Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 11**

01 October 2024

Member Feedback on Partnership Representation and Member Champion's Report

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide feedback from meetings attended by Members as representatives of the National Park Authority since the last Authority meeting.

Recommendation

2. That Members consider and note the reports from the Authority's representatives.

Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendation(s) contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:

    - Corporate Plan Objective 31:

      Provide high quality, efficient and effective services and communications to the public and other stakeholders, and so maintain the Customer.
    - Members Duties and responsibilities December 2020 (updated 2023).

Background

4. Members represent the Authority on a wide variety of Partnerships and in order to keep Members and officers updated on this representation, formal reports are brought to each full Authority meeting.

5. Member Champions are also engaged in a wide range of activities and take turns in bringing annual reports to the Authority meetings. Reports from the Member Champions for Corporate Management and Promoting Understanding are attached at **Appendix 2**.

6. These formal reports provide the opportunity to update Members on the work of the various partnerships, a chance to question Member representatives and Champions and a means by which we can continually assess the value of these partnerships and Champion roles.

7. The **Appendices** include:

    1) A list of Partnership meetings attended in the last quarter.
    2) The reports of the Member Champion for Corporate Management and Promoting Understanding

Financial Implications

8. None

Legal Implications

9. None

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

10. None

Rebecca Eslick
Committees Officer

Appendix 1

List of Partnership Meetings July 2024 – September 2024

Title	Member	Date	Attended	Report
1. National Parks England	D Twine	11/09/24	Yes	See Chair's Report

Appendix 2

a) Annual Report - Member Champion for Corporate Management

Human Resources

1. As Members are aware we are trying to attract younger people to the YDNPA. A paper will be presented to the October Authority meeting proposing co-option of younger Members, through links with universities and local employers. The South Downs National Park have done this quite successfully. The younger Members would be co-opted to Finance and Resources as non-voting Members, as they cannot be co-opted to the full Authority. They would attend PDFs and the wider training programme.

2. Senior Management Team agreed to support a Business Admin apprentice in the Corporate Services Directorate. Time will be put aside in my diary to assist them. They will undertake a wide range of admin work across the Directorate and will bring some younger ideas to the table. We have been successful in recruiting to this position.

3. A journalism apprentice is being added to the Communications Team.

4. In addition, around the same time, this Summer, two ranger apprentices are being recruited in partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust.

5. In partnership with North York Moors National Park Authority, we have recruited to a joint performance management officer role to help enhance performance across both NPAs by analysing appropriate performance management and environmental data.

6. We have created a new creative content role within Comms to push video content through the channels. This is to engage more young people.

7. Some building works will be done during the Autumn at Yoredale to relocate HR and reception to the ground floor as part of the reception review, which has taken place.

8. Review of the market rate supplement policy.

9. There has been an informal review of management roles in the Corporate Services Directorate to balance up the management workloads across the team.

Finance

10. Michelle and Clare have reported back that the 21/22 Audit is now complete, 22/23 will be the last one for EY and the new auditors. Mazzars will take on the 23/24 Audit.

11. External audit letters have been requested for 22/23, expecting various assurance with very tight deadlines.

IT

12. A new telephony system has been delayed due to the wrong desk top phones being dispatched. This will enable people with laptops will have access to a soft phone. In addition, new screens and a new microphone system in the meeting rooms link to the recording system, which should improve recordings of meetings.

13. The specification for a new website is being developed as the current site is coming to the end of its life.

Communications

14. An external organisation is developing an accessibility hub, for the website bringing all the access information together, such as where to stay, walks etc.

15. A 70th Anniversary working group was established, which Mark Sadler has led on. There will be a small range of products for sale in the nation park centres and a blue heritage plaque will be put in place at Malham Youth Hostel. The Learning and Engagement Team are collaborating with local schools around this milestone incorporating this is the education programme.

Committees

16. Papers have been reviewed in line with Equality good practice. A new agenda and report format has been implemented and the move to buff paper is not only good for people with Dyslexia it is also better for the environment.

Governance

17. Clare has prepared the 23/24 Governance Statement, with input from me and Clare has also delivered some inhouse procurement training.

Member Development Days

18. Once again, the staff development days were arranged and Members invited to attend in September.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

19. Supported the team in updating the Equality Impact Assessment Form and other policies and processes including developing a new EDI video.

20. I provided input to the Investors in People, twenty-four-month review with other members of staff from various departments.

21. I have also been involved in the recent review of the Employee Code of Conduct.

Legal

22. We have renewed our Legal Services SLA with North Yorkshire Council and the acquisition of the plot for the new Southern area ranger base at Langcliffe Quarry has been completed. This has taken some time to achieve but is now in place and we are hoping that building works will start in October.

23. The team has been busy with various pieces of work to support several projects (Coast 2 Coast, Cautley Bridge, Hawes Garsdale).

Julie Hutton
Member Champion Corporate Management

b) Annual Report - Member Champion for Promoting Understanding.

Access, Education and Engagement

- The **impact of our Community Education Programme** has been evaluated by Leeds Beckett University. Key findings included:
    - Greater sense of connectivity with nature
    - Increase appreciation of the need to care for nature
    - Improved mental health and well-being
    - Improved confidence with social connections
    - Partner organisations gaining competence in leading outdoor activities

- The provision and usage of the **Tramper** at Aysgarth VC has excellent take-up, and has been positively welcomed by many users. VC staff and Meet and Greet volunteers are active proponents. Training has also been provided to NYMNP staff and volunteers. There has also been positive media coverage on BBC Look North,

- A **Changing Places toilet** has been successfully installed at Grassington VC.

- A **Sense of Place toolkit** has been completed for businesses in Westmoreland Dales on how to use and promote the NP's special qualities.

- The **Tees-Swale Naturally Connected** project continues, including recent work with Richmondshire Refugee Support Group to enable nearly 100 refugees to visit Hazel Brow, and to develop a film and photography exhibition "Naturally Connected" about farming through the seasons

- **Reach out and Recharge** is a BMW-supported programme that is funding ren accessible activity days.

- The **Championing National Parks for Everyone** project has received confirmation of funding from NLHF. This will increase opportunities particularly for young people from under-represented groups to take part in recreational activities in the Park.

Health and well-being

- A **Nature Prescriptions** resource has been prepared to support healthcare professionals across North Yorkshire to connect patients with nature to improve their health and well-being. Training is taking place in Craven and in Bedale to start roll-out to GP surgeries. Similar collaborations are developing in West Yorkshire.

- Sport England funding for **Dales Fell-being** has completed two years and discussions are in hand fore further support. One member of the first cohort is now on YDNPA's youth volunteering programme **UpSkill DownDale**, and another is volunteering for Due North Events training to be a run-leader,

Visitor Services

The member-led **Review of Visitor Services** reported to A&R during the year, particularly covering our VCs, our publications and media, and other visitor-facing activity,

Other

- I have represented YDNPA at meetings of the **Rural Forum** hosted by Ripon Cathedral, including sessions engaging with young people living in Yorkshire to discuss and address their challenges (including access to education, transport, employment opportunities, housing that is truly affordable), meeting with the new Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, and a Forum session at the Great Yorkshire Show.

Derek Twine
Member Champion for Promoting Understanding (until July 2024)