**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority** **Item 16**

**31 March 2026**

# Member feedback on Partnership Representation and Member Champion Sustainable Development

## Purpose

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.

## Background

3. 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 Authority meeting.

4. Member Champions are also engaged in a wide range of activities and take turns in bringing annual reports to Authority meetings.

5. These formal reports provide the opportunity to update Members on the work of the various partnerships we are involved with, 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.

6. The **Appendices** include:
   1) A list of Partnership meetings attended in the last quarter (**Appendix 1**);
   2) Reports from the relevant Partnership meetings (**Appendix 2**);
   3) The annual report of the Member Champion for Sustainable Development Management will be given verbally at the meeting.

**Rebecca Eslick**
**Committees Officer**

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**Appendix 1**

# List of Partnership Meetings December 2025 – March 2026

| Title | Member | Date | Attended | Report |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Campaign for National Parks | M Corner | 19/01/2025 | Yes | See Report |
| 2. National Parks Management Plan Partnership | Chair | 21/01/2025 | Yes | See Chair's Report |
| 3. National Parks England | Chair | 29/01/2025 | Yes | See Chair's Report |
| 4. Swinden Quarry Trust | R Foster<br>R Heseltine | 26/03/2026 | TBC | Verbal Report |

**Appendix 2**

# Report on Partnership Meetings

## Campaign for National Park's Council meeting and AGM

I attended CNP's Council meeting on 29 January in London. The theme of the meeting was 'Reimagining National Parks'; considering priorities for reform to guide CNP's advocacy and campaigning in the coming years, particularly with regard to making NPs wilder and for social justice. Though the focus of the meeting was on the medium term, the live issues of the underfunding of National Park Authorities and the implications of current planning and farming policy provided an uneasy context.

The Minister for Nature, Mary Creagh MP was due to speak but sent her apologies, sending a rather vague letter to the meeting affirming that the government recognises the value of National Parks and Landscapes, mentioning that the government is committed to revamping the governance of NP's and in building a package of measures off the back of the Landscapes Review. Speaker Guy Shrubsole, author of 'Lie of the Land' shared his views on creating wilder National Parks, including the perceived benefits of increased public ownership. Mary-Ann Ochota, broadcaster and author, discussed renewal of the social contract including the challenge of people now knowing about or understanding National Parks and the need to build ecological literacy, starting with children.

Table discussions indicated a common wish to see legislative reforms to deliver wilder NPs and a renewed social contract. Changes to the governance of NPAs, including having a mix of members more representative of the nation, was also a common theme.

The AGM review of the year highlighted CNP's success in securing the 'seek to further duty' within the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act. A positive piece of news was CNP's victory in the legal case taken against government for not discharging this duty in a case about a car park, where the government stepped back on the matter before it got to court. Publication of the Health Check Nature Recovery report was another highlight.

Looking ahead, CNP's priorities are:

- Pursuit of the new duty on public bodies, including a legal fighting fund;
- Opportunities for governance reform, purposes, secondary regulations, water campaigns;
- National marine parks;
- New Perspectives (including a new leader's event at Malham in April).

**Mark Corner**
**Member Champion for the Natural Environment**