

## North York Moors National Park Authority

1 October 2018

### 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 will table his report at the meeting.

**4. NYM Disability Advisory Group**

- 4.1 Notes from the July DAG meeting can be found at **Appendix 1**.

**5. Local Government York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Board**

- 5.1 Alison Fisher's report can be found at **Appendix 2**.

**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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## North York Moors Disability Advisory Group

51st Meeting – Friday 20 July 2018

### Present:

Danny Boyes (Chairman), Aileen Gatland, Anita Buttell, Denise Ross, Ann Boyes

### Apologies:

Peter Scott (Moorswork), Ian Lawson, David Brewster, Sarah Oswald

### In Attendance:

Debbie Trafford, David Mennear, Ryan Chenery, Ian Nicholls

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Scott, Ian Lawson, David Brewster and Sarah Oswald.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April were noted and agreed.

#### 3. Matters Arising

- **Tactile Maps** – a variety of different maps made from a range of materials were circulated for the Group members to feel and to comment on. Denise, in particular, was interested and gave her advice on which type worked best for her. This was discussed in the context of the Interpretation Plan that was being for the This Exploited Land of Iron (TELol) Project. It was noted that the plan wasn't ready yet, but would be brought to the next meeting for consideration.

#### 4. Volunteer and Education Service

Ryan introduced himself to the Group and gave an update on the work that the Volunteer and Education team had been involved in over recent months to engage with a wide range of special needs volunteers and young people. A summary is attached to these notes.

The Group welcomed the range of people that the NPA was engaging in and raised a number of points;

- Aileen said that the Camphill Village Trust is a relatively well-off organisation and should they be making some payment for the services that they are effectively receiving from the Authority to help maintain their estate?
- After a decline over recent years, it was pleasing to see that effort was being put into providing opportunities for disabled people to engage with the National Park;
- The differing reasons for people wanting to volunteer were recognised and the opportunity to carry out work indoors as well as outdoors was seen to be a positive move;
- The group advised that while it was really positive to see the wide number of groups/individuals engaged with, care should be taken to ensure that staff didn't try to do too much for too many people.

## 5. **Disability Awareness Day**

Debbie showed a short film that the Authority had made to mark disability awareness day. Advice from the group was while the film illustrated an accessible path and the great views from it, more consideration ought to be given to the potential audience. For example, when showing a view, could some audio commentary be added to aid those with little or no eyesight? David said that it was likely that the TELoI project would be making some films and he would consider how to make these suitable for audio descriptions.

## 6. **This Exploited Land of Iron (TELoI)**

Following on from the previous meeting, David updated the Group on the work that the TELoI team had been undertaking. He again offered the opportunity for one of the Group to join to join the TELoI Steering Group. Danny put himself forward to do this.

The notes of the previous meeting had included a recent update on the access to various sites. David said that work would continue to make the sites as accessible as possible, but the location and terrain did preclude most of the sites from being fully accessible all of the time. Danny joining the Steering Group would, however, ensure that this issue would be discussed as part of the decision making process.

**Action – a further update will be given at the next meeting in October.**

## 7. **Access/Rights of Way Issues**

Debbie explained some of the issues with regard to funding; for example infrastructure that had been built 15-20 years ago was beginning to reach the end of its useful life. The Forge Valley boardwalk was an excellent facility, but now needed full replacement. The cost was likely to be £250-£300,000 which was well beyond the Authority's financial resources. Debbie went on to say that she wanted to be more creative in the way in which funding for rights of way work was raised. In the case of the Forge Valley boardwalk, the Authority had worked with a community interest group who were able to access funding 'pots' that the Authority could not. If successful, this could result in the community interest group being able to replace the full boardwalk.

**Action – an update on progress will be given at the next meeting in October.**

Members of the group were familiar with the short boardwalk at the Moors Centre, this also needed replacing and the cost of materials alone was likely to be £7,500 for a relatively short length of boardwalk. A number of options were discussed about fundraising for small projects, including the DAG becoming a fully independent body so that it could apply for funding in its own right. It was agreed that this was a significant step and needed further consideration.

Debbie also discussed the current Business Plan commitment to establish 5 kilometres of accessible paths per year. She said that there was not the funding available to now do this. Members of the Group again expressed their disappointment that this target would not be met and felt that it must have been known to staff who were in place at the time how expensive this would be. Debbie acknowledged this and said that she would be doing some work during the Autumn to look at what could be done and then commit to achieving this rather than the original target.

**Action – Debbie to report back on progress.**

Following the meeting in April, Debbie had circulated information on the presentation that Laura May had given. While she had received no further feedback, the Group was keen to see better description of the routes, but said as well that, barring prolonged severe weather, routes needed to be kept in the condition described.

**Action – Debbie to continue this piece of work and report back in the Autumn**

A new diesel tank was going to be installed in the car park at the Moors Centre. This would enable Ranger/apprentice vehicles to be quickly refuelled without the need to make time consuming detours. Although planning permission needed to be sought, the preferred location would mean moving one of the current 'disabled person reserved' parking spaces. After discussion, the advice was that this was not an issue as long as the reserved space was moved to the nearest adjacent spot. Debbie agreed to do this.

In other access work, it was noted that the Cleveland Way had reduced the number of stiles to 3 across its 120 mile route. One of these was due to be replaced with a gate in the near future. A long standing aim of the Cleveland Way has been to be barrier free – this can only be done with the co-operation of the landowners/tenants and it is unlikely that the remaining 2 stiles will be replaced in the short term as this co-operation is not forthcoming.

**8. Other Activities**

David Brewster had reported to the Local Access Forum on the lack of effective publicity for the barrier free access that has been created in the National Park over many years. He reported on the new approach being suggested by Debbie and would give further updates. David has also joined the Ryevitalise Project steering group and will report back at DAG's next meeting.

Background information about Ryevitalise is available via <https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/looking-after/our-projects-and-partnerships/landscape-partnerships/ryevitalise>

**9. Time, date and location of next meeting**

Friday 26 October at the Moors Centre – 10.15am

## **Summary of Volunteer and Education Team Activity**

### **Young Rangers**

Working with up to 15 young people at a time, the Young Ranger events are once a month and held at various sites in the NYMNP. Students come from all locations and backgrounds, including those who don't attend school for a variety of reasons. Young Rangers events help the home schooled young people with social skills, making friends and confidence with others.

### **Abbey Hill School, Stockton**

We are working with 11 students with varying special needs from differing Autism spectrum levels through to Global Delay. The students have completed practical tasks/activities to enable them to learn about the National Park and its environment in a fun way. Each session linked back to the theme for the school term. The latest event saw us taking the group to Robin Hoods Bay to identify species in rock pools as well as some marine litter picking.

### **Nunthorpe Academy, Redcar & Cleveland**

Working with 6 students who had been identified by the school as unhappy, lacking in confidence and at risk of risk taking behaviour, we produced a short project for the students. This saw them build on the skills needed to complete tasks and develop responsibilities and ownership. The students built up from thistle pulling with no use of tools to fixing the play park using tools, wheelbarrows and taping.

### **Scarborough Pupil Referral Service**

Education staff are working with up to 12 students who are struggling with mainstream education for various reasons and complex needs (eg neglect at home and anger management issues). The students presented challenging behaviour and so tasks those challenged them but in a controlled manner were best. NYM staff and volunteers needed to be vigilant and aware of behaviour students may present and how to deescalate situations should they arise.

### **Botton Village**

Camphill Village Trust identifies practical tasks (such as fence removal, and maintenance) at Botton called supertasks. NPA volunteers along with residents with learning difficulties participate in these tasks jointly. This gives residents of Botton the opportunity to interact with people outside their community

Esk Valley Trust – The National Park identifies tasks in the north and coastal areas of the Park (such as along the Cleveland Way) involving stone-pitching clearance, vegetation clearance and habitat management. These tasks are conducted by joint groups of NPA Volunteers and Residents living within the Esk Valley residential area.

**Beyond Boundaries** - <https://en-gb.facebook.com/beyondboundariesNYorks/> provides training for adults with learning disabilities in the beautiful setting of Fowl Green Farm, **Commondale**, North Yorkshire. They offer a variety of different and engaging farm-based activities to suit the needs of the individual, many of whom have either learning and/or physical disabilities.

We have carried out one large joint volunteering task this year and built a viewing platform set amongst trees. It was in a tree house style off the ground with a viewing platform aimed at providing wheel chair users and those unable to climb an off the ground experience in the trees to observe wildlife and nature.

From March 2018 a dedicated group of 5 NYMPA volunteers have been carrying out weekly volunteering tasks alongside Beyond Boundaries members.

### **Autism Plus and Easi-Works**

Our Volunteers are involved with horticultural joint volunteering tasks affiliated with Ampleforth College on behalf of and with Autism Plus members

### **NYM Volunteers**

People have volunteered with us for many years for a whole variety of reasons, but it is becoming more common for one of the reasons to be about health, including mental health. A number of our staff said that volunteers want to talk about their mental health issues, but staff felt ill equipped to deal with this. We have trained 15 staff in mental health first aid this year, with a further 20 planned for September.

In addition to practical work out in the Park we are also engaging with disabled persons within our offices. We have 2 volunteers with disabilities participating in administrative roles in the Volunteering and IT Teams. Both volunteers are undertaking valuable work and the opportunities have been created specifically to cater for their particular disabilities.

**Help for Heroes – Catterick Garrison** - a group of service personnel, suffering mainly from post-traumatic stress disorder had recently been involved in a big piece of work re-surfacing a footpath under the supervision of a Maintenance Ranger. This involved improving and spreading large quantities of aggregate.

**Local Government York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Housing Board**

**23 July 2018**

The summer meeting was primarily a visit to a modular housing factory in east Yorkshire. Premier Modular at Brandesburton develops housing units on site for transport and installation elsewhere. The visit was arranged by the Housing Board rep for the volume house builders David Wilson Homes as DWH has recently broadened its housing offer on its portfolio. Very sadly Paul Newman died unexpectedly, shortly before the visit. He was a very constructive Member of the Housing Board and will be much missed at the meetings.

Premier Modular ([www.premiermodular.co.uk](http://www.premiermodular.co.uk)) operates from a 5 factory site, designing, constructing and installing a variety of modular buildings such as schools, student housing and hospitals. Only recently have DWH considered offering modular houses within their larger volume house sites as they consider the quality, lifetime homes standards, price and design all sit comfortably within their portfolio. Reduced build times are the main drivers for this approach. DWH considers that this build approach, if incorporated into a large housing site, can be comfortably integrated as the palette of modest design refinements (stone sills, porch additions, brick finishes etc) offers scope to achieve a varied appearance within a site. In my opinion, whilst this may well work well for volume sites in non heritage locations, the modular approach offers very little for the more sensitive sites and is not likely to sit comfortably within NYMNP.

The meeting continued briefly at Premier Modular's offices, with updates from Housing England and the Housing Association reps. One topic germane to NYMNP was the Government's proposal for a £6m grant for a Rural Revolving Land Bank to fund the purchase of difficult to develop sites in rural areas. The Rural Housing Network (chaired by the C/Ex of South Downs National Park) has put together a short formal proposal to Government for 4 pilot areas which, after Chief Officer discussion across the National Parks, proposed 4 areas for the pilot; it was agreed that NYMNP would not be included in this pilot study.

The next meeting of the Housing Board is to be 12 November 2018 – I will not be able to attend so hope the HB sub can attend.

Alison Fisher