

## **NORTHERN FORUM MEETING NOTE**

Held at Fremington Village Hall on Wednesday 15 May 2019 7pm-9pm

### Parish Attendees:

John Watkins		Arkengarthdale
John Dinsdale		Aysgarth & District
Yvonne Peacock		Bainbridge
Jane Ritchie		Burton cum Walden
Roger Harrison-Topham		Caldbergh with East Scafton
John Amsden	}	Carperby cum Thoresby
Steve Sheldon	}	
Nicole Walker		Castle Bolton
Christine Dent	}	East Witton
Mary Fawbert	}	
Geraldine Coates	}	Grinton
Mark Jones	}	
Eric Jarvis		Marske & New Forest

### YDNPA Representatives:

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

Allen Kirkbride welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Authority's representatives.

#### **1. Vacancy for Parish Member**

David Butterworth explained the election process for Secretary of State Parish representation for Richmondshire. The election process is managed independently by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA). Nomination papers were sent out to Parishes during w/c 29 April. Monday 3 June is the deadline for receipt of nominations to YLCA.

If more than one nomination received, ballot papers for an election will be distributed on 4 June.

Hustings (if more than one nomination received) will be held on 12 June at West Burton Village Hall.

Ballot papers need to be returned to YLCA by noon on Friday 5 July. Each Parish Council/Meeting has one vote. YLCA will advise the successful candidate of their election and their name will be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval and ratification

#### **2. Affordable Housing**

Jane Ritchie, Chair of Burton-cum Walden Parish Council, raised her concerns at the lack of affordable housing being built for key workers and the fact that people leave the area because they want to get on the housing ladder.

A discussion followed on progress with housing schemes with the Richmondshire area of the Park and whether affordable housing for rent could be protected against future government changes to 'right to buy'.

David Butterworth explained that the Local Plan process (see item 5) will provide the opportunity for views of Parishes to be addressed.

### 3. **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.

### 4. **Tees/Swale project**

Gary Smith gave a presentation on the development of a landscape-scale farming and wildlife project, which is being led by North Pennines AONB in partnership with the National Park Authority. It is hoped that the final bid for funding (£6.5 million) will go to the National Lottery Heritage Fund in February 2020.

### 5. **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' public consultation (early 2020);
- Full draft plan public consultation (early 2021);
- 'Publication' version (end 2021);
- Examination by a Planning Inspector (end 2022);
- Adoption (2023)

6. **Enforcement policy – update**

Gary Smith gave a short update on the Authority's more proactive approach to planning enforcement, to try to tackle breaches as early as possible. This includes monitoring compliance during construction on some developments.

7. **Dark skies update**

Gary Smith gave an update on progress towards the National Park Management Plan 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. Local volunteers have taken over 300 meter readings 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.

8. **Questions**

Roger Harrison-Topham requested the NPA consider taking a lead that future Secretary of State appointments to the Board are residents within the Park to address the issue of local accountability on decision making, particularly for membership of the Planning Committee. David Butterworth explained the Board is made up of 25 members (19 'local': County/District/Parish and 6 'national': Secretary of State appointed members). Appointment of the 6 'national' members is on merit rather than where they live.

The meeting concluded at 9:08pm.

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