

North York Moors National Park Authority

20 March 2017

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 report can be found at **Appendix 1**

4. **Local Access Forum**

- 4.1 Les Atkinson attended the LAF meeting on 12 December 2016 his report can be found at **Appendix 2**

5. **NYM Disability Advisory Group**

- 5.1 Notes from the last meeting can be found at **Appendix 3**

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

Although CNP has not had a Council meeting recently, its Board of Trustees have been dealing with a number of issues:

One has been to work with the National Trust and CPRE to jointly commission research which focusses on major development in and around the boundaries of NPs. The aim was to explore the thinking about how best to strengthen protection for NPs through the planning system. Research was carried out by Sheffield Hallam University and a report "National Parks: Planning for the Future" was published recently. A meeting is being held between CNP Trustees and the National Trust to discuss the research and I am intending to go to see CNP officers when I am in London shortly to ascertain progress. Meetings are due to be held in the very near future with Government Ministers from DCLG.

One of the main recommendations recognises the importance of Local Plan policies and how major development tests should be applied in relation to the special qualities of NPs.

UPLAND FARMING - The CNP Board has had some very complimentary things to say about the Working Party's Report on Upland Farming, of which I have been a member. It is now felt there is a need to develop a draft policy position statement. The draft report is calling for a better deal for upland farmers especially in the post-Brexit period and I know this issue has been pursued in the House of Lords by Baroness Anne Macintosh, the former MP for Thirsk and Malton and a great supporter of the NYMNP.

CNP is progressing plans to host a roundtable discussion focused on how to make NPs more biodiverse and what needs to change to achieve this. Changes to the payments to farmers and land managers have the potential; it is felt, to have a substantial impact on the future of NPs and their beauty.

The CNP Board has also discussed the need for a new strategic plan because the current one is due to come to an end in March next year.

I will furnish NYMNPA Members with a further report shortly when I have met CNP officers. In the meantime if anyone has any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me (Tel: 01723 863395, Mobile: 07870 274680 or by email: d.jeffels@northyorkmoors.org.uk)

DAVID JEFFELS
NYMNPA Rep - CNP

NYM LAF meeting - 12 December 2016

Three new members were introduced including me.

From matters arising a question was raised regarding who owned grass verges in front of many houses in our small villages. The lady was a horse rider and found that verges in front of most houses in the park were treated as lawns and kept neat and tidy. Would it be possible for these to revert back to being natural and rough to assist horse riders?

This was discussed and most people felt it was the Highways Dept. Due to cuts some jobs now have been handed over to the general public or the voluntary sector. Sighting for cars is much better if verges are cut, less rubbish is dropped and villages look far more clean and tidy. Considering the cost of houses in the park many are going up market too, giving pleasure to everyone. Officers were asked to find out the law relating to roadside verges and report back at the next meeting.

An update was asked on National Trails progress. Managers have been told to expect a 5% cut in future funding. National Park funding protected for 4 years with a 1.7% increase each year. I wonder how many people can name all 15 national trails? And yet the most famous long distance walk which crosses three National Parks (Coast to Coast) receives no funding at all as it is not regarded as a NT.

At Port Mulgrave, access to the beach following a land slide is still a problem and discussions on how best to tackle this are ongoing.

Traffic regulation orders have been issued by NYCC at Newton Bank, Lonsdale and Coleson Banks.

Agenda items: Malton-Pickering cycle route it was agreed that members should encourage work to achieve the correct surface solution which was also a problem on the Cinder Track at the coast.

White roads as marked on an O/S map were discussed. Some are public but many are not. NYCC wanted to take off the List of Streets some white roads and to stop monitoring them. Many of these have now been surveyed and the result will be sent to O/S. A request is to be made to NYCC to provide a map showing all the Unclassified Unadopted Roads/RoW's in the park. Fracking, No fracking allowed inside the NP but allowed to drill down and under. NP minerals and waste plan provides strong protection for the NP and AONB's in this respect. For conventional gas drilling we may receive some requests later this year for licences, looking for deposits, though extraction is considered to be 'major development' which can only take place in NP's in exceptional cases.

Potash, the NYMNPA is expecting an amendment application in April this year. Access works have now started at entrances to the mine and at road junction on A171. Site works to start April 2017. Work will not start on the bridleway round the site until the end of the mine site works have been completed and landscaping finalised. A s106 = £175 million planning gain for the park plus two forums have been set up to help handle any issues, during the construction period and to address the longer term impacts of the development.

An update was given on the South Moor Farm application, regarding a runway for light aircraft, saying that the Authority was now in receipt of its 4th application turning down 3

others. LAF members said that as a forum they were against the application, but if it was successful, conditions should be attached regarding light pollution, tranquillity and the bridleway should not be fenced in. Signage and flags to indicate when the strip will be in use. Also planes should over fly the airstrip to make people aware they were intending to land. It was felt that the Inspectors did not understand what a NP and its special qualities stood for and some instruction and training would not go amiss. Chris France, Director of Planning offered to do this.

Government are being lobbied regarding funding for access agreements, it was agreed to debate this if funding became available.

Sustrans and Cinder track – Tim Burkinshaw from SBC said they were in receipt of a draft Cinder Track restoration plan from Sustrans. A final plan has yet to be produced, but there was no money in the budget to action any work. The intention was to make it a multi user track and not their intention to tarmac the whole surface. There is huge local opposition to any tarmac being used at all. Being a coastal path it is used mainly by walkers for the scenery. Drainage is the main problem having being neglected for years. SBC intend to apply for coastal communities funding to help pay for the work. Sustrans have been invited to present and discuss the track at the next meeting in June.

An online events calendar was suggested for organised events.

The Moorsbus is currently managing to recoup half its costs. Train services to Malton are due to increase and concern was shown for people arriving, wishing to access the NYMNP. Askham Bryan have run some Bridlegate trails. A revised standard is due later this year.

LAF members were informed that the NE festival of climbing was to take place in the NP this year to hopefully showcase the area. Information was also given of some repair work on cliffs at Scugdale.

A funding bid had been submitted for the National Grid Environmental Enhancement Grant for surfacing to a class 1 forest road on a wet Bridleway at Silton.

Traffic regulations were also discussed regarding none commencement of work at Coleson Banks and Lonsdale Plantation. Seggimire lane permanent TRO squashed due to incorrect procedure being followed by NYCC. Experimental trail of downhill traffic only for the next 6 months. Newton Bank permanent TRO to be considered in Feb. Mill Lane Raisdale to Scugdale 18 month TRO for works proposed. Kirby Bank permanent TRO being consulted upon now. Frustration was shown regarding lack of closure signs on ways subject to TROs.

Les Atkinson, LAF Member

North York Moors Disability Advisory Group

46th Meeting – Friday 20 January 2017

Present

Danny Boyes (Chairman)
Anita Buttell
Aileen Gatland
David Brewster
Ian Lawson
Peter Scott (Moorswork)

Apologies

Sarah Oswald
Denise Ross
Ann Boyes
Graham Stubbs

In Attendance

Richard Roberts (Cass Associates) and Michael Graham (for Sutton Bank item)
Karl Gerhardsen
Ian Nicholls

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September were noted and agreed.

Sutton Bank

Following on from the discussion about potential development at Sutton Bank at the last meeting, Richard Roberts and Michael Graham were present to discuss a number of potential options and seek views from the group. It was stressed that no plans had been confirmed and the Authority was very much at the stage of considering options for improving Sutton Bank. Richard presented a number of potential floor plans and a helpful and constructive discussion ensued. In summary, the views of the group were as follows;

- Plans to remove a number of the existing internal doors to create a free flowing space were welcomed;
- Group members commented on how difficult the current external doors were to open independently due to their weight and size. Richard and Michael agreed that this would be improved and that there were a number of ways in which this could be achieved;
- The Group was positive about the current number of car parking spaces for disabled people and felt that the plans to move the service road would improve accessibility to the centre, removing a potential hazard at the same time;
- The plans indicating dedicated parking spaces for the mobility scooters that would be available for borrowing were received very positively;
- There was considerable discussion about the public toilets and the strong view of the group was that they should be accessible from both inside the building and direct from the outside. Members of the group also said that the Authority should ensure the accessible toilet facilities were an example of excellent practice and that by building this in at the design stage the additional cost would not be significant. It was recommended that the dimensions of the accessible toilet should go well beyond the current building regulations minimum and the facility should also include sufficient room for adult changing facilities. It was noted that there were some good example of this type of facility elsewhere. Richard and Michael agreed to build this into any amended plans;
- While welcoming the investment in the site, the group made the point raised at the previous meeting that care should be exercised to ensure that an increase in visitor numbers didn't spoil what was already there and the members and officers of the Authority should remember why people went to visit Sutton Bank i.e usually for short walks and to enjoy the views.

(Action – Michael to ensure that the views expressed by the Group were fully considered and included in any further plans)

Moorswork

Danny welcomed Peter Scott to the meeting and Peter gave an update on the progress being made by Moorswork. He said that there had been some issues regarding transport (the minibus had been written off following a minor accident) but that these were now resolved.

The changes in Social Services budgets over recent years had resulted in only a small number of referrals to Moorswork via this route. Other referrals came either from individuals or local groups. The Group was operating 2 days per week and was at capacity on Mondays and 80% capacity on Thursday. Moorswork's clients continued to come from the Scarborough/Malton/Pickering areas.

The application to become a charity was slowly moving forwards and a number of different people had been approached to become committee members. Lady Susan Howard had agreed to become a Patron.

In the medium term, Peter said that he expected a long term volunteer to start running some of the days when he would normally organise the group to allow him time to do other things. Moorswork had considered employing somebody directly, but felt that a better route was to engage somebody who was self-employed to undertake additional work as and when necessary.

Work tasks continued to be varied with joint working with the Howardian Hills AONB volunteers being particularly productive. Danny thanked Peter for the update and invited him to return later in the year.

Access to Information

Prior to the meeting, Ian L had expressed his concern that information about accessible walks was difficult to find on the Authority's website and that the site generally did not feature enough disabled people. Karl shared a revised draft webpage which gave further information about accessible walks and also provided links to the Disabled Ramblers, the Cleveland Way's easy access routes and Viewranger (an external website with a lot of downloadable route guides). The group made a number of comments and were generally positive about the revised page which went live after the meeting (see link below)

<http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/visiting/enjoy-outdoors/walking/easy-access-walks>

To assist in developing information about accessible walks, Ian L provided information about the way in which the Disabled Ramblers categorise routes to ensure that its members can make an informed decision about the walks before setting out. It was noted that the Disabled Ramblers are promoting a series of guided walks in the North York Moors in June.

Access to the National Park

Karl had followed up on Aileen's report at the previous meeting that the access from the car park below the Lion Inn on Blakey Ridge onto the old mineral railway was poor and that the road chippings used on the path had been laid too deep to allow easy walking or cycling. While 'bedding in' would resolve some of the issues, further work was needed on this area as too much material had been laid to facilitate easy access.

Karl responded to a piece that had been published in the Whitby Gazette over the Christmas/New Year period which suggested that the Authority was going to create 5km of new easy access paths. He explained that the newspaper had picked up on some of the targets in the new Business Plan, but had (inadvertently) not explained them correctly. Karl said that the Authority was not going to create any new public rights of way, but did want to improve the accessibility of some of the existing network and that he would welcome suggestions from the Group as to which ones would be the most beneficial to target. There is significant potential in improving accessibility by improving information about routes that already exist, so the previous discussion had been useful. Karl also said that he didn't feel that this effort should focus only on public rights of way as there was a lot of open access land and concessionary access where, with a little bit of effort, easy access in some lovely spots could be promoted to a wider audience.

(Action – KG)

Sale of RADAR Keys

Ian N informed the group that a member of the public had recently complained that the Authority was selling RADAR keys at the Visitor Centres and that this enabled non-disabled users to use the accessible toilet facilities. Ian said that he was not aware of any problems at either Centre of the 'wrong' people using accessible toilets. The sale of RADAR keys was regarded as a service to disabled users of the two sites. Members of the Group confirmed that there was not a problem in the Authority selling these keys and that they were very easily available on-line from a whole variety of different outlets with little or no checking on who was purchasing them.

Other Business

- It was noted that Graham was still unwell, but that the usual work that the Volunteer Service organised for disabled groups was continuing.
- Ian L agreed to represent the group and talk to the National Park Authority at its meeting on Monday 20 March. Ian L would meet with Ian N to discuss content in advance.

(Action Ian N)

Time, date and location of next meeting

Date likely to be in early April to be confirmed.