

Date: 29 January 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**

- The launch of the new Yorkshire Forward Corporate Plan at Harrogate Pavilions.

(b) **Meetings**

- The annual meeting with officers from the National Trust (led by Nicky Grace) where the following were discussed: Implementation of the new NT Strategy; National Park Management Plan; Green Lanes; water management in the uplands; disabled access at Janet's Foss; nature conservation strategy; Malham walls and the historic environment.
- Meeting with the new Archdeacon of Richmond, Janet Henderson and Canon Leslie Morley, the Rural Officer for Diocese of Ripon & Leeds to discuss the relationship between the NPA and the diocese.
- Two meetings involving Yorkshire Forward, Leeds Met University, Craven District Council to discuss developments at Craven Limeworks.
- The Heads of regional environmental organisations to discuss how we might increase the influence of the environmental 'voice' in regional affairs.
- The quarterly meeting of the Rural Practitioners Group (RPG) to discuss the Rural Implications of 2007 pre-budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review; Review of Yorkshire & the Humber Rural Framework and the Role of the Rural Practitioners Group; and receive updates on Regional Heritage Strategy; Regional Heritage Strategy; Regional Forestry Strategy Delivery Plan; Regional Forestry Strategy Delivery Plan; and Rural Development Programme for England – Regional Delivery
- The member champion for Corporate and Democratic Core to discuss relevant matters (a report from the Member Champion is contained on today's agenda).
- Along with the Deputy Chairman, the meeting of the Association of North Yorkshire Councils to discuss: sub-national review, waste management, passenger transport, access to services, North Yorkshire Pension Fund; and to receive reports from outside bodies.
- Along with the Deputy Chairman, the ENPAA Executive, where the following were discussed: Incorporation of ENPAA; National Park Grant Settlement; Affordable Housing Position Statement; ENPAA's Business/Action Plan 2007/8-2010/11 Refresh; Planning Bill – Update; and ENPAA's Accounts 2007/08
- Along with the Deputy Chairman, the ANPA Executive, where the following were discussed: Best practice sharing: governance; UK ANPA Financial Position; Revisions to UK ANPA Work Programme; Training & Development Updates (including ANPA Conference 2008 – Lakes; Members Workshop and progress on the Review of Members Induction); Public Relations Activity Update; Country reports; All Parks Working Group updates; MOD Liaison Group; and Europarc Atlantic Isles report

- The bi-annual meeting with the Yorkshire Dales Society to discuss YDS re-structuring; YDNPA appointments; National Park Management Plan; NPA climate change initiatives; Boundary review; current and future projects; Public Transport; Swinden Quarry; Permitted Development Rights.

MATTERS FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION

NPA Venues

1. The Chairman and I have recently been considering the question of venues for Authority meetings for the coming year.
2. At the last meeting of the Authority, when considering the item on sustainability, members approved that all future Authority meetings being held at Yoredale. This was primarily to reduce the Authority's carbon footprint in order to achieve our target of 'carbon neutrality' by 2012.
3. However, this matter may have passed members by in their consideration of the paper. Consequently, the Chairman and I would like your views on whether Authority meetings should continue to be held around the park or held in one central location.

Recommendation:

4. Members' views are sought.

Europarc Seminar

5. Attached as an **Appendix** is a flyer advertising a forthcoming seminar "Protected areas in the 21st Century – what does the future hold?" The seminar appears to be extremely pertinent to the current National Park Authority agenda and it is suggested that a member and an officer attend. The cost is likely to be in the region of £230 per delegate. This will include dinner on the 27 March, hotel room, breakfast, lunch and refreshments on 28 March and the delegate registration fee.

Recommendation:

6. Members are asked to approve the Authority sending two representatives to the Conference. Funding to be provided from the Opportunities Fund.

Delivering Housing in National Parks

7. We have recently received an invitation to a National Parks event on 11 March 2008 on 'Delivering Housing in National Parks'.
8. This is a national learning event which is being held at the suggestion of a number of local authorities (LAs) and national park authorities (NPAs) which are involved in the IDeA's (Improvement and Development Agency for local government) Rural Excellence Programme.

9. Rural Excellence is an IDeA support programme and network for English rural LAs and NPAs which is currently focussing on affordable rural housing in response to the recommendations of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission.
10. Invitations have gone to all English NPAs and district and unitary LAs with which we share our boundaries.
11. The purpose of the event is to:
 - Promote the development of affordable housing in national parks in a manner which is consistent with the protection of the environment;
 - Provide time out to consider the unique issues associated with providing affordable housing and supporting sustainable communities in national parks;
 - Share common challenges and learn from others' good practice;
 - Identify opportunities to bring back ideas and innovations from others and apply them locally.
12. The event itself is free, but the associated travel and subsistence costs are likely to be in the region of £300 per delegate.

Recommendation:

13. That the Champion for Forward Planning is appointed as the Authority's representative at the above event and brings a paper back to the Authority.

ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE

14. None.

David Butterworth
Chief Executive

Background documents: None
16 January 2008

EAI Seminar Series

Europarc Atlantic Isles Section of the Europarc Federation
Embracing Iceland, the Republic of Ireland and the UK

EUROPARC AI warmly invites you to the Spring Seminar on

Protected areas in the 21st Century – what does the future hold?



Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Seligman Room

27 - 28 March 2008

This is a time of great change for our landscapes. Climate change - its effects and mitigation efforts - brings great challenges. Economic shifts will also alter the way protected areas are enjoyed, used and ultimately understood. Internationally, there is an important review of category guidelines by IUCN and the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, which requires us to protect what we value in urban and post-industrial areas as well. Do we have the right kinds of designations to deal with all of these issues? What other ways of 'doing' protected areas are being tried out elsewhere? What can we learn? Europarc Atlantic Isles is uniquely placed to draw on experience from across Europe on these issues and this timely seminar will showcase a range of mechanisms. The aim of the seminar is to examine and challenge the current system as well as suggest novel alternatives so that protected areas are able to meet the challenges the century will bring.



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Seminar organised by



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