

**Date: 25 March 2008**

**Report: REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **ENGAGEMENTS**

1. Since the last meeting of the Authority, the Chief Executive has been involved in the following:-

(a) **Events**

- Half day session with the Information Advisors looking at the introduction of geocaching facilities in the National Park.
- The opening of Gayle Mill.

(b) **Meetings**

- Chairman of Gayle Mill Trustees to discuss current issues and the Gayle Mill official opening.
- Representatives from Yorkshire Forward and Leeds Met University to discuss the Craven Limeworks development.
- The Craven Local Strategic Partnership where the following issues were discussed:-  
North Yorkshire County Council Community Fund; updates from the LSP's various working groups; the Draft North Yorkshire Sustainable Community Strategy; the North Yorkshire Local Area Agreement; and a presentation on housing need in Craven.
- The English National Park Officers' Group where the following were discussed:-  
the Sub-National Review; NPA subscriptions; Housing and Planning Delivery Grant; Permitted Development Rights; the ENPAA Action Plan; the follow up to meetings with Hilary Ben and Helen Ghosh; Climate Change – collective action; the consultation on the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund; and Incorporation.
- The English National Park Authorities Association [ENPAA] where the following were discussed:-  
the Sub-National Review; Climate Change: Ministerial Event on national parks; ENPAA budget 2008-11; Incorporation; Business Plan 2008-11
- The North of England Civic Trust where the following items were discussed:  
Governance, 3 year Business Plan, Projects and activities.
- Along with the Member Champion for Promoting Understanding; the Chief Executives of Craven, Richmondshire and Harrogate to discuss the tourism partnership.

## **MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION**

### **Membership of the Authority**

2. On 31 March the terms of office on the Authority of Nancy Stedman and Andrew Osborne will end and they will be replaced by Christopher Armitage and Peter Charlesworth.
3. As a result of these changes, there will be vacancies on Committees that need to be filled: the two 'retiring' members are both members of the Audit and Review Committee; Ms Stedman is a member of the Planning Committee and of the Standards Committee, and Mr Osborne is a substitute member of the Planning Committee.
4. A further change in Authority membership that will occur in the near future will be the departure from the Authority of Cecil Hammond. In early May, there will be local elections and whilst a number of other members may also be affected and their re-appointment to the Authority uncertain, the one definite change in Authority membership that will arise from those elections will be the departure of Mr Hammond who is not seeking re-election.
5. It will not be known who will replace Mr Hammond until well after the Parish elections, when nominations will have been sought from amongst the Craven Parishes and, if necessary, a further election held to determine a nomination for submission to the Secretary of State. Although the process for the appointment of Parish members is as short as practicably possible, no replacement is likely to have been appointed until at least mid-June.
6. Members are, therefore, asked to consider filling the following vacancies that will arise:

<i>Member being replaced</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date from which appointment will run</i>
A Osborne	Planning(substitute member)	1 April 2008
Ms N Stedman	Planning (full member)	1 April 2008
A Osborne	Audit and Review	1 April 2008
Ms N Stedman	Audit and Review	1 April 2008
Ms N Stedman	Standards	1 April 2008
C Hammond	Finance and Resources	5 May 2008
C Hammond	Planning	5 May 2008

7. The allocation of seats on Committees is made in line with 'group' proportionality and, Messrs Armitage and Charlesworth have been advised of the vacancies and asked if either has a preference for Committee membership. The situation has also been drawn to the attention of the other members of the Secretary of State group for their consideration.

8. With regard to the vacancies resulting from Mr Hammond's 'retirement', the only option to ensure that the Planning Committee is at 'full strength' from early May onwards is to 'promote' the one Parish substitute member, Mr Brown, to full membership of the Committee.
9. Any appointments that members make to fill the above vacancies will run until the Authority's Committee's are re-constituted, which is normally at the annual meeting in July.

Recommendation:

10. Members are asked to consider making appointments to fill the Committee vacancies that will occur as a result of the changes in membership set out above.

**Members' 'Days Out'**

11. At the last Authority meeting, a member commented that he had some concerns that Members generally weren't getting the opportunity to see parts of the National Park, or indeed the work that was being undertaken by the Authority within it. There followed a brief discussion at which questions relating to relevance of topics, Members' commitment, and opportunities offered, were all discussed. It was agreed that it would be useful for the Chief Executive to identify the potential opportunities over the next few months that might be available to Members, to deal with their concerns. However, the CEO suggested that it would be useful to "test the water" in relation to Members' commitment to attend any events that were organised, as these often had significant staffing costs attached to them.
12. In February this year the Secretariat Administrator wrote to all Members identifying four events that would take place between April and July 2008. These were:
  1. Planning Site Visit on 4 April 2008
  2. Green Lanes week beginning 14 April 2008
  3. Historic Environment Day weeks beginning 12 or 19 May 2008
  4. Staff Development Days on 2 and 3 July 2008.
13. She sought Members initial response as to whether they were interested in the topic areas, and consequently, whether they were likely to attend. The results are attached as an **Appendix**.
14. The Planning Site Visit and the Staff Development Days are already established within the diary and will take place. 50% of the Authority membership have indicated that they intend to attend the former.

Recommendation:

15. A decision is required from Members as to whether they wish to proceed with the Green Lanes and the Historic Environment Day.

## Wood Lane Grassington

16. During the latter part of 2007, the Finance and Resources Committee considered the future of the Authority's Wood Lane car park in Grassington. At its last meeting, in February 2008, the Committee determined that the Authority had no further use for the site. The Authority has been approached by the Craven Rural Housing Enabler [CRHE] to ask if it would sell the site for affordable/local needs housing. This is in line with the Authority's stated policy in relation to housing provision but has raised a great deal of concern within the local community which has generated considerable correspondence. This has highlighted the importance of the site in relation to its current use – car parking.
17. The issue now raises questions of policy which are outside of the remit of the Finance and Resources Committee. Consequently, the Committee asked that:
  - The parish council be contacted to ascertain their formal views on the future use of the site;
  - Further clarification on the legal position regarding the site in respect of ownership, covenants etc be made;
  - That the matter be brought to a future meeting of the Authority for determination. Any report should deal with the issues of housing policy, potential options for the future use of the site, and the views of local residents.
18. Furthermore, it was suggested at the Finance and Resources Committee that it might be appropriate that consideration of the matter takes place at an Authority meeting in Grassington. This would necessitate the suspension of Standing Orders in order that the decision taken by the Authority in January, that being that all future meetings of the Authority should be held at Yoredale, be amended to allow a meeting at Grassington.
19. We have recently received correspondence from Grassington Parish Council which leaves no doubt that they believe the site should be retained as a car park for local residents.
20. The issues highlighted above can be pulled together for a report to be considered at the May meeting of the National Park Authority.

### Recommendation:

21. That a report is brought to the May meeting of the National Park Authority to determine this matter and that members consider whether they wish to suspend standing orders in order to have that meeting at a location within the Grassington area.

## **ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE**

### **Weekly Car Park Passes, Richmondshire and Craven District Councils**

22. The setting of car parks charges is delegated to the Head of Park Management. The Head of Park Management has held discussions with officers of Richmondshire and Craven District Councils about the feasibility of providing customers with a weekly car parking pass that would be valid in NPA, RDC and CDC car parks. He has agreed to a trial of one year (with the money from the sales of weekly passes going to whichever organisation generates the pass). The trial is subject to the approval of members of both RDC and CDC. It is not expected to impact significantly on the NPA car park income target for 2008/09 and will be reviewed in March 2009.
23. The scheme is seen as a very positive way of providing better more flexible services to the public and a good example of partnership working between the Authorities, building on the current successful partnership with Craven District Council for the sale of residents passes. It is intended to look at further ways of combining car park management services in the future.

**David Butterworth**  
**Chief Executive**

Background documents: None  
11 March 2008

## MEMBERS' SITE VISITS/EVENTS

## Members' initial responses

1. <u>Planning Site Visit</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 4 April 2008</li> <li>• Wharfedale/Malhamdale - sites of recent developments (completed in last five years/nearing completion;</li> <li>• <i>Simon Chapman/Katherine Sycamore</i></li> </ul>	
Yes	No
Shelagh Marshall	Malcolm Petyt
Graham Dalton	Kevin Lancaster
Wilf Fenten	Ann Brooks
Deborah Millward	Yvonne Peacock
Roger Bird	Carl Lis
Will Weston	Atiq Hassan
Chris Armitage	Steve Macaré
Peter Charlesworth	
Stephen Butcher	
Raymond Alderson	
David Heather	
Maybe: Victoria Reed, Roger Harrison-Topham could do couple of hours	

2. <u>Green Lanes (to complement recent briefing)</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• w/b 14 April (except 17) 2008</li> <li>• Possible venues Upper Wensleydale; Coverdale; Malhamdale; Ribblesdale</li> <li>• <i>Mark Allum</i></li> </ul>	
Yes	No
Malcolm Petyt (not 14.4 am)	Kevin Lancaster
Deborah Millward	Wilf Fenten
Ann Brooks	Yvonne Peacock
Will Weston (not 16 or 18/4)	Atiq Hassan
Chris Armitage	Raymond Alderson
Peter Charlesworth (14 or 15 only)	Stephen Butcher
Shelagh Marshall	
Carl Lis (not 18 <sup>th</sup> )	
Steve Macaré (15 <sup>th</sup> only)	
David Heather (14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> )	
Graham Dalton (18 <sup>th</sup> only)	
Maybe: Victoria Reed, Roger Harrison-Topham	

### 3. Historic Environment Day

- W/b 12 or 19 May 2008 (NB14<sup>th</sup> May is OK for most so far)
- Suggest Ribblehead – Conservation Area assessment; Viking settlement (management input by NPA); prehistoric cairn and field system, construction camp; landscape, following launch of CRoW
- *Robert White, Miles Johnson*

Yes	No
Malcolm Petyt w/b 12/4 only	
Deborah Millward	
Ann Brooks	
Yvonne Peacock (on 21/5 only)	
Will Weston (not 12, 13 or 15/5)	
Chris Armitage (not 16/5)	
Peter Charlesworth (12, 13, 14 only)	
Carl Lis (12, 14 only)	
Steve Macaré (13 pm, 14, 20, 22 only)	
David Heather (12, 15, 16, 19, 23 May)	
Maybe: Kevin Lancaster, Wilf Fenten, Victoria Reed, Shelagh Marshall, Atiq Hassan, Raymond Alderson, Stephen Butcher, Roger Harrison-Topham, Graham Dalton	

### 4. Staff Development Days

- 2 and 3 July 2008
- All staff; all members invited to join
- South West Three Peaks and Malhamdale; to link up with Haytime Festival/theme around wildflower meadows, species etc
- *Alan Hulme/various officers (member on working group, even?)*

Yes	No
Malcolm Petyt	Yvonne Peacock
Wilf Fenten	Shelagh Marshall
Deborah Millward (only on 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	
Ann Brooks (only on 2 <sup>nd</sup> )	
Chris Armitage	
Carl Lis (suggests champions should do)	
David Heather (2 <sup>nd</sup> , or am 3 <sup>rd</sup> )	
Roger Harrison-Topham (3 <sup>rd</sup> only)	
Maybe: Kevin Lancaster, Victoria Reed, Peter Charlesworth, Atiq Hassan, Steve Macaré, Raymond Alderson, Stephen Butcher, Graham Dalton	

Which Member has responded? (as at 25 February 2008)

Yes	No
Wilf Fenten	
Deborah Millward	
Will Weston	Yvonne Rose
Chris Armitage	Cecil Hammond
Peter Charlesworth	John Blackie
Victoria Reed	Steve Shaw Wright
Macolm Petyt	Roger Bird (responded re planning only)
Kevin Lancaster	Harold Brown
Ann Brooks	
Yvonne Peacock	
Shelagh Marshall	
Carl Lis	
Atiq Hassan	
Steve Macaré	
Raymond Alderson	
Stephen Butcher	
David Heather	
Roger Harrison-Topham	
Graham Dalton	