouraged to visit after the meeting.

Esk Valley mine buildings conservation work. Work to create access route to it as trail through woodland. There is a steep bank but it will be made as accessible as possible

All interpretation will be installed by end November

Natural heritage work continues

More excavations occurring and there is a legacy project to exhibit finds at Tom Leonard Mining Museum

Cinder Track

The first meeting of a working group was held in Scarborough and attended by DAG's chair. It is likely DAG will be approached for advice on access. There were some concerns expressed about mountain bikes, car use etc and the need to consider barriers while still enabling access. There are issues around needing to provide access for tractors crossing meaning the track needs to be reinforced. Also the need to signage to encourage respect for shared use was discussed.

Funding is being sought from Sustrans for either end and there is fundraising needed for the middle section.

The working group has divided up to look at parts of the track and responding with ideas, there is likely to be a site visit held.

Disabled volunteers

NYM has 13 associate volunteer groups, 6 of these are training people with disabilities. NYM offers training to associate groups on how to lead and provides tools. Associate groups may also offer training in return to NYM.

Easi Works / Autism Plus delivered a session on working with volunteers with neurodiversity. Staff and volunteers attended including task day leaders. It is likely they will run the course again for visitor centre staff. It was suggested that it might be good to open the invite up to members of NYM too.

Easi Works are presenting at September's NPA. Some of the participants are very interested in invertebrates and have now volunteered and will be trained up to be involved in Rye Vitalise project. There may be opportunities for Easi Work's members to become involved in visitor centre volunteering.

There are joint working opportunities between associate groups. Gilling East Autism Plus have lots of volunteer tasks they need input to. Esk Valley Camphill and Camphill Village Trust Community Champions are forming a monthly steering committee and looking at ideas to become involved in volunteering tasks – Ryan attends from NYM.

Individual volunteer are being directed to appropriate groups.

Moorswork is largely involved in offering opportunities through work for the AONB.

Tramper project

The aim is for trampers available at 6 locations across the park (Whitby, Guisborough, Sutton Bank, Goathland, Ravenscar, possibly Danby) – it requires ensuring that there are accessible appropriate trails available in the vicinity of the hire station. It costs £10 to be a member of the scheme which is managed by Countryside Mobility. Guisborough is keen but not yet ready as there is a parks trust being developed. There are discussions ongoing with Trailways at Whitby but there are access considerations to be addressed first. North York Moors railway are keen to provide at Goathland and Grosmont in 2020. Ravenscar and Sutton Bank will have trampers available in 2019. There will be a soft launch at Sutton Bank and DAG members have been invited to come and trial it. There is an issue related to the crossing of the road at Sutton Bank to be addressed with Highways. Some work is needed on White Horse Trail. At Ravenscar it is awaiting National Trust's confirmation that they are ready to start the scheme there on 2 trails.

The scheme will be publicized through Countryside Mobility's website and their membership and on NYM's website and PR channels.

Rights of Way

Paul, David and Julie have been doing surveys of the existing promoted routes. Some issues were identified at Sutton Bank and signage requiring updating. Addressing the work required on the routes is being impacted by limited capacity of rangers that are dealing with critical bridge repairs in the west of the park.

NYM undertakes a BVPI survey (Highways Standard) every other year on rights of way

Codbeck Easy Access Route update – this is a partnership scheme; the issues identified with the route here are on partner areas. Although it was agreed at the Sheepwash Action Group that NYMNPA would undertake the works, the Culvert structure requires more complex work in order to address the issues. It will be undertaken when capacity allows.

Issues with the gates – the gates are needed to manage anti-social behaviour issues. Gate mechanisms are being oiled weekly since issues were raised. Signs are to go up advising that access via a RADAR key is possible.

Yorkshire Water is committed to providing information about the route as a pdf for their website and NYM.

Recruitment

Job applications now have the appropriate logo (disability confident employer) replacing the two ticks logo.

Next meeting

25 October

Sarah Oswald, DAG Representative