Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 17**

30 June 2026

Report of the Acting Chief Executive

Engagements

Since the last meeting of the Authority, the acting Chief Executive has been involved in the following:

Events

- Hosted a staff webinar covering the following topics: new YDNPA website, and an update on Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL).
- A training course on use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- A welcome visit to the office by the incoming Chief Executive.

Meetings

- A meeting with CEOs from other NPAs and Defra to discuss the National Parks funding settlement for 2026/27.
- A meeting of the Lake District National Park Partnership (LDNPP) Devolution Task & Finish Group, - looking at how the developing regional devolution deal could help support objectives in the Lake District National Park Management Plan.
- A meeting with the Chair of the Westmorland Family to discuss National Highways planned Lune Gorge Bridges project.
- Monthly on-line briefings with the incoming Chief Executive (30 April, 20 May, 17 June)
- Regular briefing meetings with the Chair (10 Apr, 1 May, 14 May)
- The Spring Parish Forum for Northern Parishes, chaired by Allen Kirkbride, attended by 12 parish representatives from 10 Councils.
- A meeting of the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority/Defra Senior Pathfinder steering group.
- Monthly on-line meetings of the English National Park Officers (27 Apr; 1 June)
- The Spring Parish Forum for Southern Parishes, chaired by Richard Ingram, attended by 7 parish representatives from 5 Councils.
- A liaison meeting with the Bolton Abbey Estates Director.
- An on-line meeting with Defra on earned autonomy and pathfinders.
- Along with the Director of Park Services, an on-line meeting with Sir Julian Smith MP and representatives of North Yorkshire Council to discuss visitor management and safety issues in the south of the National Park.

- An-on line meeting with the Chair, Deputy and Parish Members to discuss the future operation of the Parish Forums.
- A Garsdale-Hawes Members Steering Group meeting.
- An on-line National Parks England (NPE) Board meeting, for with the main items were the NPE Governance Review, and NPE's work programme for 2026-27

Gary Smith
Acting Chief Executive