Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority **Item 13**

30 September 2025

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. A report 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 2025 – September 2025

Title	Member	Date	Attended	Report
1. National Parks England	D Twine	30/6/25 7/7/25 15/7/25 21/8/25 29/8/25	Yes Yes Yes No Yes	See Chair's Report
2. Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum	M Corner	15/9/25	Yes	Verbal Report
3. Farming and Land Management Forum	N Heseltine	04/07/25	No	No Report

Appendix 2

a) Member Champion – Corporate Management Annual Report

Member Champion duties undertaken

1. Contacted Tom Riordan the 2nd Permanent Secretary, Department of Health and Social Care to request a meeting on social prescribing. Tom introduced us to his Deputy Director Mark Joannides and we had a positive meeting. In addition, I followed this meeting through with an introduction to the Shared Prosperity Fund Team at The Mayoral Combined Authority with a view to an application being made for Social Prescribing work with the YDNPA. We collaborated on a Protected Landscape partnership bid for the regional Green Social Prescription trial. The deadline was 3rd September. The bid is being led by the North York Moors Trust, and involves us, the North York Moors National Park Authority, the Howardian Hills National Landscape and Nidderdale National Landscape as delivery partners.

   We will find out if we've been successful on the 11 September (the decision was unknown at the time of writing this report) and the trial will take place between the end of September 2025 and the end of March 2026.

   If we are successful, it has the potential to raise the scale and the profile of the work we are able to do.

2. The successful recruitment of co-opted young Members to the Finance and Resources Committee took place.

Progress

3. Work on the construction of the new Southern area ranger base at Langcliffe Quarry commenced and it will be officially opened on 13th October 2025.
4. Reviewed the EDI Policy, Equality Impact Assessment, Sickness Absence Policy, Pensions Discretion Policy and the Communications Strategy.
5. Reviewed the Anti-Harassment, Anti-Bullying and Anti-Victimisation Policy.
6. Agreed to present on the work of the EDI Working Group with officers at the CEO staff webinar in December.

Challenges

7. The additional capital works approved at the F&R Committee meeting on 20th May 2025, will certainly put considerable demand on staff to see it through.
8. We launched the procurement for the new Authority website on 19th May 2025. This is challenging to make sure we get this right. We are liaising with colleagues from other National Park Authorities who have recently developed websites.

Climate Considerations

9. The revised Carbon Reduction Plan was be presented at the June Authority meeting. The report included details on our achievements, and the new Plan includes projections for 2030. We are doing very well reducing our carbon emissions, but the corporate objective will be particularly challenging to achieve, as we have completed the more significant projects.
10. Influenced the Capital expenditure proposals agreed at F & R Committee meeting on 20th May by suggesting the purchase of solar batteries as part of the Carbon Reduction Plan performance review.

Nature Considerations

11. The Co-opted Members had a very successful day out in the National Park with the rangers and Katie has agreed to become a volunteer.

Julie Hutton
Member Champion Corporate Management

b) Member Champion – Promoting Understanding Annual Report

Education

1. Educational and skills-based activities continue to be delivered by the Authority to enable children to learn about, love explore and care for the National Park. New term delivery will start in September and a **new climate curriculum** is also in development.

2. Over the first three weeks of the summer holidays, YDNPA ran a Summer Reading Challenge over 2 weeks at libraries in and around the Yorkshire Dales National Park, to celebrate this year's summer reading challenge 'Story Garden' which was themed around books about the outdoors.

Engagement

3. We continue to support groups from communities underserved in the National Park This includes delivery as part of externally funded projects such as **Championing National Parks for Everyone** (supported visits for people from BAME backgrounds), **Tees-swale Naturally Connected** (Young People) and **Three Counties, One River** (pilot activity with groups in Lancaster and Morecombe as part of Pre-development phase).

4. **Nature Calling** – Working with Shape North on ACE funded project to connect young people with the Pennine Way through the Arts.

Health and Wellbeing

5. Work continues to deliver **Nature Prescriptions** training to healthcare providers in and around the Park.

6. Social prescribing projects, Wednesday Wanders [now **Thursday Tootles**] has started– working in partnership with Pioneer Projects to support people to visit the National Park for their health and wellbeing.

7. In collaboration with Protected Landscape Partners, a bid to deliver a regional Green Social Prescription trial through the **YNY Combined Authority's UKSPF programme.**

Young People

8. **Up Skill Down Dale –** will join other young people on a special Conservation Task Day in Malham on the 20 September to celebrate EUROPARC's Youth in Parks Day.

9. We have a new Green Pathways Officer and Youth Engagement Trainee in post (Samantha Lightbody and Pippa Edwards) who will reinvigorate the Young Rangers programme, alongside other opportunities for youth volunteering and careers awareness.

10. The Authority is a partner in the development of 2 large scale, UK wide Funding applications to support work with young people.

    - Generation Green: Tomorrow's Stewards (lead partner YHA, part of the Access Unlimited Coalition). EOI has been submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

    - National Lottery Community Fund. EOI in development (anticipated submission date end Oct 2025)

Visitor Services

Dales Countryside Museum

11. Going Places project is underway. Jane and Caroline in their new project posts. Held 2 recruitment events, in person and online and 6 young people have applied to be Young Creatives aged between 18 and 29 yrs. Dates have been set for the first two sessions.

12. Attended Westmorland Festival and two local historians have been in touch as a result, to research dialect.

13. North Craven Heritage Trust making use of the Research room looking at Orchards in Askrigg.

14. Family activities and All things Sheep events have been very popular over the summer. Visitor income currently over target. Countryfile feature has generated a lot of interest with many messages and visitors coming the next day as a result. Great response on socials from the photo of Fiona with John Craven and an increased uptake of new followers.

National Park Visitor Centres

15. Retail is up 10.9% versus this point last season

16. The new Tramper is proving great success at Malham and is being used on a regular basis. The second Tramper has just arrived, this is funded by YDMT/ Damart and will be officially launched on 15 September.

17. Three planning applications have now been submitted for the planned capital works at Malham NPVC including redevelopment of Malham NPVC, a new roof with solar panels and 'Changing Places' toilet.

Tourism

18. The Comms team have been busy creating videos for the Cheese festival. These are intended to promote the individual businesses taking part in the Cheese festival, but also to highlight that the festival is across the whole NP and not just in one location. The staff in the NPVCs and the interactive map will help visitors to find the activities and businesses. Cheese Festival

19. The tourism training and networking events with Helen, Kathryn and Katy working with Susan Briggs and the team from North Yorkshire Council will take place later this month.

20. The 'Engagement trainees' are working to develop an event aimed at Tourism businesses, this will focus on updating the food toolkit to broaden the offer and welcome for all visitors.

Neil Heseltine
Member Champion Promoting Understanding