Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 16**

30 June 2026

Report of the Chair

Engagements

Since the last meeting of the Authority, the Chair has been involved in the following:-

Events

- Appointment of CEO: Led Members' formal thanks and presentation to outgoing CEO at the last Authority meeting which was followed by refreshments
- Working with DEFRA on campaign to recruit new Secretary of State National Appointment to YDNPA (advertising and shortlisting complete; proposed shortlist submitted to Minister)
- Along with CEO of Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust, invited David Butterworth to see the site and meet the landowner where trees are being planted to mark his retirement
- Settle-Carlisle railway: attended naming of a locomotive to celebrate 150 years of the railway line, and joined other guests for journey from Leeds to Carlise and return; useful engagement with representatives of Friends of the S&C railway, of Northern Rail, and of Cumbria Tourism

Meetings

- Three catch up meetings with the Acting Chief Executive
- Two early induction meetings with Designate CEO
- A meeting with the Head of Park Management and a member of the local business community to discuss the use and operation of Burnsall Car Park
- Meeting with Craig Grimes (CEO Experience Community) and National Trust managers regarding plans for access and use of Malham Tarn Residential Centre.
- Monthly meetings of the NPE Directors, including discussions on relationships with DEFRA, and about NPE's governance
- Catch-up meeting with the YDNPA Deputy Chair
- Interviews to appoint new LAF members
- Meeting with the Chair of NPE, including discussion about NPE's relationship with National Parks Partnership
- Informal meeting with new DEFRA Permanent Secretary covering impact and return-on-investment of FIPL and other HMG funded initiatives, challenges of supporting rural business economy (SMEs as well as farming and land management), need for support

to local initiatives for rural transport, relationship between DEFRA and NPAs, governance of protected landscapes

- A DEFRA webinar for Chairs of Protected Landscapes, essentially an updating session and sharing of good practice
- An initial induction meeting with YDNPA's newest Member Felicity Cunliffe-Lister
- Along with the Deputy, Parish appointees and Acting CEO, a meeting to discuss the recent Parish Forums and to consider options for encouraging greater attendance
- An online NPE Board meeting including governance, relationship with National Parks Partnership
- Chaired the Member Champion meeting.
- Along with the Head of Sustainable Development, attended the Rural Housing Conference hosted by Ripon Cathedral
- A meeting with the IT team to adopt and implement my authority email address.
- Along with the Acting CEO, the CEO of YDMT and the Director of Conservation and Community, a meeting to discuss the National Park Management Plan.
- An exit interview for departing Secretary of State member: Julie Hutton.

Events covered by other members on my behalf

- Mr Neil Heseltine is representing me at the UK National Parks CEO and Chairs' Forum meeting in Arundel from 29 June to 1 July, which unfortunately clashes with our YDNPA AGM: the broad agenda includes: NPP Strategic Vision; National Landscapes and Green Finance; National Park Case Studies; and the NPUK Foundation; Wildfire Management; NPUK comms and brand update; Joint statement on the Historic Environment and UK NPA Member Inductions.

Derek Twine
Chair