YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY **ITEM 12**

Date: **26 March 2024**

Report: **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

1. ENGAGEMENTS

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

In my capacity as Chair of YDNPA:

Media

- A press release of the subject of the National Park budget for the coming year.
- A meeting with a press official on the subject of funding for Rights of Way within the National Park.

Meetings

- Attended YDNPA Farming in Protected Landscapes [FiPL] Local Assessment Panel meetings in January and February.
- Interviewed by FixOurFood, exploring ideas around what a transformative governance approach might look like for the Food for Futures strategy.
- On-line National Parks Partnership Board Meeting briefing in January.
- Fourth meeting of North Yorkshire Food Strategy Core Partnership Group.
- Informal finance working group meeting which discussed update on the budget and the medium-term strategy.
- Meeting with farm team member: Jane Le Coq
- Two National Parks Partnership Board Meeting.
- On-line Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.
- On-line meeting with the Convenor of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs NP to discuss handover of Lead UK Chair role.
- Meeting with Caroline Hall to discuss young members on the National Park Management Plan Steering Group.
- Chaired a quarterly meeting of Member Champions.
- Lunchtime briefing session on the Authority's new Code of Conduct.
- Meeting with the CEO and Deputy Chair to discuss further implementation of the Europarc Youth Manifesto.
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Workshop.
- National Park Partnership [formerly NP Management Plan] Steering Group Meeting.

In addition, the Deputy Chair represented me at a Ripon Cathedral Consultative Council Committee meeting in February.

In my capacity at Chair of National Parks England:

Media

- Along with the Director of National Parks England, filming with Channel 4 on the subject of Nature Recovery.

Meetings

- On-line NPE December Board meeting.
- As part of his visit to Dartmoor National Park, chaired a meeting with Steve Reed MP, Shadow SoS (EFRA) and CEOs/Chairs/NPE which covered an introduction to National Parks England; Key asks by Executive Director NPE; Key opportunities for NPAs: Nature and Climate; Access and Landscapes for All; Health and Wellbeing.
- An English Chairs & CEO's dinner prior to NPE Board meeting in London. The Board meeting was followed by a round table discussion with Rebecca Pow MP (appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature within the Cabinet reshuffle in November 2023) that focussed on sustainable funding, powers, and legislation, 75th anniversary.
- Lunch with Steve Barclary [Defra SoS] and Jayne Butler [NPE Director] to discuss new LURA legislation; support for farmers in protected landscapes; NPAs commitment to reach net zero; Landscapes for Everyone – NPAs widening access; NPAs role in providing solutions in health, wellbeing, education etc; Protected Landscapes Partnership – working collaboratively with National Trails, National Landscapes
- Attended Defra's Arms Lengths Bodies [ALB] Chairs Forum to provide representation for the National Parks perspective. ALB Chairs is a quarterly 90-minute meeting where Chairs have an opportunity to share information, keep in touch with Defra priorities and build a partnership culture across the Group.
- Online briefing session with the CEO of Campaign for National Parks on National Parks Authorities Health Check.
- On-line Protected Landscapes Partnership Board (interim) meeting.

Neil Heseltine
Chair

Background Papers: None

8 March 2024