

## **SOUTHERN PARISH FORUM MEETING NOTE**

Held at Austwick Parish Hall, Tuesday 14 May 2019 7pm-9pm

### Parish Attendees:

Ann Sheridan	Clapham cum Newby
Helen Jarvis	Langcliffe
David Dewhirst	} Austwick
Peter Goold	}
Michael Pressland	Settle
Kevin Savage	Thornton in Lonsdale
Allan Muirhead	Kirkby Lonsdale

### YDNPA Representatives:

Neil Heseltine	Parish Member (Secretary of State appointee - Parish)
Carl Lis OBE	Chairman
David Butterworth	Chief Executive
Gary Smith	Director of Conservation & Community
Kathryn Beardmore	Director of Park Services
Julie Payne	Committees Officer
Sam Parfitt	PA to CEO & Chairman

David Smurthwaite Strategic Manager Planning & Regeneration, Craven District Council

Neil Heseltine welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Authority's representatives and David Smurthwaite from Craven District Council. The aim of the forum is to increase communication and engagement between the National Park Authority and Parish Councils.

### **1. Attracting Younger People**

David Butterworth gave a presentation detailing an initiative being led by the 4 District Councils and YDNPA to try to deal with some of the significant issues facing all northern rural communities.

The National Park Management Plan contains an ambition that the Park should be:

*Home to strong, self-reliant and balanced communities with good access to the services they need..*

As part of achieving that ambition, there are specific objectives by 2024 to:

- Create at least 400 new dwellings in a range of tenures, sizes, types and prices
- Increase the number and quality of jobs, so as to increase gross value added (GVA) by 10%
- Deliver at least one significant economic development project in each of Craven, Eden, Richmondshire and South Lakeland.
- Connect Grassington, Hawes, Reeth, Sedbergh, and their surrounding 'service villages', to fibre-to-the-premises broadband, and secure at least the Universal Service Obligation (10 mbps) for the rest of the National Park
- Provide basic mobile phone coverage across the National Park, and ensure 4G (or better) services are available on all networks in Grassington, Hawes, Reeth, Sedbergh and their surrounding service villages

- Seek to retain access to local services — like primary schools and GP surgeries — that are essential to the long-term viability of local communities.
- Undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households.

All the local authorities and politicians have the genuine well being of local communities at heart and are trying to leave something for the next generation.

## **2. Great Place: Lakes & Dales**

David Smurthwaite gave a presentation on Great Places Lakes and Dales Partnership (GPLD) which is a partnership of Craven District Council (lead authority), South Lakeland District Council, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, and Lake District National Park Authority.

The presentation gave details of the pilot project which aims to use the arts, culture and heritage in Craven and the southern Dales to attract and retain young people.

## **3. Yorkshire Dales Local Plan**

Gary Smith gave a short presentation on the process to develop a single Local Plan for the whole of the National Park. The timeframe for which is as follows:

- A socio-economic study to establish the current situation on issues like housing, economic development and population trends (May-Oct);
- 'Issues and options' consultation (early 2020);
- Full draft plan consultation (early 2021);
- 'Publication' version (end 2021);
- Examination by a Planning Inspector (end 2022);
- Adoption (2023)

## **4. Dark Skies Reserve update**

Kathryn Beardmore explained the National Park Management Plan has an objective to *maintain the National Park as a place where a true sense of tranquillity, remoteness and solitude can be found, and, by 2021, obtain Dark Skies Reserve status to enhance and promote enjoyment of its night sky.*

In order to warrant Dark Skies Reserve status, we need to prove the skies are sufficiently dark. 8 key lead volunteers have been taking readings. Over 300 meter readings have been undertaken so far; with 50 showing the required level.

A consultant has been employed to undertake a 'lighting audit', assessing the current level of external lighting on e.g. buildings across the National Park. From this information, a 'Light Management Plan' will be produced. Parish Councils will receive more information on this in the Autumn.

There is still a lot of work to do in order to obtain International Dark Sky Reserve status and it is hoped to submit a bid this time next year.

The meeting concluded at 8:40pm.

All presentations from this meeting are available [here](#)